

HAVE YOU HERD?

A WINGS OF HOPE RANCH NEWSLETTER

Wings of Hope Ranch is a Christian 501c3 non-profit corporation and all-volunteer organization that relies solely on the generosity of volunteers and sponsors. These men, women and youth are the life-blood of the Ranch and we could not operate without their time and resources. Would you consider becoming one of our volunteers or sponsors?

MUGGY DAY MIRACLE

by Martha Durnett

"Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance." ~ James 1:2

Early Tuesday morning, August 13, I approached the barn and noticed Youth Leader Kaitlin busy cleaning the stalls. All the horses were hovering around the gate anxiously awaiting breakfast ... all of the horses except Angel, who was standing quietly alone after a seemingly relaxed roll



in the grass. Barn chores complete, Kaitlin and I led each horse to her stall, and upon entering hers, Angel immediately lay down and appeared strangely uncomfortable. Thinking colic, Kaitlin hurriedly pulled Angel to her feet for a walk while I phoned Dr. Carmen Franck, whose schedule was booked until late afternoon. But we had just the prescribed amount of Banamine

left in the barn to help keep Angel comfortable until then. Within the hour, however, Angel's condition deteriorated rapidly which prompted a desperate call to Woodside Equine Clinic for emergency care. Dr. Claudia True and her assistant arrived promptly and, after an examination, confirmed that sweet Angel was suffering from colic likely caused by a twisted large intestine. By noon, dedicated volunteer Jeff arrived to assist with walking and encouraging Angel while other volunteers were lined up to help through the afternoon. Despite our efforts, Angel's pain continued to heighten so we coaxed her into the trailer and transported her to Woodside where post-examination, surgeon Dr. Jonathan Hirsch painted a picture of deep concern about Angel's condition. He confirmed Dr. True's diagnosis of large intestine colic and suggested that Angel stay in the hospital for fluids and medication to keep her comfortable. With the cost of surgery out of our budget, Angel's response to this treatment and her overall will to survive would be what God would use to bring Angel into His presence, or continue to bless children at the Ranch. We began preparing for the worst while simultaneously sending out prayer requests all over the country urging our friends to lift up Angel to God in prayer that He would, in his awesome Grace, minimize her suffering and quickly fulfill His plan for her. On Wednesday morning, Alison and I arrived at Woodside with anxious hearts. As we entered the examination room, all eyes were on Angel. Midway through the exam, Dr. Hirsch's eyes brightened with *continued on p.2*

WINGS OF HOPE



*you cannot see your horse in a safe
accepted environment, children
conflicts and struggles
then with rescued horses to help
other learn to love and trust again*

MISSION

Through hands-on experience in a safe and peaceful environment, children facing conflicts and challenges come together with rescued horses to help each other learn to love and trust again.

Wings of Hope Ranch is a Christian Organization that rescues neglected horses and rehabilitates them to provide a horse ministry, free of charge, to children facing conflicts and challenges. We strive for an environment where both volunteer and horse model God's unconditional love and acceptance. We seek to love, encourage and share hope with everyone while providing a place where all people feel welcome, safe and accepted just as they are. We pray the ranch is a place where children who come hurting leave each week seeing their true beauty, value and self-worth.

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Montpelier, VA 23192

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Ashland, VA 23005

MUGGY DAY MIRACLE, from p. 7

excitement while he revealed that he no longer felt an obstruction! Recognizing the miracle recovery and realizing Angel would return to the Ranch that afternoon sent echos of joyful sounds through the clinic. Some things seem so incomprehensible to us in our narrow understanding of God's Plan. Trials and suffering, though not created by God in the beginning, serve to strengthen our faith in Him and to teach us that love, above all, is the highest virtue. "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." ~ Romans 8:28 ■

THE "BEST JOHN"

