

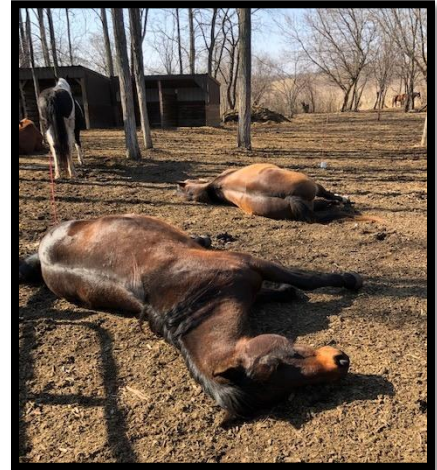
**In this issue:**

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***To our friends, parents, volunteers, donors and other supporters – we wish you a safe holiday as we remember those who fought and died for our country and for our freedom.***

**Wow! What a start to 2022!**

December through February was downtime for our riding horses. They work hard during the Horsemanship program. They have amazing patience as they serve riders who may be unbalanced, loud, fearful or rein-tuggers. Our horses earned the well-deserved break. (Yes, horses may lay down for naps; especially when they feel they're in a safe place.)



Over the winter we acquired several new horses. Added to our working team are Freddie, Beere, Takoda, Charlie and SamiO (who was featured in the last newsletter). New horses for our program require a lot of hands-on work to get them ready: get them healthy, build confidence, reduce fear of noise and movement, desensitize to unusual situations and be comfortable with the tools such as balls and pool noodles. We had a wonderful team of 16 volunteers who answered the call to be trained in horse training. Those volunteers spent more than 240 hours over 5 weeks to get all 12 horses ready for the riding program! Thank you to Jennifer and Marty for the training instruction and to the following for participating: Bella, Brian, Callie, Deanna, Ivy, Jill, Joanne, Joy, Lisa N., Melissa, Pam, Sara, Shannon, Sue B., Sue K. and Tami.

**Horsemanship Program**

Our program began in April with returning riders. In May we added new riders and we will add a few more in June. We are at a full schedule with 58 participants taking lessons Monday evening through Thursday evening.

By adding horses to our program and an additional instructor, we were able to reach out to people who have been on our waiting list for more than a year. We are now able to provide services to many more children and adults. **BUT now it is more important than ever to find sponsorships for all of our program and therapy horses.**

A couple of the horses we acquired were living in less-than-ideal situations. But we feel the veterinarian and health care costs were worth the potential we saw in these horses. Your gifts towards horse care or horse sponsorships are greatly appreciated. Horses still needing sponsorship are: Slapshot, Gator, Beere, Toby, SamiO, Takoda, Charlie. Please see the attached document for stories about each horse.

### **Horse Sponsors**

The Horse Sponsorship program information is attached. It provides full information on how you can help our amazing horse partners who give their heart to provide help to children and adults with special needs and mental health concerns. Please feel free to forward our sponsorship information to your family, friends or co-workers.

Thank you to Horse Sponsors for 2022 who answered the call for support. Your 2022 donation will be used wisely and with great appreciation.

**Mickey – Marie M.  
Calibur – Karin, Corey & Colin B.  
Oliver - Vic H.  
Hank – Cheryl & Bruce P.  
Freddie – Marty H.  
Patrick – Knights of Columbus Council 524  
Pixie – Penny & Dion C.  
Grace – Fred K.  
George – Pat & Bob B. family  
Luka - Sandy & Scott L. family  
Rusty – Shirley & Don G.**

### **Volunteers News**

We are excited about having 9 new volunteers so far this year who have gone through orientation: **Stacy G., Anne H., Emily K., Jenny L., Dex M., Mary Jean M., LouAnn P., Char Z., and Cindy W.** Welcome and thank you!

WCR volunteers enjoyed a small token of thanks after the first four-week session - pizza and sweet treats each night after lessons. In addition, all April volunteers that helped out 15 hours or more for the month had their name in a drawing for a WCR t-shirt. The lucky winner for April is Ivy, a Mukwonago High School student who has been volunteering at WCR since last April! Thank you to little Gordon who pulled out the name from a bag.

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering at Willow Creek Ranch, please have them send us an email at [wcrvolunteercoordinator@mail.com](mailto:wcrvolunteercoordinator@mail.com). No horse experience or experience with special needs is necessary. We have openings Monday through Thursday/day and evening for people to help during lessons, grooming horses, tacking/preparing horses for lessons, and general chores. We will teach you whatever you would like to learn about! Volunteers must be at least 14 years old.



One of our training sessions with new horses SamiO, Beere, Takoda and Freddie and volunteers Melissa, Deanna, Tami, Bella, Jill and Callie. (SamiO, Beere and Takoda need sponsors.)

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

***WILLOW CREEK RANCH – EQUINE ASSISTED THERAPY :: WHERE LIFE REINS...MIRACLES HAPPEN***

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