

Grace Lake Ministries

Quarterly Newsletter 2022

Issue 2

www.gracelakeministries.org

We are in the middle of our Spring session and riders are working on their skills in preparation for the Horse Show on May 14th. You are invited to come out and see all that they have accomplished!



Important Dates

5/1-New Participant paperwork due for Summer Session

5/14-Horse Show & Open House

6/1-Summer Session Begins

8/1-New Participant paperwork due for Fall Session

[Online Calendar Link](#)

You are Invited!

We are very excited to be having our 3rd Annual Horse Show and Open House this year. We look forward to welcoming you to a fun morning of Grace Lake riders showing you what they've learned. Please share this flyer with your community, friends, and family. All are welcome!

We have limited seating. Please bring your own chair.



Grace Lake received \$71.34 this quarter from AmazonSmile as a result of qualifying purchases made by YOU!



Thank you for selecting Grace Lake as your charity of choice.



Rider Spotlight

We'd like to take a minute to introduce one of our most positive and eager riders. Lilly has been with us over the last year and has shown great progress toward her self-confidence and communication skills. As an 11

We recently received several items from our Amazon Wishlist. THANK YOU, they are all very much needed and appreciated!

If you would like to help, here's the link to the list. [LINK](#)

year-old girl with autism, Lilly has been working to overcome a speech and cognitive delay that can make connecting with others difficult, though you'd never realize it by talking to her. Lilly is constantly on the lookout for new people and opportunities to have a conversation, never holding back her own brand of warmth and positivity.



Lilly's unique ability to connect with others doesn't stop at people either. Every animal she comes around is subject to an onslaught of love and affection including our own resident Chewy, Lilly's horse and riding partner. Chewy and Lilly have been working diligently together in lessons to improve her focus and cognition, serving as a shining example to all the other riders.

Watching Lilly grow in Grace Lake Ministries and blossom into an outgoing and energetic rider has been inspiring to all our staff and truly improved our program as a whole. We want to thank Lilly for her hard work and brilliant personality. We are so proud of her.

**Article written by Grace Lake volunteer, Jack Long.*



Come have fun with us this summer!

Sidewalkers are needed for our 5 week Summer session that begins June 1st. Day and evening times are available. Must be at least 14 years old. You can reply to this email for more info.

Happy Birthday to Romeo!

Romeo turned 22 on April 28th. He has been the most amazing blessing to so many!

A little story about him from his owner, Jody Morris:



I got him as a 3 year old. He was a trainers nightmare and just not working out for that family. He was so handsome. I wanted him so badly and wanted to try and make something of him. We bought him without ever meeting him.

The day he arrived, we unloaded him off the trailer. I spent a few minutes with him, saddled him, and took him on the trails by himself. He never took a wrong step from that moment on. I think he

knew he was "home".

Within a few short months, I began letting my more advanced lesson kids ride him in the arena, and soon he had proven himself to be the most reliable horse ever. I never saw the horse the prior owners described to me, ever! My boys learned to ride on him. My youngest lesson kids learned to ride him and show him. Some of which were only 4 and were able to show him independently in the ring.

Romeo has worked with children and adults teaching them the kindness he has within and allowing each person to grow in their confidence and triumphs. I could never count, but my best guess is several



Follow us on Facebook to see pictures of classes and other happenings around the barn.
[Link](#)

hundred people have spent time with Romeo.

Romeo was purchased as a gift for me by my dad. It would be the last thing he ever bought me. He died about a year after we bought him and before my dad became too weak from cancer he was able to ride him.

So, he is precious in so many ways, and I am grateful that we are able to share him with all of you. Thank you for loving him!

So, happy birthday Romeo, and April 28th is also my oldest son's 28th birthday!

We love you so!



Isaiah 58:11 ~ The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.

Volunteer Spotlight

This month we want to show off one of most dedicated and vibrant volunteers. Halee Colson has been with us since 2018, working nonstop to assist riders and make

a difference in her community. Having had personal experience dealing with mental health and disorders, Halee came to Grace Lake Ministries with a unique sense of empathy and a passion for helping the people we serve.



With aspirations of working at a horse rescue, Halee's love for horses has earned her the adoration of many residents of our barn including Chewy, the horse she's currently working with. Each week she leads Chewy and her student through lessons, games, and exercises that have made drastic impacts in confidence and mobility. In fact, Halee says her favorite part of her work is watching kids overcome their fear of these large animals and grow evermore excited about their weekly rides.

As children learn to deal with disabilities and adapt to their surroundings, life can be overwhelming and scary. Halee is eager to assure hesitant parents and nervous riders that these feelings are normal and cites the successes she's seen first-hand at Grace Lake Ministries. Having seen the joy and comfort Halee brings to the program, we would like to thank her for her hard work and commend her for the changes she's making in our students' lives. She is truly an inspiration

**Article written by Grace Lake volunteer, Jack Long.*

Grace Lake's mission is to partner with horses to develop life skills and God centered wholeness for those with diverse physical, developmental, and emotional needs.

