

Willow Creek Ranch, Inc. – *Serving the Community since 2007!*

November-December 2018 Newsletter

From Mukwonago, Wisconsin



Ranch Updates

- Indoor Riding Arena, progress report
- Facebook and Giving Tuesday fundraising
- Ranch Volunteer Appreciation event
- WCR apparel and gifts - T-shirts/hats, hoofprints
- WCR program update
- How you can help

Wishing you and your family a wonderful Christmas and good things for the New Year!

Indoor Riding Arena, progress report

The Excitement Builds! With excavating completed, the building is being erected – the posts are in and set, the trusses have been lifted in and are secure, the headers are built for the overhead doors, and the steel has been placed on the roof, windows are in, doors have been framed, steel is around the entire building!

And this all began with a dream of a weather-protected arena and a most generous \$100,000 early start-up donation from the Knights of Columbus.

We continue to be wonderfully surprised by the generosity of those vendors who are building our arena and addition:

A big and sincere thank you to -

- JIM HAHN from our arena builders, Hahn Building, who is donating some of the materials needed for additional windows and doors.
- KINGWIRE in North Chicago, Illinois, and SOUTHWIRE in Carrollton, Georgia, for donating all our wiring and electrical needs for the addition and indoor riding arena. These two companies saved WCR thousands of dollars and paid for shipping from North Chicago and Georgia.
- ROGER DAVIS, a dog trainer who attended the WISILL hunting club presentation in June, reached out to those two wiring companies and explained our needs.
- EAST SIDE LUMBER, Hartford, who is providing, at cost, a 6'x4' Andersen Window for viewing room.
- MARK'S CUSTOM SERVICES - who donated 245 bales of hay valued at nearly \$1,000.
- LIFETIME DOORS, Brookfield, who is providing us a discounted rate for our arena overhead doors.

And a big thank you to the hundreds of you who have provided additional gifts to our building fund – THANK YOU. You are making the dream a reality.

Facebook and Giving Tuesday fundraising

Facebook donors were remarkable in their support of Giving Tuesday's request for funds for new riding helmets. Our goal was \$800 to purchase ASTM-SEI riding helmets to replace existing helmets that have reached the end of their life cycle. We received \$1,000 in donations and will be able to have shiny, new, safe helmets for our riders! Thank you to those who made this possible.

Additional Facebook supporters gave gifts in honor of Jennifer Pape's birthday, raising \$2,177 to date. Donations are accepted through the end of December to help fund the electric and plumbing for the indoor riding arena.

Willow Creek Ranch Volunteer Appreciation event

On October 13 at the Ranch, volunteers were celebrated for their time, commitment and 'heart' that they provide to WCR and all our special riders. A special surprise horseback riding lesson was in store for the volunteers. They were given a chance to experience riding while blindfolded to understand what it is like to have a visual impairment. And it was a chance for the ground volunteer to communicate with the rider about how to navigate the arena. It was all very eye-opening for them (with some funny moments). Another "lesson" had one arm/hand restrained to represent limited use/muscle weakness. And WOW, did the volunteers have a lot to say about how amazing our special needs riders are; and, it gave them a greater appreciation for our amazing, patient horses and the value of good volunteer horse leaders and sidewalkers to keep the lessons safe.

Volunteer Appreciation continued

The volunteers were also provided with a wonderful dinner, an appreciation gift and certificate* presentation, and door prizes. Thank you to those who donated to make this a special event: Natalie Schultz, Amy Durkin, Jen Schmitt, Rosemary Palmer, Amanda Kochikis, Bev & Lamar Buchholz, Marty Hren, Mark Krupp and Starbucks-Mukwonago.

We are proud to also recognize, with a special plaque, the following volunteers who have been with WCR for 10 years:
Hally Arzola-Barr, Rosemary Palmer, Stephanie Weidner, Terry Wiskes.

WCR apparel and gifts

Willow Creek Ranch t-shirts and caps are available (think Christmas gifts!). Our t-shirts come in a variety of sizes (\$8-\$10.00) and the baseball-style caps have a rustic look (\$16). Show your support and when people ask you about your WCR apparel you just might generate a donation or give a special needs person an opportunity to participate in WCR's programs.

Also available are the hanging hoofprint prints (\$10.00) that can be personalized with your favorite horse's name.

WCR Program update

Although our last lesson session for the season ended October 26, there were six hardy riders that continued on a week to week basis as long as the weather cooperated. Thank you to those volunteers who continued to help with the extra sessions. And thank you to the riders and families who have confirmed how much they value the opportunity to be on a horse!

December and January is an opportunity for our horses to have a well-deserved break from the hard work of providing riding services to our special riders.

Community Public Relations and Publicity events

WCR is happy to be invited to community events and meetings to share our story. The past few months we have presented at Waterford High School, Rotary Club of Mukwonago, and were featured on WTMJ620 as the recipient of a **\$1,000 donation from All American Window and Door We Love Wisconsin Tour, Charity of the Month.**

How YOU can help

Your gifts are always welcome as we continue to build our indoor arena, keep lesson costs affordable for riders, and provide healthcare and food for our special Willow Creek Ranch animals.

Ways to help:

- Send a tax deductible donation. It will be used where the need is greatest or you can designate it specifically for the building fund or scholarships
- Check if your employer has a matching gifts program or a Foundation that provides funds to community organizations
- Sponsor a horse – provide food and healthcare for one of our WCR therapy horses for a period of time.
- Donate used (or new!) saddle or tack
- Volunteer
- Follow us on Facebook
- Other "wish list" items: materials/services for the indoor arena; electrical/plumbing materials/services; various building and furnishing materials; landscaping; lockable file cabinets. Contact Jennifer for more ideas.

All donations are appreciated.

You can donate through PayPal on our www.willowcreekranch.org website or send a check payable to Willow Creek Ranch at 7404 Northwest Hwy, Mukwonago WI 53149.

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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