

**Willow Creek Ranch, Inc. Therapeutic Riding Center— Celebrating our 10-year Anniversary**

**February 2017 Newsletter**

**From Mukwonago, Wisconsin**

***For Your Calendar – Save the Dates***

- Family Arts, Crafts and Clean-up Day – Saturday, March 18, 2017, 10 am - Noon
  - Monthly WCR Craft & Work Days - Saturdays, April 22, May 20, June 17, 10 am - Noon
  - Volunteer Orientation (new & returning volunteers): Sat. March 4, Sat. March 11, Wed. March 15, Wed. March 29
  - WCR Fundraising Rodeo: Saturday, August 26, 2017
- 
- Family Arts, Crafts and Clean-up Day & Sensory Trail and Arena Needs
  - Wisconsin Lions Camp
  - 2017 Evaluations and Lesson Schedule
  - Volunteer Training
  - Testimonials needed from Volunteers and Families of WCR
  - PATH Region 6 and Region 7 conferences
  - Duck and chicken eggs for sale, need cartons

**Calling All Volunteers, Supporters, and Families – Annual Craft and Clean-up Days scheduled**

Mark your calendars! Saturday, March 18, 10 am until Noon, has been set as a Family Day at the Ranch to reconnect (with people and animal staff), work on projects (cleaning & updating sensory trails, new sensory crafts, freshening up WCR), and brainstorm new projects (like, how can we make larger than life insects and water animals for Water Street?!)

Additional Craft/Work Days are scheduled from 10am – Noon on Saturdays: April 22, May 20, and June 17.

*The WCR sensory riding trail is a rich learning environment of wooded trails consisting of slopes, turns, varied footing, natural sights and sounds, and man-made “activity stations.” This integrated environment challenges the riders’ balance, stimulates their senses and encourages them to interact with the world around them.*

**Sensory Trail and Arena Needs**

- |                       |                           |                           |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| ● Ceiling fan blades  | ● Clear coat spray*       | ● Crayons, coloring books |
| ● Old costume jewelry | ● New or used spray paint | ● chalk, erasers          |

And we need...

- . Fun facts for Planet Avenue, updates for State Street signs
- . Music Lane items for blowing, striking, rubbing, shaking, and strumming/plucking
- . Fresh coat of paint for arena letters, numbers and props
- . Construction of new letters and numbers
- . Post holes dug for electrical poles for arena lights
- . 5-yard dump trucks for hauling gravel and sand for outdoor arena

We will be introducing a nature library and will need gently used nature books.

*\* We hope each family would bring one can of clear coat spray to weatherproof and preserve all our outdoor trail activities.*

A future project is to create and develop a community garden, with raised beds in the Sensory Garden area. If you are interested in being on a planning committee, please contact [wcrvolunteercoordinator@mail.com](mailto:wcrvolunteercoordinator@mail.com) to participate.

**Wisconsin Lions Camp\*\*\**Thank you again to the Mukwonago Lions for their recent \$500 donation to WCR\*\*\****

The summer 2017 Lions Camps are scheduled. “Come swim and boat on Lions Lake, explore in our environmental education program, hit a target in archery, climb to new heights on our climbing tower, high ropes and zip line, create lasting art and performance projects, enjoy a campfire and wallow in our mud pit. Meet other children and adults from Wisconsin and build lasting friendships in a safe environment.” *This quality camping experience is provided free-of-charge to eligible children and adults with disabilities from Wisconsin.* Wisconsin Lions Camp serves children and adults who are blind or visually impaired, deaf or hard of hearing, children with intellectual disabilities or educational autism and children with diabetes. A chance remark, “Blind kids can’t go to outdoor camps and stuff like that...” started it all in 1955 and in 1956, the Lions Clubs of the State of Wisconsin founded the Wisconsin Lions Camp and the Wisconsin Lions Foundation, Inc. to administer the Camp program. From that humble beginning with 26 campers, they are now proud to serve over 1,300 campers a summer. Go to [www.wisconsinlionscamp.com/summer-camp/summer-schedule/](http://www.wisconsinlionscamp.com/summer-camp/summer-schedule/) for more details.

### **2017 Riding Evaluations and Lessons**

Rider evaluations are required each year to assess appropriateness for therapeutic lessons. Evaluations will be scheduled in March and April on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Riding lessons and EAGALA sessions will be offered Monday through Friday, with group riding lessons on Tuesday evenings. Lessons are tentatively scheduled to begin the week of April 3.

*Watch for more information in the March 2017 Willow Creek Ranch newsletter.*

### **Volunteer Training – Orientation Dates**

Welcome Back Volunteers and Welcome to New Volunteers

The therapeutic riding program cannot exist without volunteers. We depend on volunteers to help and support our special needs riders, to lead horses during lessons, and to help in many other ways with mailings, fundraising and chores. If you have previously volunteered, we welcome you back—you know how much we depend on you! There are opportunities for both daytime and evening help. If you have a friend, neighbor, co-worker or relative that might be interested in volunteering for WCR, have them check out our website ([www.willowcreekranch.org](http://www.willowcreekranch.org)) and complete the Volunteer Interest form online.

The following orientation dates are in preparation for the April riding sessions. Please send an email to [wcrvolunteercoordinator@mail.com](mailto:wcrvolunteercoordinator@mail.com) with your choice of session; or you may leave a message at WCR 262-806-4080.

#### **Orientation dates:**

*(Important-completed volunteer forms (3) should be brought to your session; download them from the WCR website)*

Saturday, March 4 from 10:30am - Noon

Saturday, March 11 from 10:30am - Noon

Wednesday, March 15 from 5:30-7:00pm

Wednesday, March 29 from 5:30pm – 7:00pm

More dates to come in April, May and June

### **Testimonials from Volunteers and Families**

Powerful testimonials from WCR families have added credibility and documented successes in the services provided for our riders. The financial supporters of the WCR program and its riders are eager to hear your stories, and what an impact WCR has had on your life or the life of those who participate or volunteer here. We are looking for testimonials for this year's solicitation letter and website. Please submit to [wcrvolunteercoordinator@mail.com](mailto:wcrvolunteercoordinator@mail.com) by March 10.

### **2017 PATH Intl. Region 6 and Region 7 Conferences**

Everyone is welcome to attend; you do not need to be a registered instructor or PATH member.

. Region 6 Conference will be held March 9-12 at River Falls, WI, hosted by University of Wisconsin-River Falls Animal Science Department, and Walk On Therapeutic Riding Programs, in River Falls, WI.

. Region 7 Conference will be held March 30-April 2 and will be hosted by BraveHearts Therapeutic Riding & Educational Center, in Harvard, IL. For more information visit: <http://www.pathintl.org/path-intl-conferences/regional>.

**Duck and Chicken Eggs for Sale, need Cartons:** The ducks have started laying eggs! And the chickens continue to lay approximately 30 eggs per day. As you know, WCR sells farm fresh eggs for \$3.50/dozen and duck eggs for \$6.00/dozen. The money from egg sales helps pay for some of their grain, horse feed, and cat food. It gives our participants a chance to learn vocational skills such as gathering eggs, cleaning the chicken coop, filling the grain containers, and watering the hens. Thank you for supporting this vocational program, it has been a success! If you have egg cartons you want to donate, please drop them off at the Ranch.



Would you like to get more involved with WCR? Contact Jennifer and/or Marty to find out how you can become a program volunteer or help with upcoming events, fundraising, arena plans, and sensory trails!

262-806-4080

[wcrvolunteercoordinator@mail.com](mailto:wcrvolunteercoordinator@mail.com)