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Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year

Willow Creek Ranch wishes each of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy 2022! May you find joy in each day knowing you are making a difference in the lives of people around you.



2021 has been a year of tremendous growth and service to the community of people who need equine assisted therapies for emotional issues, physical strengthening, self-confidence, building friendships and learning. As the nation's health concerns escalated this past year, it has been more important than ever to provide healing opportunities to our southeast Wisconsin community.

Providing mental health therapy, learning, and horsemanship, Willow Creek Ranch served more than 170 people in 2021. And, unfortunately, we have wait lists for both our mental health therapy and our horsemanship programs. As we plan for 2022, we intend to address the need to expand our services. But we can only do that with the help of our donors, supporters, and volunteers. **Please consider a year-end gift to help sustain and grow services to those in need of human support and "horse help."**

Parade of Horses (and donkeys)



This year WCR participated in the Mukwonago Midnight Magic parade with Slapshot, Gator, Toby and the two donkeys, Hank and Patrick. Decorating horses and donkeys (quite a task!) was due to our wonderful volunteers: Sue K., Pam L., Joy P., Melissa J., Callie P., Ivy C., Jen P., and Marty H. In addition, our parade walkers included Brian M., and Jim C., as the 'clean up' crew, WCR banner carriers Denise M. and her daughter Raquel, and our driver Mark K.

Please see page 3 of the newsletter for more pictures.

Horse News



We are excited to announce that we have a new horse partner for our Horsemanship program! Little **SamiO** arrived on December 5 and is on loan from our wonderful Lara Simmons. Lara has been an amazing financial supporter of WCR and also loans to WCR her two other horses, Toby and Mickey. And she is looking for more horses for us!

SamiO will be for our smaller riders. He is a perfect size to introduce horses to riders who may be afraid of our larger horses and is also a great size for our volunteer sidewalkers! SamiO is a paint pony, approximately 8 years old from the Farmington, IL area. He is about 11.1 hands (or 45" tall) and was used in riding lessons, parades, trail riding, and family fun. He has been ridden by very young children and he is patient, very social with people and other horses, and will make a great addition to our equine team.

Herd update

This year we sadly lost Buck to health problems - you may remember him in therapeutic riding and the mental health programs since 2014. And Tucker was called back home to be with his 'Mom' in Iowa. Several of our horses are in their 20s and we would like to reduce their intense workload providing riding lessons. We are in process of acquiring a few more horses to help provide services to our expanding group of special needs children and adults and may semi-retire a few to our mental health therapy program.

So, your gifts are more important than ever! Donations help us cover the actual cost of lessons so we can keep discounted fees low for families that already have many financial demands for health care for their special needs family member. Your gift will not only help WCR serve more people, but also help cover the many expenses for horse care, general overhead, and to keep the lights on (and the Big Ass fans running in summer)! **Your donation will be used wisely and with great appreciation.**

Horse Sponsorships

Horse sponsorships are another great way to support the work of Willow Creek Ranch! Each horse costs about \$1,600 a year for grain and hay, vet and farrier care, preventative medicines, and more. If you have a special horse from our current herd that you would like to sponsor, please contact us soon. We already have four Horse Sponsor commitments for 2022! In January, we will introduce you to our new horse partners for an opportunity to sponsor any of them.

WCR Logo t-shirts and hoodies

Looking for a last-minute gift idea? We have a variety of apparel with the WCR logo – long and short-sleeved t-shirts, baseball caps, and warm hoodies, all reasonably priced from \$10-\$25. Stop in our community room to see the clothes or contact info@willowcreekranch.org if you would like to pick up a last-minute gift.

Your gifts are appreciated. There are still opportunities for you to make a year-end gift to Willow Creek Ranch. Gifts are accepted by check (the old-fashioned way!) OR through Facebook or through PayPal on our website, www.willowcreekranch.org. Please call (262) 806-4080 or (414) 791-2509, or email info@willowcreekranch.org if you would like to discuss how your gift will impact WCR services – or if you would like a tour. Willow Creek Ranch - 7404 Northwest Hwy 83 - Mukwonago, WI 53149

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

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.

Picture Page



2 Pam fitting Toby for his holiday lights



3 Slapshot, Callie & Pam



1 Melissa, Sue, and Ivy contemplating Gator's ribbon placement.



Ever try loading
reluctant donkeys?



4 Slapshot introducing himself to SamiO