This is a testimony of how Wings of Hope Ranch has impacted the lives of both a young man and his weekly mentor since coming to the ranch. From "Susan". "Now for my long John story...just a little bit of back history here, John and I have been working together since January of last year. John and I have come a LONG way together and most of the progress has taken place since he and I found WOH and started coming together over the summer. I see John weekly, and we have gone from him refusing to even acknowledge me, speak to me, cursing me out with every word in the book, proclaiming "I don't want you to care about me!", constant rude/disrespectful behavior (you get the picture...) to he and I laughing, talking, and genuinely enjoying each other's company these past few months. Last night after leaving WOH, I stopped to get him dinner at the McDonald's drive-thru like we always do, and when I pulled out my wallet I gave him back a dollar he had insisted I take earlier in the evening for a pack of gum I bought him. He wanted me to take the dollar but I told him I wanted him to have

it back and to consider it another "birthday" present. Then out of the blue he states, "You know, so far, you're the best counselor I've ever had Ms. Susan." I turned around and told him "John, you're going to make me cry!" He replied, "I'm for real!" I thanked him and told him how much that means coming from him. I then jokingly stated "Is it because I'm buying you things?" And he laughed and replied, "No, I mean you have fun with me AND you are serious with me!" I explained to him that it takes two to make any type of relationship work and that in order for me to be the "best counselor," he has also been the "best John." We reminisced a bit about how far we've come and he jokingly reminded me of how he used to refuse to even talk to me. It was such a special and genuine moment that I can't stop tearing up over it even now! God has taught me through my work with John that even when it's hard and people push you away, patience and just simply loving someone without conditions and despite their response, that person will eventually know and feel that they are worth caring about. So thank you

Did You Know?

the most common visual signs of equine colic

Colic: Abdominal pain in horses. Causes of colic can range from a transient gas distention of a section of bowel to a physical displacement or obstruction of a part of the bowel. It is always best to contact an equine veterinarian if you suspect colic so that he or she can determine the severity and treatment.

1. lying down more than usual
2. getting up and lying down repeatedly
3. standing stretched out
4. standing frequently as if to urinate
5. turning the head towards the flank
6. repeatedly curling the upper lip
7. pawing at the ground
8. kicking at the abdomen
9. excessive rolling

Colic is the number one cause of premature death in horses.

Alison and Wings of Hope Ranch for opening your hearts to John and me to be a part of your program. It is through this experience that together, John and I both have grown, and John has learned he is worth caring about. I have seen the "true" John shine through when he is at WOH and I am so proud of him." ■

MAKING DREAMS A REALITY:

A Short History of Wings of Hope Ranch

by Alison Boyd

When I was three years old I went on my first trail ride with my father, riding double on a horse named Sarly Ann in Oklahoma! I fell in love with horses and could think of nothing else for many years. Instead of dissipating with time, my passion for horses grew stronger through the years. Through many experiences with horses and people I began to recognize the healing benefits a horse can provide, especially to young people and teens. Once I had my own horse I witnessed first hand how broken teens around me were buoyed up through their relationship with their horses. Overcoming lack of confidence, dealing with past abuse,

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HOEDOWN FOR HOPE

4330 Stone Horse Creek Road
Glen Allen, VA 23059

AND SILENT AUCTION
featuring live music by **THE RUSTY NAILS**
and a delicious barbeque dinner
with all the fixins included!

Sept. 14
4:30-8:30pm

Get excited for dancing music, food,
games, crafts, and prizes! There will also
be a short program showcasing the
Wings of Hope Ranch horses and our
Youth Leaders!

Holler back by September 12!

Register by emailing:
wingsofhoperanch@gmail.com
or calling 804-883-8903x2

Tickets are picked up at the door
\$20/adult, \$10/child, \$60/family

All ticket and silent auction proceeds benefit Wings of Hope Ranch

image credit: eisy/rjnsdsk

Wings of Hope Ranch is an approved 501(c)3 non profit corporation. A financial statement is available upon written request from the Virginia Office of Consumer Affairs at PO Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23218

