



Rowan, center, brightened the day for the Knife River team in Bryan, Texas, during a special visit this fall. From left are Knife River's Alan Krenek and Kyle Lewis, Rowan, Rowan's therapist Jenny, and Knife River's Keith Pierson.

A Special Tour of the South Region

By Jana Lambert, Bryan, Texas

I would like to tell you a story about a boy and his love and fascination with road construction; specifically, pilot cars and flagging. His name is Rowan and he fell in love with Knife River during one of our widening projects near where he lives.

A few weeks ago, I received an email from a young lady named Jenny. She told me that she works with an 11-year-old autistic boy named Rowan, who became very passionate about road construction when one of the roads in their area underwent repairs for over a year. He went from being very upset and frustrated by the delay to becoming friends with all the flaggers and getting excited when he got to follow the pilot car. She also said that when they finished the work a few months ago, he began to miss them terribly and started watching pilot car instruction videos on YouTube. He was also pestering her to buy him a stop/slow paddle and advanced warning signs. She asked if there was any way they could stop by our facilities in Bryan one day and take a little tour of the plants. Well, we were happy to oblige!

We arranged a tour with her and Rowan on a Friday afternoon. When they arrived, he could hardly contain his excitement. I have to say that his excitement was very contagious! We first presented him with his own hardhat and safety vest. The

hardhat was labeled with his name and he thought that was the best thing in the world. We drove through the various plants to show him around. He got to push the button to load a truck with hot-mix asphalt and felt so special having loaded a truck and sending it on its way.

We drove to one of our big projects and he got to meet the supervisor, Alan Krenek. Alan was driving a Knife River pickup, which caught Rowan's attention immediately. He said, "I'm riding with Alan in his truck." Coming from Rowan, this was a statement of fact, not a request! We also visited a site where they are digging a pond for a golf course.

After making our way back to the office, we presented him with his own stop/slow paddle, a Knife River T-shirt and safety glasses, and a couple of instructional videos. The stop/slow paddle really threw him into high gear. He just could not believe he got one and the first thing he said was, "Now all I need is the advanced warning signs!" He then proceeded to tell us the exact required dimensions and measurements of a stop/slow paddle. Truly amazing!

It was so rewarding to bring such happiness to this boy. But I have to say that he brought just as much joy and happiness to us as we did to him! It's so easy to get caught up in our

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Rowan gets to load a truck with hot-mix asphalt.

everyday lives and lose sight of the important moments. Someone like Rowan, who was completely innocent and saw everything with fresh eyes, gave all of us a new perspective on life. What a truly inspirational way to end a work week!

As it turns out, Rowan's father, Rupert, has written a book and filmed a documentary about Rowan. The movie is called "The Horse Boy Movie," and the book is called "The Horse



Knife River has made a friend for life.

Boy: A Memoir of Healing." For more information, you can visit www.horseboymovie.com. There is also a foundation called Horse Boy World, where they work using kinetics to create environments that do not stress, using nature and social animals, taking the queue from the child at all times, and working with the entire family not just the affected child. You can visit www.horseboyworld.com for more information.



From left, Bob Lyberger, Eddie Cuellar, Michael Mayer, Michael Williams of Williams Custom Concrete, David Smith and Diane Backer show off their new sidewalk, which doubles as a sales pitch.

Stockton Office 'Remodels' to Show Off Stamped Concrete

Knife River's Ready-Mix Division in Stockton, Calif., has made some good-looking and extraordinarily durable "lemonade."

When the sidewalk in front of their Lincoln Street building materials office cracked and needed to be replaced, they took the opportunity to showcase their new concrete stamp rental program. Each section of the walkway was stamped with a different design to highlight the various stamp patterns customers can rent.



Working together with local contractor Michael Williams of Williams Custom Concrete Inc., and vendor LM Scofield, the Stockton crew developed a beautiful display. They removed the old cracked concrete and replaced it with nine different stamp patterns and color combinations. The display was then sealed with various sealers so customers can experience the possibilities available to them.