

In this issue:

- Horse Sponsorship
- Volunteers
- Volunteer of the Year – PATH
- Giving Tuesday and Year End Gifts



*To our friends, parents, volunteers, donors, and other supporters –*

**A sincere and grateful thank you...**

We are so thankful for the horse sponsors that made the commitment to sponsor a horse for 2023:

Thank you to Karin Bullian and her son Colin for sponsoring Calibur again this year.  
Thank you to Pat and Bob Bade and son Kevin for sponsoring George again this year.  
Thank you to Vic Hren for sponsoring Oliver again this year.  
Thank you to Sandy and Scott Ludwig and daughter Rachel for sponsoring Luka again this year.  
Thank you to Marty Hren for sponsoring Freddie again this year and Takoda in memory of Mark K.  
Thank you to Marie Michael for sponsoring Mickey and Grace this year.  
Thank you to Knights of Columbus for sponsoring Beere.  
Thank you to Mark Merk for sponsoring Gator and little SamiO.  
Thank you to Shannon, Andrea, and John Kutcher for sponsoring Toby.  
Thank you to Paris and Kristy Hay and Brianna for sponsoring Tucker.  
Thank you to Danielle Kleczka for sponsoring Pixie.  
Thank you to Donna T., in memory of Bob, for sponsoring Slapshot and Patrick  
Thank you to Linda for sponsoring Rusty.

Thank you to all our horse sponsors, including four volunteers and five participants, that support Willow Creek Ranch through sponsoring a horse. The 2024 Horse Sponsorship information will be shared soon.

**Please consider a year-end gift to Willow Creek Ranch** so we can continue to reach out to people who need a place where they can grow and heal and where they can be accepted for their abilities. **It is with YOUR HELP and donations** that we can reach so many people and make a difference in their lives. Your gifts also provided for horse care and medical bills, fencing and equipment repair, water and snacks for our volunteers and funds to keep the lights on!

How to donate: **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 or through Facebook and PayPal on our website, [www.willowcreekranch.org](http://www.willowcreekranch.org). Please call (262) 806-4080 or (414) 791-2509, or email [info@willowcreekranch.org](mailto:info@willowcreekranch.org) if you would like to discuss how your gift will impact WCR services.

- **WCR also has t-shirts and hooded sweatshirts if you are looking for a gift for your rider or yourself!**

**Our current fundraising needs** are to raise funds to purchase a few new saddles for our hard-working horses. Many of our current saddles have been with us for 15 or more years and were donated or purchased used. Saddle material breaks down over time. Leather stretches, the cushioning and lining degrades and compacts, and they just become uncomfortable for our horses. Please help us provide a good riding experience for our horses and our riders. Between our Giving Tuesday Facebook request and donors that sent checks, we have raised a bit more than \$2,750 of our \$4,500 goal. Pictures below show some of the issues: broken straps, stiff/dried side panels, worn/frayed material, stretched out leather and more.



**Volunteers** - Our amazing crew of volunteers are essential to the services we provide. Our dedicated volunteers provide their time and talents for our program, such as prepping horses, grooming and tacking, horse leading and sidewalking; help with property clean up and maintenance; help with events; supporting operations through board membership; and many other activities to help keep WCR running smoothly. Volunteers who have completed orientation and have become a great help this year: Ethan Z., Alexis K., Laura K., Molly B., Johanna K., Erika C., Lisa O., Leah O., Ellen C., and Lorna H. We will be looking for more volunteers in spring.

One of our Willow Creek Ranch volunteers was nominated by a WCR staff member and received the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship (PATH), Intl., **2023 Volunteer of the Year for Region 6** (Wisconsin, Manitoba, Minnesota, North Dakota, Saskatchewan, and South Dakota). Congratulations to Marty Hren who has been a volunteer at WCR since 2009 in the roles of sidewalker, horse leader, horse trainer, volunteer coordinator, Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor (PATH) and Equine Specialist (EAGALA). She is on the WCR board of directors as secretary and past chairman. In addition, Marty volunteers her time on many administrative and communication tasks in support of the Executive Director and business of the Ranch.



***May you have a very Merry Christmas, Winter Celebrations, and a 2024 that is filled with health, appreciation, and peace.***

Willow Creek Ranch – Equine Assisted Services  
404 Northwest Hwy 83, Mukwonago, Wisconsin 53149 – (262) 806-4080 or (414) 791-2509  
[www.willowcreekranch.org](http://www.willowcreekranch.org)      [info@willowcreekranch.com](mailto:info@willowcreekranch.com)

*Willow Creek Ranch, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that serves children and adults through equine assisted services (therapy-learning-horsemanship).*