

### Ranch Updates

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#### Indoor Riding Arena, progress report

Thank you to **Payne & Dolan Inc.** who have donated more than \$10,000 in materials for the base and driveway to the indoor riding arena.

Thank you for hard work and dedication of volunteers who helped clear the area: many, many hours of work by **Mark Krupp, Jim Caughey, Brian Murphy, Ethan Caughey, Lenny Gums and Bob Sherwood.**

Thank you to **our great supporters** who have generously given gifts to help make an indoor riding arena a reality.

Remember to thank our generous business donors and consider them for your needs:

- Createscape Landscape Services, Mukwonago
- Payne & Dolan Inc., Waukesha
- Mark's Custom Services, Big Bend

We have raised \$191,000 and distributed just over \$40,000 so far for building plans, State and Town permits, grading and excavation of building pad, and building deposits. Construction of the actual building is set to begin October 3! Still need your support as we move to the next stage of our indoor arena - handicap restroom facilities, electric and plumbing, concrete, and viewing area. Your partnership and tax-deductible donation will help provide a safe and dry riding environment. (You know how our Wisconsin rainy weather has interrupted many lessons lately!)

#### Ranch Circus Rodeo

August 18 – What a great day for our WCR Circus Rodeo fundraiser! We had 23 delighted “circus performers” riding their favorite show horse and showing off the skills they have learned this past season. Participants received awards for weight-lifting at 250, 500 and 1000lbs (we have amazingly strong riders), navigating through a ‘ring of fire’, Bozo ball toss, horseshoe game and other activities in the 3-ring circus arena. Horses and donkeys (and some visitors!) came in costume for the day – head dresses, tutus (those donkeys can be cute), lion costume (Calibur), and Harley, our ‘white horse’ as a zebra – expertly painted on by owner Tara Borger.

We had so many wonderful volunteers (more than 45!) who made this a special day by building photo booth stations, making costumes and games, decorating horses, being horse leaders and side walkers for our riders, acquiring and providing food donations and door prizes, and staffing the concession stand and other areas of activities for our guests.

Thank you to everyone that helped make our fundraiser a success. We had 23 riders, estimated 250 visitors, received \$1,750 in donations and concession sales on the day of the event, and over \$7,000 in other donations and sponsorships.

Check out the photos from the day on our Facebook page Willow Creek Ranch, Inc., Mukwonago, WI

\*\*\*\*\*New this year – Photos (hundreds! Thank you photographer Bob Birchell) are available on Shutterfly (<https://willowcreekranchinc.shutterfly.com>)

#### WCR apparel and gifts

Willow Creek Ranch t-shirts and caps are available (think birthday and Christmas gifts!). Our t-shirts come in a variety of sizes (\$8-\$10.00) and the baseball-style caps have a rustic look (\$16).

Also available are the hanging hoofprint prints (\$10.00) that can be personalized with your favorite horse's name.

### Goodbye to Lauren

We were so fortunate to have Lauren Boyd as a summer intern at Willow Creek Ranch and she has now returned to Brigham Young University in Idaho to complete her senior year of college where she is majoring in Marriage and Family studies with a minor in Animal Science. She lived in Augusta, Georgia, most of her life and it is an interesting story as to how she came to WCR! Jennifer can share the story about how fateful meetings with people can bring new people into the WCR family.

Lauren immersed herself into the daily life of WCR with chicken/horse/ranch chores, administrative work, baling hay, being horse leader or side walker, running errands and helping with the Rodeo fundraiser. We miss her help (and are always looking for more volunteers to help with the riding program, chores, and ranch upkeep).

### WCR Program update

We are in our last lesson session which will end October 26. As the sun is going down earlier each day, riders are being asked to move to earlier class times – although we will be using our outdoor lighting as the weeks go by. Volunteers are still needed to help with horse leading and side walking. Many of our volunteers have gone back to school and have limited time to help, so we are depending on other volunteers to fill in so we can have safe lessons through the end of our riding season.

### Community Public Relations and Publicity events

WCR and Jennifer Pape were invited to present at several organizations – both local groups and national organizations – to provide insight into the benefits of therapeutic horsemanship.

- Waterford Area Kiwanis
- Union Grove Kiwanis – they are sponsoring a horse & providing a riding scholarship
- American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities conference (AAIDD) presentation
- National Association of Qualified Developmental Disability Professionals (QDDP) presentation
- TMG Wisconsin booth (IRIS Consultant agency)
- West Allis Rotary Club

Thank you to Jenna and her family for being our go-to person to demonstrate her horseback riding skills and be a spokesperson for what WCR therapeutic riding program has done for her.

### How YOU can help

Your gifts are always welcome as we continue to build our indoor arena, keep lesson costs affordable for riders, and provide healthcare and food for our special Willow Creek Ranch animals. You can donate through PayPal on our [www.willowcreekranch.org](http://www.willowcreekranch.org) website or send a check payable to Willow Creek Ranch at 7404 Northwest Hwy, Mukwonago WI 53149.

Sponsor a WCR Therapy Horse or a miniature donkey. Opportunities are still available for several of our horses. The partnership between the horse, rider, and volunteers is only the beginning ... horse sponsorship is a critical part of WCR's ability to care for and maintain our herd of program horses. The cost of providing our wonderful horse partners includes veterinary services, spring/fall vaccinations, deworming, farrier, dental care, fly spray, grain, hay, treats, supplements, and riding equipment. Our therapy herd of horses costs WCR an average of \$20,000 annually. We ask you or your business to consider sponsoring a therapy horse by making a \$1,500 for one year of sponsorship care, \$750 for six months, or \$125 for one month of care.

Your partnership and generous tax-deductible donation will help WCR continue to provide quality care for our amazing therapy horses and donkeys. Choose your favorite horse/donkey or give a gift to general care. Contact WCR at 262-806-4080 or send an email to [wcrvolunteercoordinator@mail.com](mailto:wcrvolunteercoordinator@mail.com) to request a sponsorship form to make your gift.

*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.*

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

7404 Northwest Hwy 83, Mukwonago, Wisconsin 53149 – (262) 806-4080  
[www.willowcreekranch.org](http://www.willowcreekranch.org)                      [wcrvolunteercoordinator@mail.com](mailto:wcrvolunteercoordinator@mail.com)