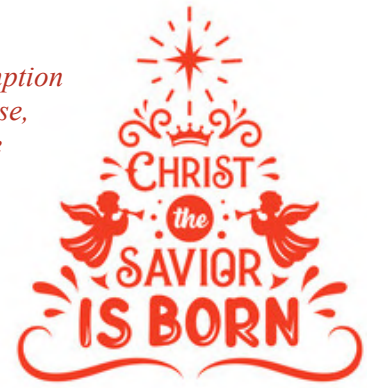


December 2023



*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*



## “Small” Faith Makes a BIG Difference: Meet Louise!



Most of you know we have been without a draft horse for a couple years now. This past June, Savannah was in contact with a family from Harrisville, PA that bred Brabant draft horses who were looking to rehome a middle aged Percheron broodmare. She was looking to donate this horse to a 501 (c)3 non-profit program that could use her. After some chatting and a couple visits to this mare, we agreed to give "Cottonwood" a permanent home at RYYR.

Right around the time we found "Cottonwood", Oreo (past program horse of many years), was showing early signs of needing to retire. With Oreo leaving that allowed this mare to come and live in the run-in with Liberty - just one sign for us that this was God's guidance leading Savannah to find this particular horse.



Micheline had been longing to have a draft horse since the loss of Lazarus in 2021. Micheline's beloved mother in law, Marian Louise Barkley, passed away in April of 2023, after a long life filled with faithfully raising her sons and welcoming everyone God brought her way with open arms. She saw these things as nothing significant, just small acts of faith, but for Micheline, her mother-in-law's unconditional love was instrumental in changing her heart towards God, leading to all the ways He's worked in her life to bring RYYR into existence to reach so many kids in need.



After Marian's passing, Micheline had the desire to honor her by naming the next draft horse "Louise". The Lord knew the ranch would need a mare to be able to call her "Louise" so He made it happen! Louise is a permanent resident of RYYR and has big shoes to fill. She is sweet as can be and she loves attention.

# Summer Programs are a Wrap!

## Here's what RYYR youth and their families say:

### *One thing I learned this summer is...*

- I got much better at trotting, I also learned that forgiveness is for everyone and not just the “good people”
- To be patient
- About God
- How to understand [my mentor] and my horse and how to ride
- Goals I didn't think I can do, I actually can do
- The rainbow's purpose/promise: God's promise to not flood Earth
- I learned how to be myself around others
- Things take time to build especially relationships
- To learn to trust your horse



### *My favorite thing about my horse is...*

- She has the same attitude as me
- How calm she is when I groom her
- His personality and his kindness
- She cooperates well with me
- She is friendly and pretty
- He follows me around without a lead
- That I calm her down
- That he looks like an Oreo
- He loves to roll in the dirt and I have to clean him
- Maeve listens to me, Maeve is sweet, and is a good worker, and builds trust easily

### *Testimonials from families:*

[My children are] able to relate the trust they earned with the horses to situations at home. Also, their ability to do hard things even when they think they can't - they're still willing to try.

[My son] started out volunteering to clean and feed horses then went into the mentor program. Jay [his mentor] is such a great guy and helped us through some hard teenage years.

My daughter has participated in the program for the last 7 years! We started the program to try to help her with social skills along with trying to help her develop an interest/hobby, as sports just were not in the cards. Over the last years she has found a true passion for horses and a safe haven at RYYR. It is the one place that I truly see her being herself; where she feels comfortable and in control of something she enjoys. I am beyond thankful for not only the program, but the volunteers who are compassionate, patient, and kind.







## HORSE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We've had multiple inquiries about sponsoring some of our horses and have created a variety of sponsorship opportunities. There are opportunities for small, affordable monthly sponsorships, up to a full year of sponsorship. Would you prayerfully consider choosing a horse to sponsor?

Please email [micheline.barkley@ryyr.org](mailto:micheline.barkley@ryyr.org) for additional information.

Thank you!

## Volunteer Days

We're so thankful for these groups plus more and also individuals that come once a year, once a month, or just when needed to help with big projects, do seasonal maintenance, and enjoy time serving together!



*New Hope Community Church Youth*



*Portage Community employees*







## Honoring Oreo

Oreo was generously given to RYYR in 2018 as a retired barrel racer who still had lots of life and love to share! He's been a favorite and wonderful guide for many children, volunteers, and mentors over the years. He retired from the ranch in October as his vision and joints are slowly failing, to enjoy the remainder of his years with his previous owner and his old horse buddies.