MAKING DREAMS A REALITY, from p.2
and calming anxieties simply through
interaction with a horse. I dreamed
of owning a ranch someday that
would help people. As a teen my
best friend Heidi and I used to draw
pictures of this imaginary ranch and
discuss the names of all the imaginary
horses we would have. After
reading Kim Meeder's book entitled
"Hope Rising" which chronicles the
miraculous healing stories of horses
and children at Crystal Peaks Youth
Ranch in Oregon, I dreamed of one
day being able to participate in
the same kind of ministry. Now that
Wings of Hope Ranch has existed for
over 7 years, I can say that my dream
has become a reality. But, was it my
dream or something God planted in
me at the age of three? In hindsight,
I think about how God must have
planted those seeds and dreams
originally. I have been pondering the
concept that these ideas were not
my own, from the very beginning! I
have frequently thought about how
God moves out ahead of us, years

in advance, maybe even decades
in advance. In His amazing wisdom
and ornate plan for all of our lives,
he lines up pieces of a larger puzzle
which he assembles when the time
arrives. That is how it was with Wings
of Hope Ranch. When we first started
it was as if God had already done the
homework and all we had to do was
show up and watch him place the
pieces of the puzzle together. Possibly
the most important person, right
after God himself, in making Wings
of Hope a reality is Betty Kniesche.
Betty owns the property on which the
ranch resides. Without her generosity,
Wings of Hope Ranch would not
exist. On a recent sunny day, Betty
and I sat down at her kitchen table
and reveled in all that God has done
on this property and what a joy and
blessing this ministry has been to so
many. I asked her a few questions and
I would love to share her answers with
you. Betty's grandfather bought the
property we are now using in 1905 and
eventually sold it. In 1955 Betty bought
it back and has lived on the property

ever since. Interesting fact, Route 54
actually used to run behind where
the barn and houses sit now! In the
1960s her children got interested
in riding ponies and Betty got in to
Thoroughbred racehorses! They
added the barn (one line of stalls at
a time) and added the roof and aisle
last. Betty kept many thoroughbreds
on the property, raised many foals
and raced two of them. One of her
horses won a horse race twice and
got second once. Betty had a special
thoroughbred stallion she rescued
from starvation by buying him for \$300.
His name was Sioux Brave, "Brave" for
short. He was Betty's soul mate. There
are so many stories I could share about
Betty and the "Brave"... suffice it to
say, the relationship between the two
of them illustrates the healing power
of love between horse and man (or
wo-man in this case!). After a long and
fruitful life with Betty, Brave was buried
right there near the creek in the front
pasture. In the 1980's, Betty started a
riding school with her friend named
Hope (Coincidence? Or, God's fun

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hint at the future!). They ran the riding school for about 8 years and during that time they added the riding ring that we use now for all of our Wings of Hope Ranch sessions. There have been horses and ponies living on the property now for about 60 years. Fast forward to 2006. Betty was in the midst of caring for her precious husband Donald who had cancer. While she was walking through that journey of life with Donald, Betty rented the front



Betty Kniesche, property owner

pasture to a friend, Cindy. Cindy's horses needed more green pasture than she had available for them so on a whim Cindy stopped by Betty's to ask if she would consider renting the pasture to her for a few months. This decision to stop in and ask this simple question set in motion the next great revelation in the Wings of Hope Story. Sadly, Betty's husband passed away during this time, before we got the ministry going. In the meantime, Cindy met Jane and I at a church get-together at Beaverdam Baptist Church. At the church meeting, Jane and I shared our dream and vision of starting a horse ministry like Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch, owned by Kim Meeder. Cindy mentioned to Jane and I, that she had a friend that she was currently renting pasture space from who may be interested in getting involved. Cindy went to Betty with the idea and lo and behold, Betty had already read the book "Hope Rising" by Kim Meeder, and already knew all about the type of ministry we desired

