



Summer 2017

Grace Lake Ministries Newsletter

Rider Spotlight

Graeme (pronounced Graham) is a 15 year old with autism. He has been riding at Grace Lake for 2 years. Currently, he has ridden Onyx and Murphy.

His instructor, Randy says, "On several occasions, when Graeme has encountered a task he has not done before or is unsure about he will state: 'Will you help me?'" Amanda his volunteer adds, "He seems to enjoy the lessons enough to want to overcome his own challenges."

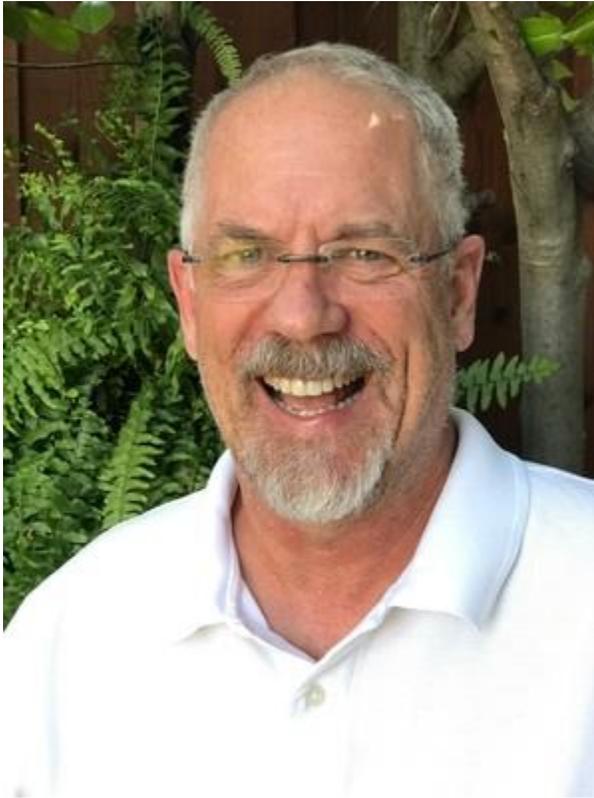
Both his instructor and his volunteer agree that Graeme is very high energy and inquisitive. "No two lessons are the same with Graeme," Amanda states. This adds to the fun of volunteering with Graeme. Lessons with him aren't boring.

Graeme enjoys the "T's" as Randy calls them "tacking, transitions, and trotting." Transitions are typically difficult for those with autism so to enjoy transitions is a big success!

(Article written by Cynda Felini. Thank you!)



New Grace Lake Board Member



We are so excited to have John Bailey join our Board of Directors! John is a retired financial executive after a 40+ year career as an investment banker and a Chief Financial Officer of several private and public companies. His areas of service at Grace Lake include current Board Treasurer and strategic planning. Welcome aboard, John!

North Texas Giving Day

Why should I give on North Texas Giving Day?

When you give via NorthTexasGivingDay.org, your donation goes farther with bonus funds and prizes. All donations scheduled between September 7th and 13th, or made between 6am and midnight on September 14, 2017 qualify.

Your donation triggers opportunities for Grace Lake to win prizes rewarded at random or for the highest number of donors!

This year every dollar given up to \$10,000 will be multiplied with bonus funds when donors give online at NorthTexasGivingDay.org. Plus Grace Lake has 1:1 matching funds up to \$1,000, which means your donation is doubled.

We would appreciate your support on our biggest fundraiser of the year!!



Volunteer Spotlight

Ashok Sundaram (pronounce Ah Shook) is a quiet hardworking volunteer at Grace Lake. The man never stops moving. He sees that something needs to be done, and he does it. He first learned about Grace Lake through the AT&T volunteer match. Prior to volunteering at Grace Lake his only experience with horses was via pony rides for kids.

But, he explained "The training provided was very thorough. I felt very confident even though I had no experience working with horses. I used to think that all horses were like the mellow ponies that kids ride." Ashok went on to explain. "Since then I have learned that each horse has a personality and sometimes have moods like people do. Horses don't like to be crowded and are always testing us. I have learned that being persistent is the key working with horses. Horses are special animals."

"I would highly recommend anyone irrespective of age or walk in Christ to

consider volunteering at Grace Lake. The staff provide all the tools and training required. It is such a treat to work with such dedicated staff and volunteers. It is truly a fulfilling experience." Ashok referred to Matthew 25:40 in our conversation about training, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

The horse may be Ashok's primary responsibility but it is the smiles and giggles of the kids that is his favorite part of volunteering. He quoted Matthew 19:14 "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Having the opportunity to volunteer at a Christian organization is an amazing opportunity. "I am certainly thankful to God for the opportunity. Volunteering has certainly helped me grow as a person. It has helped me to be patient but persistent, thankful in all circumstances."



New Volunteer Training/Orientation

Our Fall session starts September 7th. Come join our volunteer team and make a difference in the life of a rider!

SIDEWALKER & HORSE HANDLER TRAINING

Sidewalker Training – August 19, 2017 8am-12pm

Looking for a rewarding way to give back? Become a Sidewalker! Sidewalkers walk beside the rider as they ride to assist with balance and to reinforce the Instructor's directions. Horse experience is not required. You must be able to walk for 30-40minutes and be able to jog briefly in sand. You must be able to commit to a weekly 1 ½ hour class for a 10 week session. Minimum age is 14 years old.

To Reserve Your Spot: 1. RSVP to admin@gracelakeministries.org Space is limited. 2. Come to training dressed in weather appropriate clothing and wear closed toed shoes. We will be outside and we will be working with horses!



Horse Handler 1 Training – August 19, 2017 8am-12pm

If you are currently a Sidewalker and interested in becoming a Horse Handler, this is the class for you! If you are a current Horse Handler and feel like you could benefit from this class, you are welcome to attend, as well. You MUST have completed at least one full session of sidewalking before becoming a Horse Handler. Training agenda will be: Basic Grooming and Tacking, Hoof Care, Tacking/Untacking, Horse Body Language, Catching a Horse, Leading a Horse, Mounting and Dismounting Procedures

To Reserve Your Spot: 1. RSVP to admin@gracelakeministries.org Space is limited. 2. Come to training dressed in weather appropriate clothing and wear closed toed shoes. We will be outside and we will be working with horses!

Donate Supplies
from our
amazon
wishlist

We have added some needed supplies to our Amazon wish list. Amazon makes it easy to donate items by ordering online and having them delivered directly to Grace Lake at 9611 FM 1827, Anna, TX 75409. You can go to [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) and search Grace Lake Ministries or click on this [LINK](#).

Dates to Remember:

8/19 New Volunteer Training & Orientation
9/7 Fall Session Begins
9/14 North Texas Giving Day
10/14 Facilities Work Day (9am)

www.gracelakeministries.org

Get social with
us!

