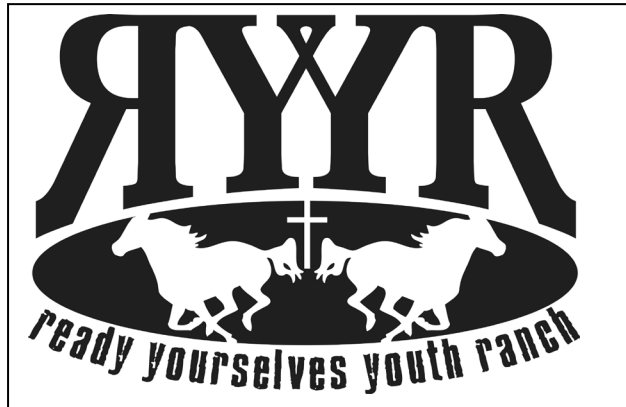


DECEMBER 2020/JANUARY 2021



*Our Vision...For every child to experience redemption. Our Mission...**LOVE** the child, **SAVE** the horse, enable children and their families to realize the **HOPE** they can have in Jesus Christ.*

Dream Come True!



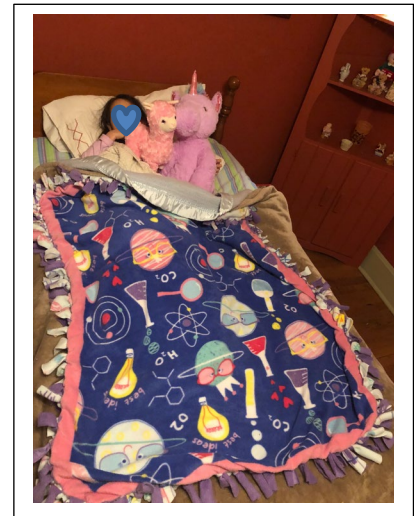
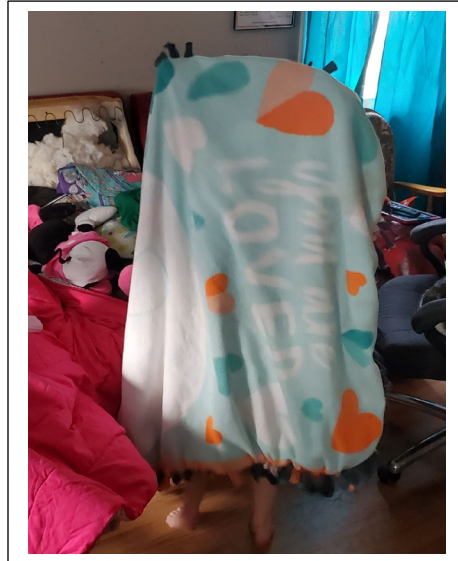
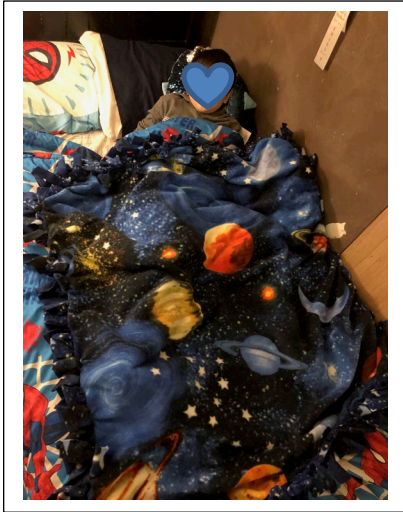
About four years ago, Dream was a 16-year-old mare that came to us as a free lease. After being a part of our mentoring program for two years, she suffered a torn tendon in her back leg that left her on stall rest for a year. Because of her age we decided that it was time to retire her from our mentoring program. With the help of our volunteer, Savanah Bonzo, we were able to connect Dream with Kristy Krause. Kristy had been looking for an easy going, quiet horse to ride in her spare time. After meeting Dream, the two bonded quickly and Kristy adopted her without any doubts. Since moving to her new home, where Dream has a huge 16 x 16 stall and plenty of grass pasture, Kristy has reported that when she calls out to Dream in the field, Dream whinnies at her and comes running to meet her.

RYYR thanks Kristy for her commitment to love and care for Dream. I would say this is definitely a Dream come true match!

THE WARMTH OF A BLANKET

"I could feel the warmth of his presence as if a soft blanket had been wrapped around my soul, around my heart. It held me and protected me. It sheltered me and I knew I wasn't alone anymore."

~ Colleen Houck



For the second consecutive Christmas season, the congregation of Emmanuel Baptist Church in North Sewickley Township was kind enough to donate over 40 hand tied fleece blankets. After our Ranch Manager, Rebecca Shaw, delivered the blankets to the kids, she received text messages from some moms:

"My kids literally haven't put the blankets down since they got them."