to start. God put a passion for horses and books into Betty's life at a young age which led her to volunteer at her church library (First Baptist in Ashland). At some point, someone had donated the book "Hope Rising" to the church library, dedicating it to Betty's friend "Hope" who ran the riding school with Betty. (This is just another small example of how God moved out ahead of us, years in advance and prepared Betty's heart for the work that would be accomplished on her property!). Under God's watchful eye and provision, what started as just Cindy, Jane, Betty and I, (and one horse), has now blossomed to a flourishing ministry! We currently have over 60 volunteers and we see almost 2700 visits a year when you count all the ranchers, youth leaders, barn workers and adult volunteers who work weekly at the ranch. Betty's favorite thing about the ministry is "all of it!" She loves all the people and the horses who make up the program. "I would be lonely without all of my new friends" she said. When asked, Betty also shared that "the most difficult thing about the ranch is that we don't have all the resources to do everything that could and should be repaired and improved". While God provides for us always, I have to agree that sometimes it would be nice to have better fences, improved driveway, a working riding mower, etc., etc. Many neighbors want to know how much Betty charges us to use her property...and she can honestly answer "nothing"! Only in God's economy would this transpire. Betty has seen the ranch impact the community in many ways, from regular curiosity from the neighbors... "Are you having parties over there Betty? I see so many cars parked in your field?" to watching lives be changed through the years. Betty recalls once such transformation...in the early days, one of the new, very inexperienced, barn workers showed up to feed the horses and muck the stalls only to find Morning, our first rescue horse, with a huge gash in her leg. The volunteer knocked at Betty's back door with eyes as big as saucers asking her what she should do about the cut on Mornings leg! Blood was apparently gushing out with each heart beat. Betty and

a neighbor rushed to help and got Morning patched up in a jiffy. After 7 years, this "green" volunteer has developed in to a leadership role, has gained amazing confidence and can handle any barn/horse emergency there is! Betty has watched this transformation along with many others through the years and feels blessed to provide the "place" where God strengthens His warriors! The volunteer gained amazing confidence and can handle any barn/horse emergency there is! Betty agrees that God's hand has been on this property through the years culminating in the current ministry going on there now. Betty says "Wings of Hope started on a shoe string with three young women and an old widow woman to become a seven days a week enterprise of activities serving children, teenagers, young adults and over forty's! Only with God's blessing could this have happened. It is a wonderful experience to be a part of this missionary endeavor." What started as many as 80 years ago... seeds of passion for horses were planted by God in many people. Then the seeds were watered via those same people through human experiences, similar passions, and a developing desire to help children facing conflicts and challenges. The harvest is here now... God has knit together only something He could imagine. People keep coming to the ranch to volunteer and serve as well as be served. We have had so many people over the last six months volunteer, we cannot keep up with training and preparing them. All of us on the board are excited with anticipation to see what God is preparing for us in the near future with all of this help. We all want to thank Betty, for being obedient to the call of the Father, for allowing Him to do His work through her and through her property. Betty is so special to me and many, filling a relational need for many of us that volunteer at the ranch. Thank you for always having the time for me Betty and thank you for trusting us with all that you have. ■

WELCOME NEW VOLUNTEERS

Wings of Hope Ranch would not exist without the exhaustive hours contributed by our treasured volunteers. WELCOME TO OUR RANCH FAMILY: Ashley Cappel (Barn Volunteer), Brittany Smith (Youth Leader), Elizabeth Donovan (YL), Kaitlin Smith (YL), Luke Timme (YL), Rachel Wright (YL), Sydney Smith (YL), Theresa Liverman (Session Volunteer), Tracy Melton (Session/Barn Volunteer) We also want to thank Vicki Pinner for taking on extra barn responsibilities of meeting the farrier and managing the shavings supply. We are truly blessed by each of our faithful volunteers. ■

LEND US A HOOF

There are several SMALL ways you can help us out – that will make a BIG difference. For example, You can LIKE us on Facebook! And bring your friends and family to the Hoe Down! (see insert)

Silent Auction Contributions - a big portion of the Hoe-Down for Hope Fundraiser is our silent auction and we need some help with donations – specifically GIFT CARDS (movie, restaurant, gas, grocery store, Target, Walmart, etc). Or, do you have a vacation property you could donate for a week or long weekend?

Food – we are serving a BBQ dinner and are looking for volunteers to help with making side dishes. We usually serve mac n cheese, baked beans, hot dogs, and cole slaw. Would you be willing to make a pan of one or more of these items and bring it with you to the event on September 14th?