We miss him but are so thankful for the blessing Oreo has been! Here he is serving willingly (if more slowly) right up to his last day at the ranch.



## Wintertime Care for Youth and Horses

As winter sets in we adjust to the changing seasons, but still want to keep the door open for youth who've built confidence and community at the ranch to stay connected! Currently our past county program participants are invited to spend an afternoon at RYYR one Saturday a month - we usually have 5-12 youth here for lunch, horse time, chores, and free time (it's been warm enough for lots of fishing so far!). We also have two days a week where our individual and small group mentoring participants can sign up to come help care for horses over the winter, and hang out with mentors and catch up on life. These opportunities have been blessings to me both in the encouraging growth we see in the youth and in the help caring for horses during "mud season"!

*- Rebecca Kennedy, Program Manager*



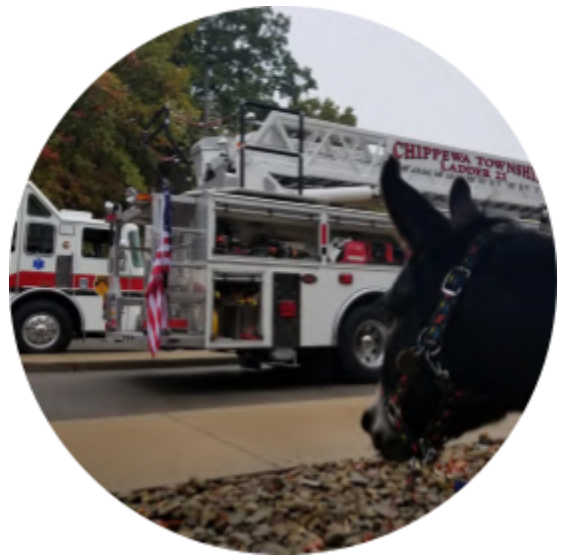
## Event & Fundraiser Updates:

***Purse Bingo 2023*** was a success! Thanks to our sponsors and attendees for your generous support for our youth and horses!



## Local Events:

Reuben kept an eye on the fire trucks and children at *Pathway church's Kids Fun Festival* - Reuben and his buddy Aero are great RYYR representatives and have also participated in a couple *live nativities* this year.



## Upcoming Events:

***Sportsman's Bash*** - March 9th, 2024  
@ Conway Fire Hall - sponsorship details and tickets coming soon at [RYYR.org](http://RYYR.org)!!



## RYYR Christmas Wishlist:

- **Gift cards**

We love to give the kids small value gift cards to reward them when we catch them doing good. When they've done something without being asked or when they've been more thorough or thoughtful and especially kind, we give them a thanks and a gift card to show them we noticed. Some of these kids don't get encouragement so this is just a small way that we can do that. Small value of \$10 to places like Subway, Chick-fil-a, McDonald's, Dairy Queen, etc.



- **Good quality paper plates**

We make a point of hospitality through sharing meals - and go through a lot of plates! Our giant bin is waning and needs to be refilled.



- **2 of these wheelbarrows:**

<https://www.lowes.com/pd/CRAFTSMAN-6-cu-ft-Poly-Wheelbarrow/1000737274>

- **Artificial flowers for obstacles**

Horse nibbles; sun, wind, and rain; curious children - these flowers go through a lot and need to be replaced regularly.



- **A load of gravel to fix up the path to the run-in**

Help our volunteers make it up and down the hill to feed Louise and Liberty all winter long!



Or you can donate to RYYR and we will put it towards current needs!

**Paypal: @ryyr2010**

**More ideas: See our Amazon wish list [here](#)**

If you live locally, some items on our Amazon wish list are cheaper when bought locally and brought to us.

## Prayer & Praise Requests:

- For RYYR's board members and leadership as we bring in new partners and people to fill much-needed support roles - for the process of creating structure that enables unity of mission and vision.
- Praise for a few new folks interested in becoming mentors for 2024, and prayer for more mentors willing to share their time and faith, and learn about horses!
- For God's word that was spoken to the youth over summer to continue to bear fruit through winter. For His hope and healing in the difficult family and school situations many of these youth experience.
- Prayer for health and strength for volunteers through the winter months - praise for several new volunteers making morning chores much easier for us all!!

## THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND PRAYERS!

Come and visit our website at [www.RYYR.org](http://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!