

Serving the Community since 2007!



Ranch Updates

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Indoor Riding Arena, progress report

The indoor arena sand base footing has been completed and crushed rubber was added! A special thank you to Axel Knauz, Grayslake, IL, for the donation of 110 yards of custom blended Nike shoe sole crushed rubber. The surface will provide cushion, rebound, and grip to minimize concussion, absorb shock, and provide support to our program horses, riding instructors, and volunteers. The custom blend mixture of textiles, fibers, and rubber mixed with pea gravel and sand will retain moisture to reduce dust and be low maintenance. And thank you to **Chris Hotz** for donating the use of his Dump 'N Go trailer and **Mark Krupp** for making the 100 mile round trek back and forth to haul the rubber product to the Ranch!

The interior arena walls have been installed with 2'x6' oak boards to prevent the horse from kicking through the steel. A 10'x10' and a 10'x14' stall have been built to provide space to brush and groom the horses prior to their riding lessons.

With gratitude to our community of supporters, we are pleased to be able to move to the next phase of plumbing, electric, and concrete! Snow, wind, and rain did not stop Dairyland Energy Solutions from starting the interior plumbing project on October 31. We expect electrical to begin the first part of November, just in time for McPherson Concrete to pour concrete in the new commons area and the entry area in the indoor arena.

We are able to continue the work on the indoor arena because of generous donors and supporters like you. In addition, a significant donation came Hally and Walter Barr with a matching gift from the Chicago firm of *William Blair*

WCR Program update

Horsemanship sessions ended October 24, with some private and small group lessons continuing through mid-November. An average of 35 participants rode weekly with 5 new referrals through special Waukesha and Racine County programs.

None of this would be possible without the help from our amazing volunteers, many who have been with WCR for years! Volunteers were invited to an appreciation picnic in October to thank them for their time and support. Two volunteers received their 10-year plaque: Marty H. and Nancy L. This year we welcomed many new WCR volunteers who helped with chores, lessons, grooming horses and a variety of other tasks. Thank you to new volunteers Cailey E. (our hard-working intern), Savannah B., Savanna M., Jon B. & family of 3, Brittney G. & family of 4, Laurie B., Jon G., Sofia H., Val J., Sarah & Madi L., Veronica K., Shannon K., Margie W., Alyssa W., Ellie O., Heidi M., Joy P., and Lexana R.

New Program Horse: Rusty



Rusty came to Willow Creek Ranch in July with some health concerns. He had quite the journey to get to WCR and we will share his story in a future newsletter. He has been working in the lesson program and has become a favorite friend to many of our volunteers and riders.

How YOU can help

Volunteer! Help us during the off-season to keep our horses in program condition by coming out to brush and groom, help with chores, clean lean2 shelters, and prepare for 2020 riding season! Additional training sessions coming soon!

As we prepare the new indoor arena for 2020 lessons, we need a variety of learning items. Soon, we'll provide a detailed list of items we can use both for our lessons and for our new arena and community space.

Willow Creek Ranch, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and a member of the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International and of the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Willow Creek Ranch - Where Life Reins...Miracles Happen

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