

### Ranch Updates

- Horse Updates and Introducing: Toby
- Update: Indoor Riding Arena
- How Can YOU Help?
- Business and Employee Giving program contributions, 2017
- This is “YOUR” Ranch – opportunities for support

### WCR Program Horse Updates:

Horses have had a healthy winter season, only a few minor coughs and runny noses with the weather going from warm to extreme cold, then rain and then cold. They are definitely getting *Spring Fever* (aren't we all!) and ready to get back into their routine of providing lessons to the WCR children and adults.

WCR will be introducing a new member of the equine therapy team ... Toby! Toby is a 14-year-old Halflinger who has experience in riding and carriage driving. He participated in a riding program for more than 2 years, and then his owner decided to bring him home last summer. After spending time with him and knowing how valuable he is in helping children and adults, the owners reached out to WCR and asked if we would be interested in having him as a program horse. And we think he will prove to be a great fit for our younger children and small adults. Let me tell you, he is quite curious, watch out for those lips! He will lick you and nuzzle you to the point of giggles galore!

### Indoor Arena Update:

Don Harvey, WCR Volunteer Project Manager, and Brian Murphy, WCR volunteer, have been receiving quotes for a 40'x30' addition to the existing stall barn and a 72'x120' indoor riding arena. The addition and arena will provide space for future amenities such as a handicap accessible restroom, viewing room and offices, and kitchenette for fundraising and other special events, and annual Ranch Rodeo.

*Providing a safe, weather-protected arena is expensive!*

The addition (connection from stall barn to new arena) and arena are an average of the quotes.

40'x30' addition	\$ 15,000.00 includes materials and labor only*
72'x120'x16' indoor arena	\$ 75,000.00 includes materials and labor only*
State approved building plans	\$ 11,000.00
Excavation of building site	<u>\$ 51,000.00</u> trucking to haul material is biggest part of expense
	\$152,000.00 PHASE I

\*These quotes do not include electrical, plumbing, concrete, interior walls, horse stalls, insulation, handicap accessible ramp, mounting block, etc.

**We are so excited to share that we have raised the entire amount needed for the above Phase I thanks to our most generous donors!** And we have a good start in our building fund for Phase II which includes other basics like electrical, plumbing, handicap accessible bathroom, lighting and insulation.

## How Can YOU Help?

### 2017 Business and Employee Giving program contributions:

It is donations and fundraising that help offset the actual cost of lessons to those participating in programs. Our 2018 estimated program/operating/horse expenses is nearly \$60,000. Income from Therapeutic Riding lessons covers about one-third of the expenses.

We are so thankful for our supportive donors and volunteers. The following businesses and their employees, through employee giving programs, have generously supported our WCR program. Did you know the following companies have employee giving campaigns or donate directly to WCR? Do you or someone you know work for any of these businesses or other businesses that have employee contribution matching programs? Help spread the word to support Willow Creek Ranch! And thank these companies if you have contact with them.

- AmazonSmile Foundation, donates 0.5% of purchase price of eligible items
- American Transmission Co., individual donations and company match
- American Online Giving Foundation
- Aurora Health Care's Partnership Campaign
- Benevity Community Impact Fund
- Cardinal Health Foundation
- Catholic Financials
- Goldman Sachs Philanthropy Fund
- IBM Employee Charitable Contribution Campaign
- Knights of Columbus
- Morgan Stanley Foundation, Employee Volunteer efforts program
- Northwestern Mutual and United Way Community Donor Choice program
- Payne & Dolan Inc., materials
- Runzheimer International, Ranch Rodeo sponsor
- Thrivent Financials and Thrivent Action Team
- William Blair and Company Charitable Matching Gifts Funds
- YourCause Corporate Giving Programs include:
  - AbbVie Employee Engagement Fund
  - AT&T Matching Gift Program
  - Dell Employee Engagement Fund

### This is ... **YOUR Ranch and YOUR Ranch and YOUR Ranch!**

WCR was founded in 2007 for special needs children and adults and their families. Whether you take lessons, volunteer, or are a donor to the program, it is for YOU. Willow Creek Ranch is for those with special needs and challenges of everyday life; for families to experience a place of acceptance and learning; for volunteers, a place to escape a mundane job for fresh air and exercise; and for horses, to get a second chance at a new career.

### 2018 Fundraising

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 and abatement, grain, hay, treats, and supplements.

Your partnership is needed to help us care for them. In our next newsletter we will tell you how you can help sponsor our horses.

Watch for our next newsletter – opportunities for you to contribute your time and talents in support of Willow Creek Ranch: horse sponsorship; volunteer; property care; a contact person for fundraising activities: ♥ Kenosha Running Company (XC Thrilllogy) runs for a cause and donates their proceeds to WCR; ♥ possibly a "HOGS for Hay" motorcycle

poker run; ♥ our annual Ranch Rodeo in August (Circus theme!) where we will need class sponsors, concession stand items, raffle prize, trophies, horse costumes, game/prize planning, etc.

**Thank you for all you do.**

*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.*

*All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

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

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