



July 2015

Grace Lake Ministries Newsletter



North Texas Giving Day

The Grace Lake Therapeutic Horsemanship Program is proud to announce that they have been accepted to join North Texas Giving Day by the Communities Foundation of Texas. North Texas Giving Day, September 17, affords people the opportunity to support their favorite non-profits. In 2014, more than 98,000 gifts totaling \$26.3 million were given to benefit more than 1,580 local non-profits.

As you know, Grace Lake is changing lives every day through its therapeutic riding program. Grace Lake is there to help special needs individuals in Collin County, but needs your support.

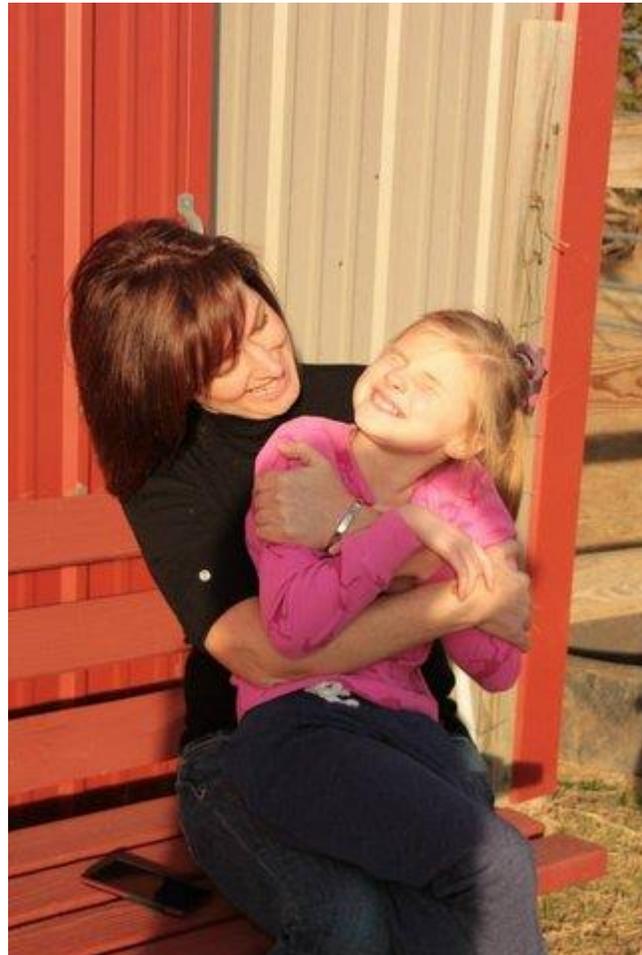
On September 17th, 2015 North Texas Giving Day, your gift will help us receive extra funds for our work. Every gift of \$25 or more will go further with more than \$2 million dollars in bonus funds and prizes. All gifts you make to Grace Lake will allow us to provide services to more special needs riders.

Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Grace-Lake-Ministries/125395037489870> and SAVE THE DATE!

Rider Spotlight

They say a picture is worth 1,000 words. To Patty, Mary Rose's mom, a song in her daughter's heart brings joy that cannot be expressed in mere words. Mary Rose's time at Grace Lake is a testimony to God's faithfulness to answer Patty's prayers in ways that she could not have expected.

Mary Rose (pictured right with her horse leader, Lynn Botkin) was born without sight. The doctor who delivered Mary Rose's diagnosis at 4 months of age to her parents lacked compassion or further direction. Patty did the only thing she knew to do.....PRAY! God has provided resources, therapy, and PEOPLE at each stage of her development. And now, she has people and HORSES!!

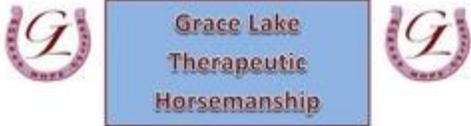


Riding first Doc and now Onyx, Mary Rose is working on good posture to overcome her body's natural tendencies to look down, which might be misconstrued by her teachers and others in authority as not paying attention. Mary Rose is sitting tall with her shoulders back and her chin up! Another great benefit is that she is less anxious about changes or new experiences.

How do we know Mary Rose enjoys her therapy sessions? Because she sings. Singing was her first passion. Now riding is her second. Sessions at Grace Lake allow her to express her true heart joyfully! Patty loves to hear Mary Rose's team singing together as they return from a trail ride. It's God's confirmation that He will provide everything Mary Rose needs....always!

Trotting tickles her tummy! Mary Rose's team makes sure those

rewarding tickles come often after the hard work of listening and following directions.



"Meet the Horses"
August 15, 2015
9:30-11:00 a.m.

Grace Lake invites families to come and meet the horses of Grace Lake and play some fun games! Come learn about the impact of therapeutic riding at a demonstration at 9:30!

Enjoy snacks and drinks and good fellowship too!
(In case of rain be sure to check the Grace Lake Ministries Facebook page.)



www.gracelakeministries.org
9611 FM 1827 Anna, TX 75409

Meet the Horses!