Drinks – can you donate a case of water and/or sodas? Every item we can get donated means that more of the money raised at this event goes right to the program!

Prizes - Anyone have a large abundance of Beanie Babies you want to get rid of? We will take them! Or you can donate a big bag of candy for game prizes. ■

AROUND THE RANCH

Shrills of laughter and applause for bravery were heard every morning from the barn and riding ring for two weeks this summer during our second annual Wings of Hope Horse Fun camp. We were blessed to entertain eight children at the ranch and experience the thrills as they mounted their horses, mastered the barrels and lassoed the cow heads. ■

Year To Date Income Report

Income	
Trail Ride Fundraiser	\$1570.98
Summer Camp	\$1600.00
Contributions	\$7565.82
Company Matches	\$1450.00
Grant (in-kind lumber)	\$1640.75
TOTAL INCOME	\$13827.55
Expenses	
Horse Feed	\$2548.58
Hay	\$3033.00
Shavings	\$1330.00
Farrier	\$1085.00
Vet*	\$1439.00
Other Horse Exp	\$761.96
Insurance	\$2877.00
Building/Grounds	\$2220.79
Printing	\$251.00
Postage	\$450.42
Internet/Technology	\$49.05
Bank/Paypal Fees	\$78.28
Utilities	\$100.00
Travel (to CPYR)	\$471.82
License and Permits	\$30.00
Professional Fees	\$100.00
Office Supplies	\$108.19
Snacks/Crafts	\$253.59
Equipment Repair	\$34.70
Miscellaneous	\$42.45
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$17264.83
NET INCOME	<\$437.28>

*Does not include August's veterinary bill for Angel of \$1918.64

CONTRIBUTE

Yes! I would like to help support children, horses and families in need by making a tax-deductible donation to Wings of Hope Ranch.

I'D LIKE TO HELP BY:

- Sending my contribution where it is needed most
- Sponsoring a horse
- Adding to the fund to purchase property in the future

PAYMENT METHOD:

A check payable to Wings of Hope Ranch for

\$ _____

Send donations to:
Wings of Hope Ranch
PO Box 1674
Ashland, VA 23005

You can also make a donation with your credit card or Paypal on www.wingsofhooperanch.org

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

PLEASE MAKE MY DONATION A GIFT

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

Please send gift acknowledgement to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____



P.O. Box 1674
Ashland, VA 23005

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wingsofhoperanch@gmail.com
wingsofhoperanch.org



"Ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind."
Job 12:7-10

SEARCH ON THE RANCH

B Y O T V L Z B K P
L Y X C O A U R Q B
S E R T O R T K K J
F A A S E T D O N E C
N S D T H N A U E C
V L N D H Z R Q J U N
O A Y B L E R I U E
C H I Y W E R Z H F
D R N T E K N A L B
I O E E P V F W Q L
P E T C H O R H G M
W R O Z E Q I A R H
T O M Y T X U R B L
S T I R R U P N R Y
B C R K J Y S W E Z B
X A B J Y W G S J R
X R X V A B S S S I
A T X J Y N U R I D
B W R M H O R S E L
V Y U K N R A B F E

HORSE	FENCE
SADDLE	BLANKET
TRACTOR	PONY
BARN	LEATHER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept. 9** Fall Season begins and runs through October
- Sept. 11** Hoe Down 4:30 – 8:30pm. (see insert)
- Oct. 31** Fall Sessions End
- Dec. 7** Deck the Stalls Open House. From 10-12, come enjoy a live nativity play over hot chocolate and roasted marshmallows. And of course greet all the horses.
- Jan-Feb** Barn Time with Alison – Wednesdays, 4-6 pm. Weather permitting, join Alison in the off season to exercise the horses and sharpen your ground training skills.

THANKS TO OUR VENDORS

John Gilman, October Enterprises-shavings; Woodside Equine Clinic – emergency vet care; Cr. Carmen Lucas Franck – vet care; Julie Vican – farrier; CB Hancock – hay; Jay Lucas – hay

Carmen Franck, DVM

