

# The Rundown

A Quarterly Newsletter

August 2019

Issue #5

## Another Year of Blessings

Our second year at Hope Lives Rescue Ranch has brought about so many blessings. I am constantly surprised by God's goodness. All of our horses have sponsors this season. We had a tractor donated to the program and then enough money donated to fix it up so it could work for us. Brandy, Keo's temporary replacement, is a gem. She has taken care of each and every rider I put on her back with patience and kindness. Our lawn mower was limping along this spring and finally decided to quit, but God brought us the Mackey Family, who generously offered to mow our grass until it could be fixed. When it looked like the mower was finally done for good, they even donated their old one to us.



God is constantly providing for our needs in creative and exciting ways, and we will continue to give him the glory in everything that we do. Without him, nothing at Hope Lives would be possible. Thanks to the peace He pours out on our property, kids are finding strength and confidence here every day.

Not only has He blessed the mentoring program, but He has blessed my family beyond measure as well. We will be expecting our second baby to arrive January in 2020! I am so excited to see my Hope Lives family and my home family growing in God's grace. He is worthy of it all.



## Love Overcomes

I love watching the kids around me grow and change as they get to know and work around the horses. There may not be an opportunity to tell each child how much God loves them, but I try to make sure they feel it through me. During our 2018 season, I worked with a little girl who had a hard time disconnecting from a fantasy world she created consisting of a ranch and a handful of horses. She seemed to escape to this world when reality was too stressful to handle. In fact, she was so stuck inside this pretend ranch it was hard to get her to say anything about real life.

During her sessions at Hope Lives, we worked on letting her live out her pretend world with our horses. She would groom them and lead them around, all the while telling me about the adventures she had with them on her ranch. The vivid complexity and consistency of her imagination was impressive. I began to see how incredibly creative she was and leaned into who God had created her to be. As the season progressed, she began to talk more about her daily experiences and less about her pretend world. On her last day, she looked up at me with clear and present eyes and said, "You're really nice." Through those three simple words, I knew she found joy and connection here with us. I thank God for the opportunities we have at Hope Lives to speak into the lives of the kids who come here. It is an incredible way to get make a difference.

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## Announcements

A new T-shirt order will be submitted soon. This year's shirt is medium gray. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the tack room at the ranch. Or send us an email with the number of shirts and sizes you would like to order. There is a 25 shirt minimum for the order to be processed.

**Cost: \$15**

**Sizes: all sizes available**

**Order deadline: August 30**

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## Discs and Donkeys

On July 27 we held our first disc golf tournament fundraiser at Lodge park in Monticello. Our donkeys Jack and Mabel came out to sponsor the event, and we had 25 players sign up to compete. The weather was perfect. Disc golf is played just like regular golf, except the player throws a frisbee instead of hitting a ball with a club. We love this family-friendly sport. We would like to thank our sponsors, Champaign County Disc Golf Club, Brainstorm Escapes, Elevate Trampoline Park, Adventures in Time and Space, Urbana Boulders, and The Monarch Brewing Company for helping us put on a fantastic tournament and providing some exciting prizes for our players.

### How to Contact Us:

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**Also Find Us on Facebook and Instagram!**

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## Season Finale Pot Luck

Date: September 14

Time: 11 a.m.—1 p.m.

Place: Hope Lives Rescue Ranch

Everyone who has participated in the program is invited. **Please bring a side dish to share.** Enjoy games, relay races, and a meal together. Prayer ministers will be available to pray with each family before the season ends, if requested. Please RSVP to [hovelivesrr@gmail.com](mailto:hovelivesrr@gmail.com) so we can plan for food.

## Horsey Halloween

Date: October 19

Time: 2—4 p.m.

Come on back to the ranch for a fun Halloween celebration! We will dress the horses in costumes, carve pumpkins, and have apple cider and treats for all. Please RSVP to [hovelivesrr@gmail.com](mailto:hovelivesrr@gmail.com) so we can plan for snacks.



Hope Lives founder and director, Emily, with daughter Sozo and course designers, husband Rusty (in blue shirt) and Derek

## How We Are Funded

Every session at Hope Lives Rescue Ranch is free of charge. We are a registered 501(c)3 and are funded solely through solicited donations and the generosity of our community. 100% of the funds donated to Hope Lives Rescue Ranch are used to care for the horses and create a safe environment for the children we serve. If you would like to donate to our program, go to: [www.hovelivesrescueranch.org/funding](http://www.hovelivesrescueranch.org/funding) or mail your contribution to PO Box 3223, Champaign, IL 61822.