"They love their blankets!"

Thank you so much Emmanuel Baptist Church. It was such a blessing to give out these blankets!

Have Cabin Fever?

The needs of our volunteers are always changing. Some have left to care for family and some have moved away. Although we do have a great crew of current barn volunteers, we could always use a few more, especially on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings. If you would like to get outside for fresh air and a little activity, please consider volunteering to care for our horses.

THANK YOU!!!!THANK YOU!!!!

Thanks to Karen Diehl who donated the Equine Pro Thumper! Our horses also thank you! We are soooooo excited to begin using it to relieve stress and muscle pain between massage & acupuncture treatments!

Another donor (who wishes to remain anonymous) donated enough funds for 4 storage bins....thank you!

Helloooooo Felix!



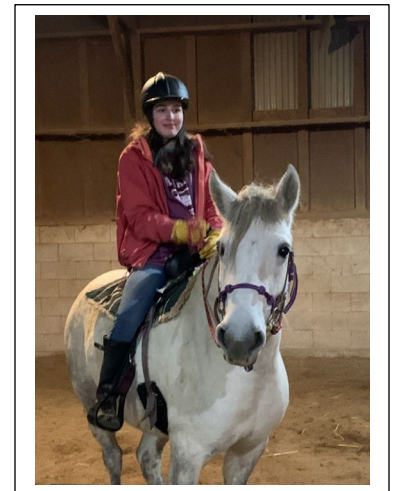
I may be showing my age but every time I say his name, in my head I start singing, “Felix the cat, the wonderful, wonderful cat...” Anybody remember that cartoon? Or maybe you are like one of our volunteers, Shannon, who said, “Now you need an Oscar.” If you’re 40+ then you’ll remember the show *The Odd Couple*. Felix was the tidy (OCD) roommate while Oscar was the slob. Ah...nostalgia!

Alas, we are talking about the new addition to RYYR. Felix is a six-year-old draft pony. Yep, you heard me, it’s a bit of an oxymoron, right? When you hear “Draft Horse” you think of the huge breeds like Percherons, Clydesdales and Belgians. And of course, anything under 14 hands high is considered a pony. But don’t let his size fool you, he is strong and can carry a heavier human without any problem.

In addition to this being a crazy pandemic year, we were plagued with multiple horse lameness issues and the loss of Prince who moved to Ohio. As we asked the Lord for wisdom as to what to do, he quickly revealed Felix to us and we acted quickly. Praise God for his blessings! He knows all our needs before we even know.

When looking Felix over, you can’t miss his draft build. You can see his thick neck, legs, hind quarters and there’s no way you can miss his huge feet LOL! He’s even got the signature docked tail. At first glance he looks white but his mane, tail and legs show varying shades of gray. What is not mistakable is his great affection for people and his eager to please attitude. He is the sweetest, gentle horse but can be lippy because of treats. We were warned about his “pony attitude” but have seen none of it so far. Felix is still a little green so we have a dedicated volunteer working with him to prepare him for the beginner riders that will come in 2021. We’ve been told that he is trained to pull a cart so begins our search for a harness and cart! Thanks to our volunteer Savannah for helping us find this odd but much needed, perfect fit for our ranch.

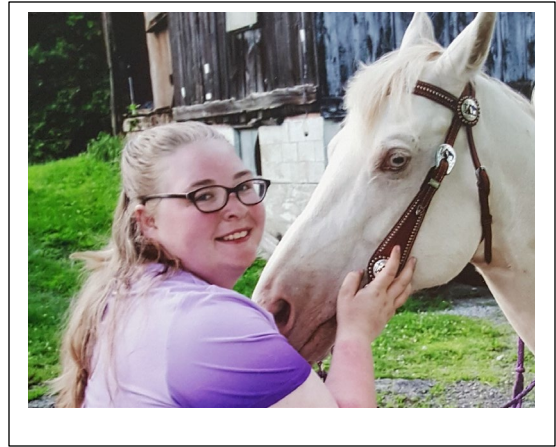
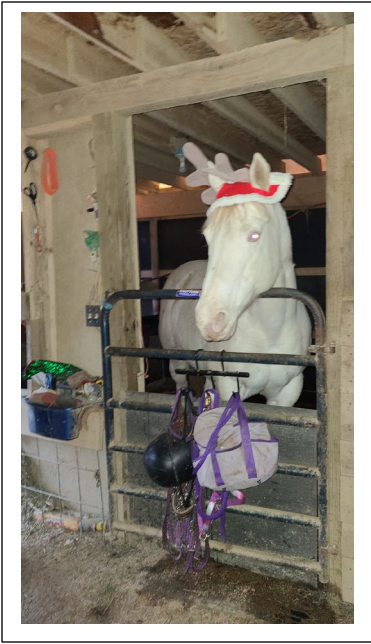
“Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.” - Matthew 6:8 (NIV)



Bekah Sullivan working with Felix (above)

Over \$200 Collected from COVID Swear Jars

Thank you to all who participated. So far, we have collected a little over \$200 in coin donations, with notification that more will come! Thank you all!



