

#### **December 2019**



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.

### HERE IT COMES....READY OR NOT!!!!

For those of you who are old enough, do you remember Y2K? I remember the panic and fear everyone faced because of the potential malfunction of electronics. People purchased dried foods and made bunkers to prepare for protection and riots, etc. And now, here it is, almost 20 years later!

"For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night." – **1Thessalonians 5:2** 

"You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him." – **Luke 12:40** 

The question is, Are **YOU** ready if he comes today?

## WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS?

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What do you want for Christmas this year? My son wants a remote-control car; his older sister is asking for a record player; and their mother wants "just a few minutes of peace and quiet."

But the best gift list I've ever seen came from a 15-year-old boy who wrote a theme for his teacher on the topic "The Most Perfect Gift":

"There are many occasions during the year when a person receives gifts, and there is always a tingle or excitement when he opens them. But the newness of the gift soon wears off, and the first excitement of receiving it is forgotten. But there is a gift that never wears away a gift that is so perfect that it lasts throughout all eternity. This is the gift of eternal life. This gift is worth more than all the riches of the world, and there is only one way to obtain it. Anybody, no matter what race or color, can have this gift. All he has to do is receive it, and this is done by taking the Lord Jesus as his own personal Savior."

"But why should a person receive this gift? The Bible says, "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God....The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life. God gave this gift because He loved the world. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. All the gifts of the world will deteriorate but God's gift, the gift of His Son, who died on Calvary, is the only perfect gift."

This Christmas, put God's perfect gift at the top of your list. But don't wait to open it. Eternal life is yours now if you will receive it.

"As many as received Him (Jesus Christ), to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.

## GONE BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN

-by Micheline Barkley

Almost 1 year ago this month, we lost one of our most beloved horses, Pansie. If you were blessed enough to have known her, you would remember that she was H-U-G-E. But she was amazingly gentle. She helped us teach the kids about how knowledge can help you overcome fear. She loved all the attention she received. She loved being brushed and spoiled. One of my favorite stories to tell about her was this one:

We had just started our mentoring program in the summer of 2015 when a woman called me. She told me the heart-breaking story. Her nieces Father was never a part of her life and her mother had become a drug addict, in and out of her niece's life. She was adopted by her grandparents, however, they died. Her Aunt (the woman who called me) was all she had left. Her Aunt adopted her but she continued to struggle with selfesteem and self-harming. She had been in a residential treatment facility for quite some time (several years). She was finally going to be released and her Aunt was looking for affordable resources to help her with her niece, that's why she called us. There were some other programs available, however, there were costs involved that she could not afford. They were living barely above the poverty level. When the Aunt found out that RYYR was free, she was ecstatic and hopeful! We scheduled to meet for a barn tour.

It was about 5pm, around feeding time. Horses had been given their grain and were sent out to pasture for the evening. If you know anything about horses, they love 2 things, feeding time and being with their friends. They are herd creatures so there is comfort and safety when they are with the herd. When we met, the niece began by telling me about her riding experience and was very excited. I then introduced her to Pansie. As she reached up to scratch Pansie behind the ear, her long shirt sleeve crept back her arm and revealed hundreds of cutting scars. It made me catch my breath but I squelched it as soon as I realized I was doing it. I didn't want to make the girl more self-conscience. There were old lines that had scarred and some were fresh with scabs, lines varying in colors depending on how old they were. It was so hard to act natural when my heart simply ached for her. She mentioned that had never ridden a draft horse before. So, I told her to get a helmet on and I could lead her around on Pansie. After a few laps around the indoor arena, I walked Pansie to the mounting block and the young lady dismounted. She then took off her helmet and proceeded to walk from the mounting block to the door leading from the indoor arena to the stalls. I had taken Pansie's halter off and the gate was wide open. I thought she was going to bolt out the gate to be with her friends. Instead, Pansie began to follow the young lady. The young lady was surprised and looked up at me, "She's following me!" I then directed the young lady to walk away and Pansie simply followed her. The young lady said, "I think she likes me!" Given the opportunity to run with her friends and eat, she chose to stay with a girl that needed her. I believe that, for the first time in her life, this young lady felt loved, just the way she was. Yes, yes, she was loved, just the way she was. Just the way Jesus loves us with all our faults. He wants better for us but he loves us just as we are, broken, messy people. It was after this that this young lady began to heal. She was mentored that summer at the ranch. A few years later, he graduated high school, attended college, got married and has a child of her own!

I'd like to be able to say that we fixed this young lady but I know from experience that only God can take something bad and make it good!















## T-SHIRT & HOODIE FUNDRAISER

New for 2020, RYYR t-shirts and hoodies, you have a choice of Maroon with White Logo or Charcoal Gray with Teal Logo imprint.

T-Shirts S-XL \$15.00 each (2XL \$17) Hoodies S-XL \$30.00 each (2XL \$32)

To place your order, email: Veronica.Belanger@RYYR.org
Just tell her qty & sizes. All items will come to RYYR and we can
Ship to you if you are out of the area for just the additional
Shipping costs TBD depending on area.



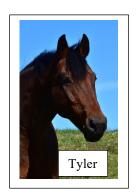


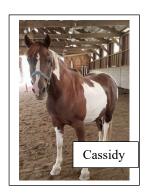


"If ever there was a place through which the presence of God manifests during every moment, it is RYYR. This is my 3rd year as a volunteer. What started as a summer volunteer position has evolved into a solid commitment to the ranch's mission, mentees, horses, and founders. I've been blessed to witness moving transitions in kids embroiled in anything from heartbreak to depression, anxiety, handicaps, poor living situations, and tragedies. If only for an hour (but hopefully a lifetime), they experience the opportunity to feel the success of changing their approach to bonding, relating and overcoming diversity. They learn patience, gentleness, nonverbal communication (body language of the horse & the impact of their body language on the horse), boundaries (the difference their behavior makes in a 1000# animal trusting or distrusting), how their actions can create pain or pleasure and putting it all together to accomplish mutual trust and love. With the help of God, & through their mentor, these successes can be related to everyday human interaction & hope. My faith in this program, and the high quality of care given these horses, recently moved me to board my own horse in this environment thus increasing the amount of time I can be there. And, make no mistake about it, RYYR has changed my heart & solidified my faith in God. Thank you to Mich, Matt, Savanah, Becca, the board and every single volunteer for RYYR who has answered God's calling."

# WOULD YOU CONSIDER SPONSORING ONE OF OUR RANCH HORSES?

For \$25 \$50 or \$100 per month, you can help feed and care for one of our 16 ranch horses. Please consider and if you would like to be a sponsor, please email <a href="Veronica.Belanger@RYYR.org">Veronica.Belanger@RYYR.org</a> and let her know which horse you're interested in sponsoring!











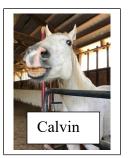






















Please continue to pray for our ministry and as always, you are ALL welcomed to come out and visit our ranch anytime, just call or text us at 412-858-0383.

Come and visit our website at <a href="www.RYYR.org">www.RYYR.org</a> and don't forget to follow our Facebook page for all the updates!