



...a place of Hope and Healing

Happy March folks! It has been such a mild winter that I feel like it is a repeat of last winter. I believe the Farmer's Almanac had predicted a deep freeze with lots of snow but I haven't seen much, have you? The mild weather has provided an abundance of.....MUD (Ugh!). With that said, it is also shedding season so if anyone has time please come brush the horses. Just text or call me to arrange a time, 724-713-1653.

DONATIONS

Would you like to make a purchase rather than donate money? We have simple ideas that can really help. There are everyday items that we could use, here are some suggestions:

- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Bottled water (for kids that come for Day Camps)
- Dish soap (mild enough to wash the horses)
- Laundry detergent (to wash horse blankets & cleaning towels)
- Popsicles (in plastic sleeves)
- Gift Cards (for Chinese auction at our fundraising events)

EVENTS

We've also begun planning many of our events this year, please mark your calendars so you can join us:

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|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| May 13th | Spring Horse Fun Show | July 13-15 | Horse Trading Days |
| June 10th | Trail Ride | Sept 16th | Fall Horse Fun Show |
| June 24th | Annual Golf Outing | October 13-15th | Fall Festival |
| July 4th | Zelienople parade | | |

HORSEY NEWS

Here are some new additions to our ranch since last fall:

Gideon



Hope



Gideon is an 8 year old Haflinger. He's just a big ball of hair and energy. He is as tall as he is round ☺ and super affectionate. Hope is a tall Quarter horse and is the opposite of Gideon. She was withdrawn and leery. However, in the months since she has been at the ranch, she has slowly become more relaxed. And with the help of some of our volunteers she is learning to trust.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

I was recently reminded that we live in the land of milk and honey and sometimes that makes us act a bit like a spoiled brat. Like many of you, I love food. Maybe a little too much. My husband and I had gone for a ride into Amish country in Ohio. When it was supper time, and being creatures of habit, we looked to find some familiar restaurants. There were not the usual restaurant chains because, let's face it, we were in the middle of nowhere. We settled for simple food at a large restaurant. Even though the portion was plenty, the meal was pretty plain. I left full but not satisfied. In my head I was grumbling all the way out to the car. It was there that the holy spirit made me realize that I was acting ungratefully. I had forgotten what it was like when my family lived in Vietnam and what it was like to be hungry as a child. I thank God for his daily reminders that keep me in check. It's easy to ignore those taps on the shoulder but when you turn to look, your perspective changes and THAT is the only way that we can follow Christ.

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.....” -Romans 12:2

RANCH UPDATE

As spring approaches, we are making preparations for the 2017 season of mentoring sessions. If the weather holds out, we can get volunteer training done relatively quickly. Even though we have existed for 7 years, RYYR has only been in operation for two years and as a fledgling organization, we are always short on two things.....money and volunteers. Though we have seen God working at our ranch in so many ways. I tend to think he keeps us struggling so we

will stay close to Him. As humans, when we get comfortable and don't have any pressing needs, we forget that it was God who got us there.

In the past year, we have made new connections with many child service organizations in the area such as Beaver County Juvenile Justice Dept., Children & Youth Services, Beaver County Rehabilitation Center and The Prevention Network. With these connections comes many new kids that need our services. With that knowledge, we need to step up our request for more volunteers. Yes, God has blessed Matthew & I so that we can facilitate this program in a lovely setting of a farm, . But we are, by no means, "the ranch." The Ranch is a group of people. People collectively working together towards one goal. The goal? To share the love of Christ to children. Many of you are thinking, "I don't know anything about horses." or "I don't know if I can be a good mentor or volunteer." Well, I'm here to tell you that I knew zip, zilch, zero and nada about horses when God called us start this ranch. And I had the very same apprehensions about the kids and how I was going to learn everything. But I've learned that when God calls you to do something in His name, he's not asking if you have enough money, skills or abilities, he's simply asking, "Are you willing?" And that is what I am asking you, "ARE YOU WILLING?" Because if you are, we can teach you the rest. Each one of us has a different gift to give and it's only when we use our gifts collectively, that we can accomplish what God has for us to do.

Unity and Diversity in the Body

⁴There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.⁵There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

¹²Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. -**1 Corinthians 12:4-6 & 12**

If you or anyone you know may be interested in serving as a volunteer in any of the following capacities, please contact me:

- *Mentors
- *Day Camp Helpers
- *Barn Chores
- *Maintenance & Repairs
- *Event helpers (information booths at fairs & festivals)
- *Administration & Volunteer maintenance
- *Fundraising and more!

We can be flexible and find you a position that suits your schedule!

Please continue to pray for us as we complete the tasks that the Lord has for us. Thank you for your continued support!

-Micheline Barkley, Co-Founder

www.RYYR.org

724-713-1653

Email: michelinebar@verizon.net

Mailing Address: 110 Paige Dr., Rochester, PA 15074

Facility Location: Meehan Lane, New Brighton, PA 15066