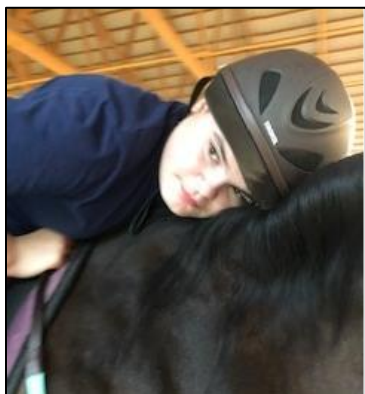


In this issue:

- **WCR Updates**
- **WCR On the News and In the News** (new video, unexpected donor, TMJ4 visit)
- **Horse Sponsorship – new sponsors**
- **More News!**
- **Turkeys (not for Thanksgiving!)**

WCR Updates

True, we haven't had a newsletter since the May/June issue! WCR sure has been busy! Weekly, we are currently serving 53 participants in the Horsemanship program and about 20 clients in our Mental Health Therapy program. Two new PATH Intl. certified instructors were hired in August to help alleviate the Horsemanship waiting list.



Our next Horsemanship program runs October 11 through November 4. Then, Wisconsin weather permitting, we have a two-week session from November 8 through 19. Because of the cold weather, unheated arena, holidays, and to give our horses a well-deserved break, the Horsemanship program closes November 22 until spring. However, volunteers can still be a part of WCR during our off time to help with chores and property care. Our Mental Health Therapy program continues through the winter.

On the News and In the News - We have had a lot of surprises this summer with unexpected phone calls!

In late June, WCR received an unexpected message from a lady that wanted to visit and take pictures of our horses. Kym McDaniel is an independent filmmaker, originally from Milwaukee and now living in Central New York. Her own journey of healing was impacted by interaction with horses, and she was compelled to create a video for WCR after being touched by our story. Please watch as she documents our lessons and highlights stories of three of our riders. Go to the Willow Creek Ranch website <http://www.willowcreekranch.org/> and the wonderful video is at the top of the home page. Thank you so much Kym – and the parents, volunteers and riders that participated.

We received a phone call from Aptar, an international company (they design and manufacture dispensing systems for pharma, beauty and food industries) with an office and plant in Mukwonago. They had heard about our organization and wanted to come for a tour. We showed them our facility, told our story, and let them watch our riding lessons in action. It was with complete surprise when, during the tour, they stopped to present us with a check for \$25,000. Just saying...it's not often that we are speechless! And thankful that there was a box of tissues available for those grateful tears of surprise. WCR is truly blessed with the support of our (in this case, totally unexpected) donors. Thank you Aptar! And thank you Morgan, Roxanne and Tanner, pictured with Tucker.



On the News and In the News – unexpected phone calls (continued)

In September, we received a call from Julia Fello, reporter with WTMJ-4, an NBC news affiliate. They had heard about our equine facilitated mental health program and wanted to visit us to do a news segment. Julie and her cameraman arrived on September 22 and conducted interviews with the WCR Mental Health equine facilitated psychotherapy team of Mahleah Calderon-Henes, MSW, LCSW, and Becca John, Equine Specialist. Tami Mrochinski provided her story on her growth and experience being with WCR horses. The segment aired September 27 and is available with the story at <https://www.tmj4.com/news/local-news/i-got-my-life-back-how-this-cancer-survivor-used-horse-therapy-to-come-out-of-darkness> or just the video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3_X0iAzSPM



Horse Sponsorship – new sponsors

Our 2021 goal of horse sponsorships has been met! Thank you to the additional sponsors who answered the call for support: **Hally and Walter Barr**, sponsoring Slapshot; **Dawes Contract Carriage**, Waterford, sponsoring donkey Patrick; **Dr. Dan Trittin and Waterford Family Dental** sponsoring Rusty; and an anonymous donor sponsoring mental health program horse Pixie; **William Blair Company** who completed our partial sponsorships. **Thank you** to all of our 2021 sponsors **for helping keep our horses healthy and well fed.** It is you that allow the program to be of service to so many children and adults who benefit physically, emotionally and cognitively for being with horses.

Watch for more information and the opportunity to be a horse sponsor for 2022.

We already have a 2022 committed sponsor for Calibur – **Colin Bullian** & mom Karin!

More News!

- We have been contacted by two organizations that are interested in partnering with us to provide program services. One offers exploration of horse-human relationships; one is an adolescent/young adult treatment center. Those talks are in process to discover how we can partner to reach more people needing our services of equine assisted learning and therapy.
- Donor? We have received several “deposits” in the WCR cash box of significant amounts. If you are using the cash box for payments or donations, please let us know by indicating the purpose or gift. Although we appreciate the unexpected, presumed donations, please write your name on the envelope so we can appropriately thank you!
- Thank you to volunteers from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Elkhorn, for their service work to help with WCR property maintenance on October 6. Led by Bishop Eric Becker, the youth group and adults picked up brush, dead wood, fallen branches, and rocks along the trails and walkway to create a safer environment. Thank you to Brian Murphy for directing their efforts. Additional note provided by Sara T., church member and WCR staff/volunteer:

“Bishop Becker unknowingly uncovered a bee’s nest and sent everyone running for cover. After giving the bees a few minutes to settle down, we returned to the task at hand. Brian reassured us that he would be giving the bees a stern talking to! It truly was an enjoyable evening to offer a little help to a program that offers SO MUCH to so many. Thank you for allowing us to get to know about this beautiful service you offer to our community.”



It's not all about “riding” a horse!

More News! -continued

- Several of our parents and volunteers posted their WCR experience on GreatNonprofits and raised our visibility in the community. The organization has made WCR a 'top-rated nonprofit' on their website. Read their comments at <https://greatnonprofits.org/org/willow-creek-ranch-inc?express=1>
- Check it out...Our Facebook and web pages have been updated with many program pictures and our new video. It's our honor to share the smiles and activities of our participants and volunteers.

Turkeys



Mr. Tom/Fred Turkey and partner (girl with no name) are creating quite a stir at WCR. They are beautiful Royal Palm domestic turkeys and have been an interesting addition to the Ranch family. He is not aggressive but does like to come near "intruders" and show them how he can be protective of his group of brown ducks and the girl turkey with no name. He truly struts and shows his fine display of feathers, but if you walk toward him slowly, he will get out of your way. He flutters his feathers and makes some unusual noises. They may be invited to Thanksgiving dinner, but they will NOT be a part of it!



Thank you to Mark Krupp and Jim Caughey for sharing these beautiful animals with WCR.

Thank you to our supporters. We are so thankful and amazed at the generous hearts of our donors and volunteers. Please know how sincere and grateful we are for you all – THANK YOU.

Your gifts are appreciated. There are still opportunities for you to make a gift to WCR. Gifts are accepted by check (the old-fashioned way!) OR through Facebook or through PayPal on our website, www.willowcreekranch.org.

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

www.willowcreekranch.org

info@willowcreekranch.org

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.