

### Ranch Updates

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- Thank you to other supporters
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*A world-wide day of giving has been established as an emergency response to the unprecedented need caused by COVID-19. The #GivingTuesdayNow campaign is May 5, 2020. Follow the Willow Creek Ranch Facebook page as we give opportunities to raise the funds needed for our 10 lesson horses that need to be sponsored.*

### **Horse Sponsorships See end of newsletter for some of the WCR horses and donkeys available for sponsorship**

Willow Creek Ranch is beyond grateful to the individuals who responded to our request to sponsor a horse. WCR relies on riding lesson fees, rental of its facility and equines, and fund raising events to support our mission. With our temporary closing due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, WCR has had a loss of income to support horse care and other expenses. Right now, our primary concern is taking care of the horses we have in order for them to be healthy and ready to work when we can begin our programs again. So far, and with a sincere Thank You, the following donors have answered the call to help:

**Mukwonago Lions Foundation; Marty Hren; Brian Murphy; Jim & Marcie Caughey; Jamie & Jeff Koehler; Brian Endres; Marie Michaels; Bucaro Family; Laurie & Mike Bucaro; Katie Davis; Pam Laabs; Natalie & Darren Schultz; Deb & Tom Yow; Pat & Bob Bade; Paula & Joe Jenna; Jennifer Schmitt; Linda Pischke; Sue & Stephanie Roberts; Karin & Corey Bullian & Colin; Lori Harmatys; Mary & Don Harvey; Laura Rauman; Jessica Lund; Mark Krupp; Abbe Jackson; Jody & Andre Antreassian; LindaLee & Gordie Bartlett; Larry Schmitt; Julie & Kendall Holloway; Judi Behrendt; Abby Hintz; Pat Schittone; Dan McKissick; Jason Leisten; Terese Beauchamp; Marty Schutte; Best Radon Solutions; Danielle Lambert; Rosemary Palmer; Elena Montes; Rodger Carter; Derick Kann; Lenny Gums; Lara Simmons; Jean Stroud; Jeannie Jilek-Horn; Defrim Devix; Lika Salisciente-Phipps; Barb Jermyn; Judy Puls**

### **What It Means to Be a Volunteer and Horse Sponsor, from Laurie Bucaro!**

*Initially, I started at the Ranch with the desire to find something that I could commit to, without expecting anything in return, except for good healthy exercise. Specifically, my goal was 10k steps a day, so fireworks would illuminate my Fitbit! The rewards have proven to be abundantly more than the giving aspect. It seemed simple and easy, but it all proved to be much more fulfilling than just volunteering.*

*Working at the Ranch has given me many more blessings than anticipated. Family and work have always been my "go to" outlets for any type of stress. This was a perfect scenario providing needed exercise for my health by doing physical elements of a working farm. Besides giving me a newfound working family on the ranch, it has also provided opportunities to connect with special needs riders, and their families. Finally, it provided me with a lifelong dream to be around horses.*

*My time caring for the horses by bringing them in from the pasture, grooming, feeding, and assisting riders during therapeutic riding sessions, has been rewarding to me. Attention needed on daily tasks diverts my focus to what needs to be done, while my everyday problems fade away. (Unless you misplace your cell phone while filling a hay bag. No worries, it was found with an incoming call to two very hungry horses). Anytime at Willow Creek Ranch is a healthy step for me to enrich my life in helping others, while enjoying a new experience with horses.*

*So in simple terms, to me, Willow Creek Ranch is a fulfilling experience in both giving and receiving. **For Christmas this past year, like every year, my kids kept asking me what I wanted for Christmas. My answer to them was simple; I want you to sponsor a horse at WCR in honor of your mother. And so they did!** Laurie B.*

### **Unabashed request for your help**

You've probably seen it a lot from all kinds of organizations – "you can make a difference." Everyone uses that phrase.

Maybe because it's true!

Our therapy horses are essential to what we offer – interaction with amazing horses for children and adults with special needs and mental health concerns. Each horse can cost between \$1490 and \$2900 to annually support their care and health needs – things like hay, grain, and supplements; farrier, dental and veterinary services; vaccines; fly spray; grooming products; and pasture/shelter upkeep. And those expenses don't end just because the horses can't work. We also know that you or someone you know may be in the same situation. If you can help us, thank you. If you can't help us right now, we understand.

If you can help us now, you will be "making a difference" for the horses and programs of Willow Creek Ranch. All gifts, great and small, are appreciated. Gifts can be mailed to WCR, donated through our Facebook page or through our webpage.

**Thank you to Melka's Roofing and Sami L.**

Once again our valued businesses come through. Thank you to Melka's Roofing, Burlington, for donating their time and materials for two 40' gutters on the community room building and roof flashing for the furnace and bathroom vents. Jake and Becky Melka's daughter Kylie has been riding at WCR for the past ten years! Thank you Jake and Becky!



We are so grateful to Sami, who in lieu of birthday gifts from her family and friends, she asked for a gift of money in the amount they would have spent on a gift for her. Then this long-time friend and young lady, celebrating her 11<sup>th</sup> birthday donated her birthday money to WCR and she went shopping for the lesson horses! Sami was excited to purchase a halter, a new girth, several fly masks to protect the horse's ears and eyes from summer flies and gnats, two new stiff brushes for grooming, and two new mane and tail brushes. We thank Sami for her generous gift in honor of her birthday! Sami is the daughter of Cindy & Dwight Lee, Muskego, WI.

**Short WCR update on COVID closure**

While we don't have an opening date yet, we have been feverishly at work creating safety and sanitation policies, protocols, and planning for the day we can be open again. Some of the things we are working on: how to clean saddles and horses and helmets between riders, hand washing/sanitizer stations, assuring any visitors are symptom free, Personal Protective Equipment needs, retraining volunteers, keeping riders and volunteers safe through social distancing, and much more! We'll be needing your help to purchase cleaning supplies and protective materials.

**Equines available for sponsorship**

Please consider a gift to help care for our horses and donkeys. A one-year sponsorship is \$1,500. BUT ANY GIFT, whatever size, can be used to help with keeping our horses fed and healthy.

Calibur



Tucker



SlAPSHOT



George



Hank and Patrick



There are still opportunities for you to make a gift to WCR in support of our horse care or greatest needs. Gifts are accepted through Facebook and through Paypal on our website, [www.willowcreekranch.org](http://www.willowcreekranch.org). We look forward to being back in service for those with special needs and your help will make that possible. Thank you.

Please send your gift to WCR, 7404 Northwest Hwy 83, Mukwonago WI 53149, or donate through Facebook or through our website [www.willowcreekranch.org](http://www.willowcreekranch.org)

**Thank you.**

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

[www.willowcreekranch.org](http://www.willowcreekranch.org)

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*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.*