

A quick update for you while it is still June! (You didn't miss any newsletters – our last one was in December.)



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**General News**

Staff used the winter season to plan for 2023 WCR programs, update forms, recruit volunteers, build on county program relationships, and so much more! These few months have gone quickly, and we are right in the midst of our 16<sup>th</sup> year of providing services to southeastern Wisconsin communities!

WCR's Horsemanship Program will be closed July 3 – 7 so that our horses, staff, and volunteers can have a break from 12 weeks of work. May all of our friends and supporters have a safe and enjoyable Independence Day celebration.

**Horse Sponsorship**

We are so thankful for the donors who are sponsoring a WCR 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.

Thank you to Marie Michael for again sponsoring horses - Mickey and Grace this year.

It's good to know that we have funds for these horses to help with their care through this year – veterinarian, hay and grain, farrier, vaccinations, and medicines. We need help with horse care costs for our other horses.

There are still 12 horses and 2 donkeys that need support for 2023. Please consider a sponsorship or gift to help care for these important team members – we can only do equine assisted services if we have equines!



Horse Sponsorship Opportunity (\$1,600 a year) **Toby** (left) – Joined WCR in 2017 and has been a rock star in helping for both the horsemanship and equine-assisted psychotherapy programs. Extremely patient and calm and does love treats. A 19-year-old Haflinger. **Gator** (right) – Curious, fun-loving 17-year-old quarter horse who has been helping riders gain confidence since 2014. Former high school rodeo (barrel racing and pole bending) championship finalist.



### **2023 Season – Equine Assisted Services Programs**

Horsemanship. July begins our 4<sup>th</sup> 4-week session of Horsemanship lessons for children and adults with special needs and mental health concerns. From Monday through Thursday, we are providing services for 55 people with three part-time certified instructors and 30-40 hard-working, dedicated volunteers, and 13 of our riding horses.

Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP). Our part time staff of mental health professionals and equine specialist teams provide services to 30-35 clients a week. Willow Creek Ranch recently hosted a group of EAGALA (Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association) members and other professionals who were interested in learning more about our EAP program. Thank you to Andrea Satre, Mahleah Calderone-Henes and Becca John who presented information and mock sessions in the field with horses.

### **Other WCR Updates**

Road construction. Since April, it has been very challenging for clients, staff, and volunteers to get to WCR. Northwest Highway (Hwy 83) runs by WCR and has been under construction. Did you know that GPS doesn't always recognize addresses when they are surrounded by road construction? It was stressful for many of the people we service when they couldn't get to WCR, or their driver couldn't find us. The road engineers have been incredibly helpful. But there were many issues. In addition, WCR has lost many trees along the road as removal was necessary for the reconstruction.

WCR has a new parking lot! As we increased the number of people we serve and the number of volunteers, it was evident that the parking lot was frequently overflowing. We have now expanded the parking area to accommodate two rows of vehicles. Payne and Dolan were incredibly generous with their donation of bank run and road gravel.

### **Want to join us in making an impact on people?**

Volunteering is a heart-warming way to make a difference for yourself and others. Exercise, learn new things, make new friends, get horse hugs and more! You don't need any experience with horses or with working with special needs people. We will teach you! Volunteers generally need to be at least 16 years old.

Donations. Your donations allow us to reach more people and to support our staff, horses and volunteers and the entire Willow Creek Ranch operations. A gift to Willow Creek Ranch - Equine Assisted Services is used wisely and directly for the programs that benefit our kids and adults with special needs. Gifts are accepted by check or through Facebook or through 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.

## **THANK YOU!**

*Willow Creek Ranch, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that serves children and adults through equine assisted services (therapy-learning-horsemanship). We are a center member of the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship, Intl. and member of the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association.*