

The Rundown

A Quarterly Newsletter

August 2020

Issue #8

Unexpected Provision

I am always amazed at how thoroughly God provides for Hope Lives. He truly holds this organization in the palm of His hand. This spring I began an earnest search for the next horse for our mentoring program. A number of weeks before my search began, the ranch received a donation of two porta-grazers (hay feeders) and a very wide roping saddle. I thought the saddle would be a good fit for Faith and Cezar, as they are pretty broad-shouldered horses, but it turned out to be even too wide for them.

Fast forward 3 weeks. As I began searching for our new horse, I got a Facebook message from a woman named Casey. She said she had a 7-year-old Gypsy Vanner she was looking to donate to a suitable home. But there was a drawback. He was completely blind in both eyes! My first reaction was an immediate no. You don't use blind horses to work with kids. A person has to know what they are doing around a blind horse to stay safe (or so I thought.) But one of our board members was interested and encouraged me to not turn him down so quickly. It wouldn't hurt to go see him.

As I watched the little horse trot around the arena with confidence, I found it hard to believe he was really blind. He seemed to me like a normal horse. He was sweet and gentle and careful. Suddenly I was reminded of how I felt buying Faith, another horse in our program. The Lord led me to buy her sight-unseen via the internet from someone I did not know. The same sensation of nervous excitement began rising within me. Was I really going to break the "horse-acquiring-rules" again? For God, absolutely I would.



As I learned more about managing blind horses, I realized that, except for some minor details, the ranch was set up perfectly for him. I already had a separate pasture and paddock that would keep him away from the other horses. And the two miniature donkeys previously donated to the ranch would make perfect companions. I would have to remove the slow-feed hay bag from the stall, as it had some sharp edges at the top, but the porta-grazers we had received a few weeks before were an easy blind-horse-safe alternative that he had experience using in the past.

After diligent prayer (and a little anxiety), I brought our new ranch member home. He settled in well, despite his disadvantage, and the donated roping saddle fits him perfectly. **Thank you Donna Tresslar for the hay feeders and tack for a horse we did not know was coming. And thank you Casey Ogden for your beautiful boy.** He will be loved and cherished by many, many children!

Welcome home, Sir Winston Warlock (Win)!





The Best Therapists are All Ears!

We have revamped our Donkey Calm program to make it more family-friendly. Take advantage of mask-free outdoor family fun and schedule a Family Donkey Encounter! Due to COVID-19, Hope Lives was unable to hold any of its normal fundraising events this year. All proceeds from our Donkey Calm program support the horses for our Mentoring Program. If all of our slots are filled during a season, it covers one-third of our operating expenses for the year! Please help us continue to offer our services by supporting us through Donkey Calm!

Individual 60-minute encounter: \$30/person.

Family encounter (up to 3 children) **30-min:** \$20;

Note: \$4 for each addition child

Family encounter (up to 3 children) **60-min:** \$40

Note: \$6 for each additional child

Class encounter (up to 12 students) **60-min:** \$6/student

2020 Jersey-knit T-Shirts on Sale!

This year we had a T-shirt design contest open to all students. The winning design was created by Taylor Mabry. Congratulations to Taylor! A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board by 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: t-shirt \$15; hooded sweatshirt \$30

Sizes: 2T through adult XXL

Order deadline: September 4



Thank You Hay Team!

Thank you to everyone who came to help us unload hay bales on August 7 & 8! Over these two days, 11 people helped us put 330 hay bales into the barn loft for the winter. It was a good time filled with fellowship and laughter. Our horses go through 600 bales of hay each year! With this new addition of hay, we are very close to meeting our hay quota for the year. Only 130 bales to go! If you are interested in helping us unload hay in the future, please like us on Facebook. It is hard to get more than 3 days notice for unloading hay due to the unpredictability of the weather, so we post to Facebook when help is needed. We usually unload in the afternoon. Many hands make this job easy for everyone!

How We Are Funded

Every session at Hope Lives Youth Ranch is free of charge. However, we request a donation from students to cover babysitting charges incurred by our director, Emily Reichmann. 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 Youth 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.hopelivesrescueranch.org/funding or mail your contribution to: 976 E 2250 North Road, Monticello, IL 61856

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