You and a friend are invited to "MEET THE HORSES" Saturday, August 15th from 9:30-11:00am! This is a family friendly, fun event with games and time to meet our therapy horses. We will start off with a demonstration of therapeutic riding. This is fun time for our riders, volunteers, supporters, and community members to say "Hello" and see what we are all about!

Volunteer Spotlight

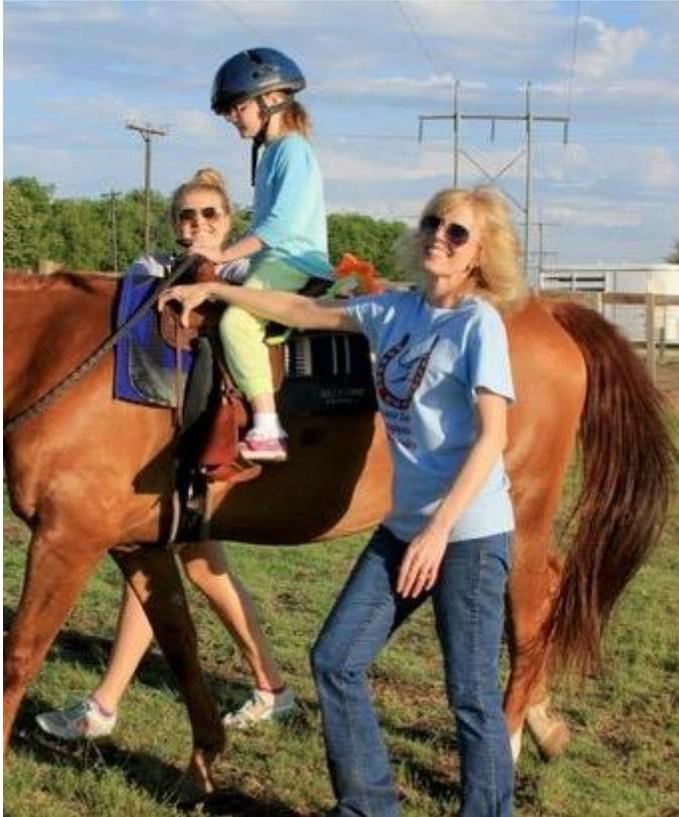
Amazing blessings come from being a Volunteer at Grace Lake Ministries! Maddy Cox shares that one of her most memorable moments happened when her rider, Mary Rose, sang "Let it Go" from the movie Frozen. In fact, Mary Rose often serenades her team during the riding session. Her beautiful voice is one of the highlights of Maddy's volunteer time.

Maddy will be a Junior in High School this year. She is thankful that a neighbor encouraged her to visit Grace Lake to see what Grace Lake Angels are all about. She declares that new visitors will be hooked after just one session, too! This is also a time of bonding for Maddy and her mom, Angie. They look forward to their Monday evening time together with their Grace Lake "family".

Maddy's eyes have been opened to the blessings of giving back to the community. She feels she will take these memories with her and continue to serve in a meaningful way. She also enjoys playing golf, hanging with friends,

and traveling. The horse therapists, Doc and Onyx, have become like friends. They display distinct personalities that seem almost human at times!

Maddy's VERY favorite part of being a Sidewalker at Grace Lake is connecting with the rider and watching how much they grow. And that, our friends, is what life is really all about....connecting with people as we grow together.



Team Mary Rose~Maddy, Mary Rose, Angie

Who says hugs are for kids?! Our Grace Lake Angel Angie Cox loves getting hugs from the horse therapists, too! It's a time to unplug from the busy world and focus on the horse, rider, and session at hand.

Know what Angie loves most about her Volunteer time on Monday nights? She loves connecting with everyone during prayer time. Prayer not only brings them together as a family, but it also energizes and replaces the cares of the world with peace for Angie personally. She may leave the barn dusty, but her heart is full and her mind is at rest. It's the perfect prescription for the stresses of life.

One of Angie's favorite memories is the time that she and Maddy picked up her rider Mary Rose and her sister for the session when Ms. Patty was out of town. Their chats on the way to the barn and back were interesting, to say the least.

Angie is very thankful that our Volunteer Coordinator, Shelley Egger, found Grace Lake and invited her to be a part of it with her. Angie and her daughter, Madalyn, serve

together and have come to love the family atmosphere of their sessions. She looks forward to each new session.

We're thankful that Angie and Madalyn are a part of our Grace Lake family!

A big THANK YOU to our volunteer, Tammy Nix for writing the Rider and Volunteer Spotlights!! We appreciate all you do for Grace Lake!

Dates to Remember:

8/15 Meet the Horses

8/22 Volunteer Training~Sidewalker & Horse Handler I

8/29 Horse Leader II Training

8/29 Prayer Meeting

9/9 Fall Session Begins

[For Event Flyers Click Here](#)