WILLOW CREEK RANCH, INC.
Therapeutic Riding Center

August – September 2020 Newsletter
Willow Creek Ranch
7404 Northwest Hwy 83, Mukwonago, Wisconsin 53149 – (262) 806-4080
Serving the Community since 2007!

Ranch Updates

- Ranch Rodeo
- New 3-rail fence and Fox River Christian Church Work Day
- Indoor arena and community room update
- Therapeutic Riding August updates and September plans
  - New 6-week session begins September 14
- Volunteers and Volunteering
- Thank you to our supporters – donors, volunteers, parents, participants
- Little bright spots
- Your gifts are appreciated

Ranch Rodeo

We are in a quandary! Each year we schedule a fundraising event as our Ranch Rodeo. It's a chance for our special riders to invite family and friends to show off the skills they've learned, have fun, enjoy food, and raise funds so we can keep down the cost of lessons and support our horses and programs. This year we are dealing with the nasty issue of a virus that keeps us masked and separated from others. What to do? We are looking for ideas and support: do we hold mini rodeos during lesson time? Smaller rodeos over several weeks? Have a food truck? Eliminate raffles and auctions? The timeframe probably would be late October.

Please send your ideas, comments, offers of help to wcrvolunteercoordinator@mail.com As our major fundraiser for the year, we want a safe, but meaningful, way to celebrate the accomplishments of our riders and to receive donations to continue the Willow Creek Ranch therapeutic riding program.

New 3-Rail Fence and Fox River Church Work Day

Thank you to Mark Krupp and Gordie Bartlett who have started a major project of surrounding the existing paddocks and fields with a safer and much more appealing 3-rail wooden fence. Digging post holes, sanding, and cutting boards, lining up posts and fencing has taken a great deal of time, muscle and sweat. Thank you AJ Shaw for donating the wooden fence posts and Jim and Marcie Caughey for the new 16' steel gate.

Brian Volp has been spending time painting the paddock fences and Fox River Christian Church sent a work group in August to paint the pasture fence and gates. All ages came to help! (Masks are down so we could see their smiling faces!)

We are lucky to have such hard-working, awesome people helping make WCR a beautiful place to be.

Arena and Community Room update

Arena: We are so thankful to have an indoor arena – built with generous gifts and manpower (and woman power!) from our donors, volunteers, parents and the community. Each day we use the facility is a day of thanks to all our supporters. To be able to offer lessons to our special riders, even with nasty weather, is appreciated. Thank you.

Community room: Still in progress. Next step is to finish the wood-paneled walls, find and pay for kitchen cabinets, countertops and appliances, and get it cleaned up for use.

Therapeutic Riding August updates and September plans

During Session 4 (July 27 to Sept 4) we served 34 riders with 31 volunteers and 7 hard-working horses.
Session 5 begins September 14 and runs through October 23. We have 37 riders signed up and a few private lesson spots available. Again, we couldn't do this without our herd of amazing horses and our wonderful volunteers.
We are exploring the possibility of continuing lessons into November and December if there are sufficient volunteers and for those riders who can tolerate the colder weather. We will keep you informed.

Volunteers – Volunteering

Welcome to new Volunteers: Marie Michaels, Sue Mauer, Melissa Johnson, Sue Brunner, Sandy Mohr and Elizabeth Ponga, our awesome, hardworking Carroll University student intern. And thank you to parents that stepped forward to sidewalk with their rider: Kim, Scott L., Jackie M, Barb, Thea, Elena M, Karin, Laura and Jim, Thomas, and Melissa.

There is always room for more Volunteers! Our greatest need is for horse prep – getting the horses ready for their lesson by grooming and tacking. We train, so there is no need to have previous horse experience. We also need sidewalkers (providing encouragement, support, directions) and horse leaders. With some of our volunteers going back to school/college/work, we could use additional volunteers for the fall session. We work with your schedule – and it's good exercise! Interested? Contact wcrvolunteercoordinator@mail.com. Not sure? Contact WCR for a tour and to watch what we do!

Thank you to our supporters – Thank you to donors, volunteers, parents, and participants for supporting our program through donations of products and funds:
Laurie Bucaro (safety products, mesh bags, washable sheets, and program help); Karin Bullian (made adult and child masks, monetary gifts); Lee Ann & Greg Aronson (anti-viral spray products); P.J. and Preston for bags of carrots for the horses; Vicki Volp (masks); Sue & Stephanie Roberts (antibacterial soap and disinfectant wipes); MaryBeth & P.J. Kent; Julie Holloway; Mark Cartwright; Jackie & Ben Michlig; Pat & Bob Bade; Derick Kann; Mark Krupp; Brian Murphy; Barb Jermyn; Dan McKissick; Defrim Ajshe Isaj; Lara Simmons; Rosemary Palmer; and Judy Puls.

We also received funds from the following employee giving programs and organizations: Thrivent Financials Choice program; YourCause Benevity Corporate Giving program; American Online Giving Foundation; Abbott Laboratories Employee Giving campaign; AbbVie Employee Engagement Fund; Keurig-Dr. Pepper Corporation; AmazonSmile; AT&T Foundation; Advocate Aurora Give Well campaign; Dell Employee Engagement Fund; U.S. Bank Employee Giving campaign; IBM Employee Charitable Contribution campaign; Morgan Stanley Foundation; United Way; Cardinal Health Foundation, Inc.; Goldman Sachs Philanthropy Fund; Schwab Charitable Fund; Network for Good and the investment firm of William Blair

Does your employer have an employee giving or company match program?
Please consider WCR for your giving program.

Little bright spots from Joanne

If you've walked around the Willow Creek Ranch property lately, you've probably seen happy, painted stones with messages and designs. These colorful stones seem to appear overnight in the most unexpected places and bring a smile to those who find them. Thank you to long-time volunteer Joanne Mehlhaff for her artistry and sense of fun as she shares little bright spots throughout WCR.

Your gifts are appreciated. 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. Your continued help makes it possible.
Thank you.

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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.