

Ranch Updates

- Thank you to our supporters – donors, volunteers, parents, participants
- Therapeutic riding program June updates and July progress
- Eagle Scout project
- Arena and Community Room update
- A call for volunteers
- Product needs (for tack, cleaning needs)

Thank you! With your help, our goal was reached! We couldn't continue to provide services to our special riders without our horses and without your donation. The May-June Facebook post calling for WCR friends to help provide funds to continue to care for our horses was a heartwarming success. Thank you to you and others for answering our call to help us during our business shutdown because of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Mukwonago Kiwanis Horse Sponsors

It costs about \$16,000 a year to provide food and healthcare for our ten lesson horses. For 2020, we needed to raise \$9,000 to reach that goal. Our friends came through with gifts to meet that goal and provide support for our herd of therapy equines!

And it is with your gifts that we can continue to provide hay, grain, supplements, vaccines, and fly control, AND help with the cost of farrier, dental and veterinary services.

Thank you from Calibur, Gator, Rusty, Slapshot, Toby, George, Tucker, Luka, Hank and Patrick! And thank you from all the WCR participants and volunteers for keeping our horses healthy and ready to work.

In addition to donors listed in our May Newsletter, **THANK YOU** to Hally & Walter Barr; Waterford Kiwanis; Union Grove Kiwanis; Jane Jones; Becca & Jon Otte; Kay Styza; Amanda & Jacob Otte; Dennis Maas; Thea & James Lavin; Pam & James Laabs; Southeast Wisconsin Training Initiative; Joni Nelson; Gavin Schultz; Lisa & Jared Mills; Rodger Carter; Glenn Wille; Darci Borcharding; Melissa Larson; The Alstar Company; Terese & John Beauchamp; Marty & Laurene Schuette; Stump Grinding 4 Less; Karin & Corey Bullian & Colin; Lorraine & Gary Oldenburg; Orlando Ruacho; Lenny Gums; Brian & Kim Schlomann; Marnie Hess; Sal, Elena, Sal Jr. Montes; Doug Helmore; Wally & Jeannie; Mike Lacopo; Julie Schmelzer; Mary Aulwes; Don Mackey; and the investment company of

William Blair

WCR update on therapeutic riding program

WCR did a soft opening beginning the week of May 25 for a 3-week session. 23 participants came to lessons. 18 volunteers went through safety and sanitation orientation. In addition, we had 8 parents volunteer to be sidewalkers for their rider! Session 2, was held June 15 – July 24 and we served an average of 28 riders each week with the help of nearly 23 volunteers. Session 3 begins July 27. We have 33 riders scheduled. There are still a few openings for the upcoming session.

Thank you Michael Sommers – Eagle Scout project

Michael Sommers, a senior at Mukwonago High School and a member of Boy Scout Troop 26 of Big Bend, recently completed an Eagle Project for Willow Creek Ranch and officially became an Eagle Scout on January 26, 2020. His Eagle project entailed planning, fundraising and building four wheelchair accessible picnic tables and two equipment organizing shelves. Michael took the lead, along with sixteen members of his troop who volunteered their time over two full work days.

Bliffort Lumber, Home Depot in Mukwonago, the Big Bend Vernon Lions Club, and the Sommers' family members made donations to help fund Michael's project. Papa Murphy's and Subway, Mukwonago, donated food for the two work days.



Mom, Patti Sommers, said, "Michael's brother, Tommy, has participated in therapeutic riding at Willow Creek Ranch, so it was a nice way to pay it forward to an organization that has had a positive impact in his brother's life."

Arena and Community Room update



If you have been in the indoor arena, you have noticed on the mounting block a SureHands lift system combined with the Body Support, which was donated by the Burlington Lions Club in 2009. The SureHands lift has been in storage just waiting for the day we could install it in our new indoor arena. The lift system makes it possible for our certified instructors to lift our wheelchair bound riders from their wheelchair safely to the back of their horse. The SureHands company representative oversaw the installation; Marty and Jennifer spent many hours desensitizing a few of the horses and training the volunteers in the proper safety techniques. This system allows riders continuation of riding lessons when their mobility has changed. It was a gift from the Lions Club that keeps on giving!



The Community Room wall: you will notice an old barn door and two windows to represent the outside of a barn. The windows came from a cabin in northern Wisconsin; the barn door came from a family member's old dairy farm. Interior wood walls are made of custom milled ash boards donated by Becca and Jon Otte, Grafton, WI, and installed mostly by Mark Krupp. Although there is more to do, the Community Room is looking wonderful!

A call for help



Volunteers Needed: WCR could use more hard-working volunteers to help with program needs (sidewalking, leading, prepping horses) and daily chores. You don't need any experience – we will happily train you in whatever area you would like to learn. *It's great exercise, you can enjoy the peaceful location, appreciate nature, AND you get to work with good people and horses!* **Most importantly,** you will be helping a very significant program as we provide service to children and adults with special needs. No experience with horses or people with special needs is necessary. Time commitment is flexible. Must be age 14 or older.

Interested? Contact wcrvolunteercoordinator@mail.com.
Not sure? Contact WCR for a tour and to watch what we do!

We are so thankful to our volunteers--horse leaders, sidewalkers, chore workers--for continuing to help us provide lessons to our very special riders. We hope we have created a safe environment for all and continue to be mindful of our interactions with participants and volunteers.

Cleaning Products Needed: As you probably know, it is difficult to find cleaning products. We began with a good supply, but now we are running low. Our cleaning products have been used to spray and clean reins, tack, helmets, weights, hands, mounting block and other items and areas. If you have access to or can spare any of the following, please bring the items to WCR or give us a call: Lysol or bleach liquid, Lysol spray, wipes, anti-bacterial hand soap. Thank you.

There are still opportunities for you to make a gift to WCR in support of our horse care or greatest needs.

Gifts are accepted by check (the old-fashioned way!) OR

through Facebook or through PayPal on our website, www.willowcreekranch.org.

We are excited to be back in service for those with special needs and your continued help will make that possible.

Willow Creek Ranch, 7404 Northwest Hwy 83, Mukwonago WI 53149,
or donate through Facebook or through our website www.willowcreekranch.org

Thank you.

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

www.willowcreekranch.org wcrvolunteercoordinator@mail.com

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.