

Ranch Updates

- **Equine Assisted Services - Horsemanship/Learning Programs**
- **Equine Assisted Services – Mental Health Therapy began April 15**
- **Property Update – Fans, Kitchen Cabinets**
- **Monster Energy Company Volunteers**
- **Updated email address**
- **Horse Stories/Sponsor a Horse Opportunity**
- **Thank you to Donors and Volunteers** (*New volunteers are always welcome – contact us at wcrvolunteercoordinator@mail.com*)

Equine Assisted Services—Horsemanship and Learning Programs-

The growth of the WCR programs is remarkable and we are currently serving 44 participants in our riding and learning programs. Although we are excited to serve so many, with only two volunteer instructors we are challenged to help more people. We currently have 31 individuals on a waiting list. So, as WCR grows, this means we need to hire people - this will result in the need for funds to support staff costs. We are working to address the need to serve more people and are in the process of interviewing additional instructors. **Please consider a donation to help us provide services to families** who need the benefits of the WCR programs and horses. You can sponsor a rider or provide general support donation.

Equine Assisted Services--Therapy-Learning-Horsemanship

We are excited to announce that WCR is now offering equine facilitated psychotherapy and has a contract with Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Department and the Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) program. The WCR teams will be using the PATH Intl. and Eagala models. This is a more in-depth program for participants who suffer with issues such as trauma, depression, substance abuse or relationship problems. The participant works with a mental health professional, an equine specialist, and a horse or horses to discover healing opportunities. WCR is proud to welcome the mental health professional team of Dr. Traci Gauthier and Mahleah Calderon-Henes, MSW, in addition to Rebecca John, PATH Intl. CTRI and ESMHL and Eagala Equine Specialist, to provide therapy services. All three were formerly contracted with Honey Creek Counseling & Recovery Services, who for the past six years leased WCR and its amazing equines. For more information on this program email: info@willowcreekranch.org.

Fans, Custom Cabinets Installed

The indoor arena has two Big Ass Fans installed by **Brian and Mark**, purchased with generous donations from Willow Creek Ranch supporters. The fans are hooked up and are providing relief from the heat and flies. Thank you **to Rob Schultz and to our installers and donors**.

The Community Room continues to be transformed. Custom kitchen cabinets were built of rustic hickory and installed at a reasonable cost by an Amish carpenter from Iowa (near where Jennifer grew up). The Amish carpenter has also created a special custom countertop for the island with cherry wood from WCR property. Funding for the cabinets came from a generous donation from **Anne and Fritz Rouse**. Countertops have been installed and a sink is on order. If you haven't seen it yet, stop by and check our new kitchen area in the Community Room!

Monster Energy Company Volunteers

On Wednesday, May 5, three employees from the Monster Energy Company volunteered their time and talents to finish up some projects around the Ranch. THANK YOU to **Lon, Owen, Kyle, and Monster Energy** for allowing its employees to volunteer at a nonprofit-- we are grateful you chose WCR. Monster Energy Company also donated a variety of drinks for volunteers. We look forward to working with Monster Energy Company again soon. Lon, is a friend of one of WCR's special riders.



Updated Email Addresses

WCR is happy to announce a new email system to better serve our clients, parents, and supporters. To contact Willow Creek Ranch for services or questions about our programs, please email info@willowcreekranch.org.

Sponsor a Horse Opportunity

Thank you to our 2021 sponsors who are caring for Oliver (Vic H. & Callie H.), Grace (Anonymous), Mickey (Marie M.), Luka (Lisa F.), Calibur (Marty H.) and Hank (Bruce and Cheryl P.). We are happy to announce that we have three more families that are generously sponsoring a few more of our horse partners: **Jamie and Jeff Koehler and family** providing care for **Tucker**; **Pat and Bob Bade and family** are sponsoring **George**; and **Brian and Vicki Volp** are providing a partial sponsorship of our **Toby**. **We are so grateful to all of you for helping keep our horses healthy and well fed.**

Our therapy horses are essential to what we offer – interaction with amazing horses for children and adults with special needs and mental health concerns. Each horse can cost between \$1590 and \$2900 to annually support their care and health needs – things like hay, grain, and supplements; farrier, dental and veterinary services; vaccines; fly spray; grooming products; and pasture/shelter upkeep. If you can help us now, you will be “making a difference” for the horses and programs of Willow Creek Ranch. All gifts, great and small, are appreciated. **Horses still needing a sponsor for 2021: Slapshot, Gator, Pixie, Toby (partial), Rusty, and Patrick (our mini donkey).**

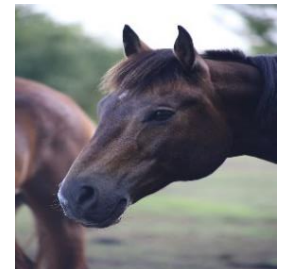
Six more sponsorships will help us meet our 2021 goal and provide for the health of each awesome WCR horse.

Here are a few WCR horses in need of sponsors:



Slapshot is one of the original horses to the WCR program that began in 2007 and is one of our most dependable horse partners. Slapshot continues to provide the patience and stability needed by our young riders with special needs. He is a favorite of many new volunteers who want to learn how to groom and become a horse leader for lessons.

Gator is a registered quarter horse and has been with Willow Creek Ranch since he was five years old. He spent his early years as a young girl's barrel racing project and earned recognition as a world finalist. He is now helping children and adults who have special needs develop confidence and strength. He is quite social!



Rusty came to Willow Creek Ranch in July 2019 with some health concerns and was under weight. He did not come with a lot of information on his past, he may have been a 4H project and trail horse who ended up at an auction and was not sold. He was put in a holding pen when a man approached the fence and Rusty came to greet him. Luckily it was that “rescue” that led him to WCR rather than an unhappy end. Months of special care and feeding to make him healthy created an exceptional horse that has brought a lot of joy and fun to WCR (and some funny stories-like walking into the Community Room to look out the window!). He has been working in the riding lesson and mental health programs and has become a favorite friend to many of our volunteers and riders.

Thank you to our supporters. We are so thankful and amazed at the generous hearts of our donors and volunteers.

With COVID affecting so many people and businesses, we have been blessed to be able to continue providing services to the community-- It is only because of the thoughtfulness and commitment of our donors and volunteers and participants and their families. 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 in support of our horse care or greatest needs. 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.