“People just don’t understand.”

We all wear different hats daily. I’m a Mom, Wife, Landlord, Farm Owner, Barn Volunteer, etc. However, one of the most difficult hats that I wear is a “Therapist” hat. This is what Judy and I jokingly call our frequent conversations (sometimes daily.) I don’t really do anything except listen. Some of you may remember Judy and Abby’s story from one of the 2020 newsletters. Briefly, they adopted one of our ranch horses named “Willow” thinking they would rescue this horse but as it turns out, the horse rescued them.

During one of our most recent chats before Christmas, Judy told me of the presents she was getting for her kids, her Dad and of course Willow. As she rattled off all of Willows items, I’m shaking my head the whole time. This list included 13 different flavored bags of horse treats; cinnamon, pina colada, ginger, rocky road, banana, anise, butterscotch, vegetable, party oats (what could this possible taste like?!), peppermint, carrot & oats, strawberry and alfalfa..... all for ONE horse. I laugh and tell Judy she’s crazy but of course she knows this. Then Judy proceeds to tell me, “Oh how I love that horse. Mish, people just don’t understand. They look at Willow and see an animal. Unless you’ve walked through what we have, you just can’t understand.” Judy has told me on endless occasions about the natural healing that occurs when she or Abby are with Willow. Then she proceeded to remind me about the worst night of her life when her husband died. After suffering the devastating effects of a stroke, Dave hung on for two and a half years and passed away in March of 2020. Dave died on a Friday and Judy and Abby (as well as her son David) were overwhelmed with grief, they didn’t know what to do. They decided they would go to the barn and check on Willow, maybe take their mind off Dave’s death for a few minutes. As soon as they walked into Willow’s stall, they remembered how much Dave loved Willow. Both Abby and Judy started to cry. Willow lowered her head and let them weep all over her. She remained like this for at least fifteen minutes, not moving a single muscle. They didn’t think they had that many tears in them but it was like a dam just busted. Willow’s hair was saturated in large patches all over her body. Willow could sense they were suffering and simply “listened” like a therapist would.

After Judy finished recounting the story I had to concede. I said, “Ok Judy, maybe you’re not so crazy for buying her 13 different bags of treats. I’ll give you that one.” And we both chuckled a little bit.

I share this story, not to bring sorrow to your life, but to help you see that even when there is darkness, God provides help to carry the load. He is always near to the broken hearted. Sometimes when we need something tangible, he uses people, His word or even animals.

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.”-2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Youthful Attitude of Gratitude

Even after ten years, I am still amazed that people willingly give generously of their time to volunteer at our ranch. On Thanksgiving Day this past year, I received a text message from one of our youth volunteers. The message both touched and encouraged me so I thought I would share it with you all.

“Hi Micheline! I hope you are having a great day so far. I just wanted to let you know how thankful I am for RYYR, and how thankful I am for you. Without the ranch, who knows where I would be in life. It is such an amazing place that has helped me and so many others. The place is truly a blessing, a place that I like to call home. I’m so grateful that you run such an outstanding establishment that not only helps people but helps horses as well. I hope you have a great rest of your day, Happy Thanksgiving!” - Gracie S.

DG’s GENEROSITY



We were recently blessed (and overwhelmed) by a local Dollar General store. A long-time ranch volunteer, Chrissy Worden is also an employee of DG. When her store manager asked for suggestions on local charities that could benefit from a Christmas toy drive at their store, Chrissy quickly suggested RYYR. The kids were so excited to choose gifts for themselves and their siblings! It was a wonderful opportunity to help them understand that while it is wonderful to receive a gift, there is deeper joy in giving one.

“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!”

-2 Corinthians 9:15

APPAREL

You can support us by purchasing some logo apparel. We offer several types of shirts in two colors as well as hoodies, sweatpants and beanies. Check out our online store:

<https://readyyourselvesapparel.itemorder.com/sale>

The next quarterly deadline is March 31, 2021 and orders will be complete by April 20th.

**THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND
PRAYERS!**

Come and visit our website at www.RYYR.org, share our video <https://vimeo.com/392571914/5c6f4c7d20> and don't forget to follow our Facebook page for all our event updates!