



Issue 2 2019

Grace Lake Ministries Newsletter

North Texas Giving Day is September 20th!

This year, 2019, **Grace Lake celebrates its 15 year anniversary!!** We invite you to show your support for horses, hope, and healing by donating and spreading the word about our biggest fundraiser of the year, North Texas Giving Day 9.19.19.

Last year, our generous community donated \$16,000! We are excited to share the results of your support last year.

- GL maintained a herd of 6 specially trained horses.
- GL's rider evaluation revealed that 100% of GL riders experienced significant physical, cognitive, communication, emotional, social, recreational, and spiritual benefits.
- GL was able to serve 27 people in need of horses, hope, and healing.
- GL offered 4 scholarships for riders who could not afford to pay tuition.

Get up and give on September 19! Your gift matters! On September 19, when you donate to Grace Lake on [NorthTexasGivingDay.org](https://www.northtexasgivingday.org) between 6am and midnight, your dollar will be stretched with thousands of dollars in matching funds, plus bonus funds and prizes raised by Communities Foundation of Texas! Not available on September 19? No worries! You can schedule your donation any time between **September 9 and September 18!** <https://www.northtexasgivingday.org/grace-lake-therapeutic-horsemanship-program>

Follow us! <https://www.facebook.com/gracelakeministries> to stay up to date on North Texas Giving Day!

Thank you for your continued support so that we can continue the mission that was started 15 years ago!



Rider Spotlight

Lexilynn's mom describes her daughter as helpful, caring, happy, adventurous, and empathetic. She has been riding for almost three years at Grace Lake where she has been a participant in both group lessons and individual lessons. She loves the group lessons because she enjoys seeing and riding with her "buddies." Trail rides are usually a rider favorite and it's no different for Lexilynn. She loves being in nature and the great outdoors! But, honestly, she loves every part of therapeutic riding from trotting to learning new skills. She is quite proud of her riding skills and shares her knowledge with peers outside of Grace Lake. "It gives her something to talk about with her peers," says Rhonda. "Not everyone rides a horse!"



Lexilynn has also grown emotionally courtesy of her connection with the horses, sidewalkers, and other riders at Grace Lake. Her mom also appreciates the connection between volunteers and staff who "truly support and care for one another." Rhonda explains, "Grace Lake Ministries isn't a big commercial business." Everyone at

Grace Lake loves being there and enjoys their part in working with the horses and the students.

Dakota is one of three horses that Lexilynn has ridden. She keeps a picture of him on her wall along with ribbons she received at the annual Grace Lake Horse Show. She is incredibly proud of her hard work. She looks forward to each and every lesson and learning new skills while riding Dakota.

Volunteer Spotlight

Brian Shade, a retired United States Postal Service employee, has been volunteering for Grace Lake for a year and a half. He also volunteers with CASA of Collin County and Gateway Ministries. Obviously, he enjoys volunteering in various aspects of life. He appreciates people from all walks of life and meets them where they are. His favorite part of volunteering is being a positive influence in a life.



At Grace Lake he is a sidewalker, which is someone who walks along-side the rider and assists with safety and encouragement. The sidewalker is trained in various ways to keep the rider safe and focused. Brian says, “The training I went through was comprehensive and fun.” Grace Lake Ministries provides all their volunteers with position-specific training so the volunteers are comfortable and well-versed in their position. “Being a side walker,” says Brian, “is simple yet meaningful. Bringing a child confidence in their riding ability is why I volunteer at Grace Lake.”

A big THANK YOU to our volunteer Cynda Felini for writing the Rider and Volunteer Spotlights!!
