

On River Time



ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN HUMANE ASSOCIATION, 12 IN EVERY 1,000 CHILDREN 18 AND YOUNGER ARE ABUSED EACH YEAR IN THE U.S.—MORE THAN 800,000—AND THOSE ARE ONLY THE REPORTED CASES. On River Time is doing their part to bring peace to these children in a unique way. This summer,

the nonprofit paid all expenses (rods, reels, lodging, food, clothing, travel, etc.) for 10 children to fly to Irwin, Idaho and receive instruction and guidance in all things fly fishing. It is a trip that they will never forget.

In 2012 Homewood resident and insurance executive Steve Davis founded On River Time, a 501(c)3 whose mission is to empower children of abuse and neglect through the experience of fly fishing among natural wonders and supportive friends. After 25 years of fly fishing, Davis realized that the sport was invaluable to his larger coping process as a victim of childhood abuse. He saw an opportunity to partner with his favorite Idaho fishing lodge—The Lodge at Palisades Creek—to bring children to some of the finest fly fishing in the world at this 2014 Orvis Endorsed Fly Fishing Lodge of the Year.

For three days the children are coached by expert guides and escorted along the Snake River to catch brown trout, rainbow trout and cutthroats. Along the river, they get to see moose, elk, bald eagles, canyons, snow-capped mountains and waterfalls, and the staff at the lodge also takes time to educate them on conservation and stewardship. The trip culminates with a tour of Yellowstone National Park. Most of the children range between 9 and 16 and come from the Big Oak Ranch in Springville and Gadsden, AL, a Christian home for children who need a chance. The distance and scale of the phenomena of this trip (for many, their first time on a plane) leaves them in awe.

But more important than grandeur of the destination is what this trip is intended to leave the children with: confidence and comfort. They experience fly fishing for the first time with people who uniquely understand and care for them. Davis encourages the children to “start dreaming now,” and not to wait to do what matters.

On River Time has taken 17 children on this journey, and even bigger plans are in sight.



GET INVOLVED

Join **On River Time** September 25 at B&A Warehouse for “*Fish On,*” a silent and live auction fundraising event featuring music, food and inspiration. John Croyle, founder of the Big Oak Ranch will be the keynote speaker for the evening. Corporate tables and a variety of sponsorship opportunities are available.

When: Thursday, Sept. 25, 6:00-10:00 p.m.
Where: B&A Warehouse
Cost: \$75 per ticket or \$2,000 for a table for 10

More information at www.onrivertime.org.