

Summer 2015

Dear Families and Friends of Willow Creek Ranch,

Would you help us?*

Willow Creek Ranch Therapeutic Riding Center (WCR) is a nonprofit organization that serves special needs children and adults through riding and learning about horses. The enclosed brochure describes the WCR history and mission of our organization and how riding can help a variety of disorders (like autism, cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome, brain injury) by improving balance, muscle strength, motor skills, concentration and self-confidence.

On Saturday, August 15, 2015, WCR is having a fundraising rodeo, where our riders will have a chance to show off their skills to family and friends. This event will be an opportunity for our family of supporters to help us raise funds for a major improvement in the ability of WCR to provide on-going safety and consistency for our special riders.

Currently, we are at the mercy of our wonderful Wisconsin weather. Late cancellations of lessons because of rainstorms, cold weather, or the hot sun can be confusing to children with special needs, as most look forward to the routine and consistent activities in their life.

Our goal is to raise \$250,000 to build an indoor arena with a parent/visitor viewing area; tack room; handicapped accessible restroom; multi-purpose room for vocational therapy, training and meetings; and horse stalls. In addition, the funds will be used for dust-reduced arena footing, electrical/lighting, plumbing and a handicapped area parking lot.

We are asking all riders, families, and volunteers to participate in our fundraising efforts. There are many ways to help...

- Be a Sponsor
- Contact everyone you know to tell them of an opportunity to support WCR and your rider through a direct donation, sponsorship, or by buying raffle tickets
- Obtain or provide raffle prizes and/or concession items
- Contact your employer for a donation and/or matching gift

Gifts of all levels are appreciated and will be used to support the therapeutic riding program. If you have questions or would like to visit Willow Creek Ranch Therapeutic Riding Center, please call me at (262) 806-4080 or email wcrvolunteercoordinator@mail.com .

Sincerely,



Jennifer Pape

WCR Founder and Executive Director

P.S. Your donation will help bring smiles and a safe area to our wonderful special-needs riders.

** those we serve can say it best...please read stories from our riders on the next page*

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WILLOW CREEK RANCH, INC.
Therapeutic Riding Center



Hi, I am Addie and I am 8 years old. I was born 10 weeks early and weighed 2½ pounds. I have cerebral palsy, which means that my left side doesn't work the way it is supposed to and has a hard time keeping up with what I want it to do. I first started riding at Willow Creek Ranch when I was 3 years old and I had a hard time even walking through the sand in the arena to get on my horse. Now, my balance and strength are much better and I don't need side walkers anymore. My goal is to trot on my own by the end of the summer. I love being independent and horseback riding gives me that and makes me feel good about myself. I always bring an apple for my horse as a treat for working hard. I can't imagine my life without the ranch in it. When I get older I want to have a ranch with 10 horses on it and 10 kids with lots of animals!



Hello, my name is Kylie, I am 12 years old and I have been a rider at Willow Creek Ranch since I was 5. I have Tuberos Sclerosis Complex (TSC) and it has caused many difficulties in my life. TSC is when benign tumors grow on different organs of the nervous system. I have 3 different types of tumors in my brain, some on my kidneys and skin. I have lots of seizures and have to be on lots of medications to help me.



Even though I am 12 years old it is hard for me to do things that many other kids my age can do. Willow Creek Ranch has given me the opportunity to do something super special ...I can ride a horse! I can balance, steer, stop, start, and take care of my horse. I have learned to be independent, responsible, and most of all, this program has given me confidence. I am excited about the opportunity to have an indoor arena so I can ride year round. I am so happy to be a part of the Willow Creek Ranch family. A place where miracles happen! Where I can learn, where I am accepted and where I am loved.

My name is Ashley and I am 19 years old. I was diagnosed with Pervasive Developmental Disorder-NOS, which is a form of autism. My major issue is a fear of stairs, hills, and heights. When I go to Willow Creek Ranch my body calms down instantly because my horse Dell is calm with me. Right away, I forget my stress of the day when I arrive at the Ranch and my fear of heights goes away.

I have been riding since 6th grade. My confidence, balance, and coordination continue to improve each year, which allowed me to participate in other activities like Special Olympics. Right now I am able to ride at Willow Creek for a few months out of the year due to cold weather. Sometimes when I don't ride for several months during the winter, I have difficulty remembering the basics. I hope someday soon they will be able to build an indoor area so I can ride every week. This would make a huge difference in my world.

And from Ashley's Mom...Ashley's experience at Willow Creek Ranch has been better than we could ever imagine. Her fear of heights used to require her even to have assistance walking down our stairs at home. Another challenge of Ashley's is social interaction. These issues have a significant impact on her daily life in school and in public. It is truly amazing to us that Ashley is now able to manage the height of the horse without any difficulty, has increased confidence and self-esteem, and even initiates conversations with others.

I cannot say enough about the volunteers at Willow Creek Ranch. They have established an environment that is safe & loving which allows riders like Ashley to grow in so many ways.



Ashley's high school graduation picture with Dell, her favorite WCR horse.

Willow Creek Ranch 2015 Fundraising Rodeo Sponsorship/Donation Form

I/We are pleased to support the WCR Fundraising Rodeo as follows:

- Be a Rider Sponsor with a gift of \$40.**
Announce your good wishes to a rider during the event and in the Rodeo program

- Be a Class Sponsor with a gift of \$100** (You may sponsor multiple riders and/or classes)
Help fund the trophies and ribbons for our riders. The Rodeo program will include your business information or a special good luck message to the riders and will be announced during the Rodeo.

- Be a Program Sponsor with a gift of \$500**
Your support will be listed in the Rodeo program, in an announcement during the event and will be posted on the WCR Support Banner, which is continuously displayed at the WCR arena. You will also receive special recognition on the WCR website.

- Be a Support Level Sponsor with a gift of \$1,000 to \$4,999**
You will receive the same benefits as a program sponsor (Rodeo program, event announcement, WCR Support Banner, recognition on the WCR website) plus recognition on the WCR Facebook page and a full-page advertisement or good luck wishes in the Rodeo program

- Be a Major Sponsor with a gift of \$5,000 or more**
You will receive the same benefits as all the above support level sponsor ships plus priority listing on the WCR home page plus the sincere gratitude of our riders and volunteers!

____ I am unable to sponsor this event, but please accept my donation of \$ _____

____ Please accept my donation of goods to be used for class or raffle prizes or the event concessions:

My total donation amount \$ _____

Payment Type: Check made payable to Willow Creek Ranch, Inc.

Other _____ (Cash, PayPal)

PayPal can be accessed through our website: www.willowcreekranch.org

Your name/good-luck statement as it is to be listed in the Rodeo program: check here if statement is on back of form

Information must be received by August 5 to be included in the program or banner.

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

Email address if you would like to receive WCR newsletter _____

Return this form and your donation to: Willow Creek Ranch, Inc.
7404 Northwest Hwy 83
Mukwonago WI 53149

Thank you!