



January 2017

Grace Lake Ministries Newsletter

On behalf of the Grace Lake staff and Board of Directors, we are fortunate to see God at work in the lives of our riders at Grace Lake. It is a blessing to be on the front lines to experience “horses, hope, and healing.” At this time, we would like to take a moment to thank our donors of 2016 for making it possible.

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GALLOP PARTNERS

Randy and Connie Christopher, God's Gift, Tracy Matern, The Dallas Foundation

New Herd Member!



Meet the newest member of the herd, Samson! Samson is a 13 year old registered quarter horse gelding that loves to take life slow and easy. He loves his humans but didn't make the cut as a cowboys horse. His new vocation is 'difference maker' for our riders. He will always be standing by looking for a rub on his shoulder.

Volunteer Spotlight

God shows up when we gather at the Barn! Allison Pettitt has experienced His presence for the past 2 years as a Grace Lake Angel. It might have looked random when Ali's teacher handed her a Grace Lake flyer to complete a volunteer project for class, but we know better! She's still hooked long after that assignment was completed ;-).

Her most memorable session was just last year when she found support, prayer, and healing for the depression she had been suffering. It was the first time she had experienced acceptance and helpfulness from others about her condition. It made a lasting impact when Randy, Shelley, and Holly prayed with her before a session last spring. And those birthday cupcakes from Gayle? Yeah, those were pretty special too!



Ali has found that she enjoys the many benefits of her time at Grace Lake much more than she ever expected. Not only does she love the physical exercise, but mental and social improvements as well. Seeing the smiles on the rider's faces and hearing their laughter uplifts her spirit. The depression has gone down drastically since she became an Angel. She's made new friends, and feels relaxed and at home when at Grace Lake.

A lifelong bond with horses fuels Ali's passion to work with them to help people. She enjoys caring for them, trail rides with friends, and expressing that love through art and poetry. Ali's family heritage is rich with service to others. Her great-grandparents, with whom she lives, helped others in many ways in their younger years. Her step-brother, Gabriel, is currently serving our country in the Army.

Her advice to anyone considering becoming a volunteer – “Do it! It's fun! I wasn't sure at first if I would enjoy Grace Lake, because I used to be very anti-social. But, now I love it! And you get to help those who need of help and support. You will form a bond with everyone there.”

Ali graduated last month from Clark High School in Plano. Her time as a volunteer has been so much more than a school project, entry on college applications, or even career resumes. We're so proud of her! We KNOW that the blessings she's received from her time at this ministry will be carried with her throughout her life. God has big plans for this young lady!



We would like to recognize our volunteer, **Gayle Valice**, for serving the most hours in 2016. Gayle, thank you for your extraordinary service and dedication to Grace Lake. You have a passion for Grace Lake and all of our riders and it shows in everything you do. You are so very generous with your time and talents and have made a world of difference in what we have accomplished this past year.

WE APPRECIATE YOU!!!



A big THANK YOU to our volunteer, Tammy Nix for writing the Volunteer Spotlight!!

Dates to Remember:

2/11 Volunteer Training~Sidewalker & Horse Handler I

2/18 Horse Handler II Training

2/25 Spring Session Begins

[For Event Flyers Click Here](#)

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