

Grace Lake Ministries

Quarterly Newsletter 2022

Issue 3

www.gracelakeministries.org

North Texas Giving Day

Thank you to each of our Board members, staff members, instructors, participants, volunteers, and community of supporters at Grace Lake. We are grateful as each of you enable us to continue to grow and develop programs to meet the varying needs of the special needs community.

At Grace Lake our number one priority is providing a personalized service of horses, hope, and healing to meet each participant's needs. To provide a safe and quality service, we must care for and maintain our most valuable assets at Grace Lake: OUR THERAPY HORSES. Grace Lake currently maintains a herd of 5 horses with plans of adding more in the near future.

This North Texas Giving Day we are raising money for our exceptional therapy horses! The annual cost for maintaining our herd is \$15,000. Half of that goes to feeding the horses. The rest provides veterinary care, hoof care, and grooming supplies. Special thanks to our private horse owners, including Jody Morris and Haley Page, and our hay provider, Marvin Sweetin, for enabling us to keep our cost for horse care low.

With your support, we will provide excellent care to our specially trained therapy horse herd. This year you can make your gift early beginning September 1 through September 22. When you donate to Grace Lake (<https://www.northtexasgivingday.org/organization/grace-lake-therapeutic-horsemanship-program>), your dollar will be stretched with thousands of dollars in matching funds, plus bonus funds and prizes raised by Communities Foundation of Texas!



Important Dates

9/1-Early giving begins for North Texas Giving Day

9/6-Fall Session Begins

9/22-North Texas Giving Day

[Online Calendar Link](#)

Welcome our new Board Member, Elmarie Meintjes!



Elmarie is a wife, mother, science teacher, farmer, veterinarian, and all around manager of a busy Meintjes household. She holds a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Degree and a Master of Neuroscience. Elmarie is passionate about sharing the incredible design of God's creation



Thank you for your continued support so that we can continue providing horses, hope, and healing to our community for 18 more years!

Holly Robinson
Founder and Director
PATH Intl. Advanced Therapeutic Riding Instructor, CTRI, ESMHL

Rider Spotlight

At Grace Lake Ministries we see a lot of riders overcome tremendous obstacles and continue to move forward regardless of the challenges they face. One rider, who we are proud to show off in this Rider Spotlight, is a boy that constantly surpasses everyone's expectations. At 9 months old, Rowdy was diagnosed with Menkes Kinky Hair Syndrome, an extremely rare and fatal genetic disorder. Rowdy's parents, Rachael and Dustin, were told that he wouldn't make it past the age of 3, but with unyielding determination (obviously passed down to Rowdy as well) they continued to search for hope. With help from the National Institute of Health and now Grace Lake Ministries, Rowdy is going stronger than ever at over 6 years old.

Rowdy's kindhearted nature shines through when he's around the horses in our barn, but the biggest pedestal in his heart is already held by his own Mini Hereford Heifer "Little Bit". Rowdy has been honing his motor skills by showing Little Bit competitively. Since starting in Grace Lake's equine assisted physical therapy program a year ago, he's already thrown aside his walker and is walking and running with little-to-no assistance. Then, Rowdy takes those skills to sandy arenas where he walks Little Bit around and positions her in front of judges. As any parent knows, this is a big test of focus for any 6-year-old and turned into a herculean challenge when paired with motor control issues. But Rowdy's determined to show all of us what he's capable of.

We've watched Rowdy become more and more independent over the year that he's been here, picking flowers on trail walks, mastering his riding lessons, and always beaming with love and happiness. Rowdy has shown us what it means to be grateful for

with high schoolers and anyone else who is willing to listen. As the newest board member, she serves Grace Lake wherever needed.



Thank you, Charlotte Strouse for your Volunteer Service, to Grace Lake as our Bookkeeper from 2013 to 2022! What a gift of sharing your gifts, talents, time, and friendship with us! You have helped us to stay organized amongst all the growth and change! We will miss you!



As of June 2022, Grace Lake has received \$969.94 from AmazonSmile as a result of qualifying purchases made by YOU! Thank you for selecting Grace Lake as your charity of choice. YOU are making a difference!

every day we get to experience, constantly bringing joy and pride to everyone around him. He's a living reminder to never lose hope and always spread love. Thank you, Rowdy, you're truly our biggest inspiration.



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

Impact Update

We are seeing amazing results from our equine assisted physical therapy program. You can learn more about the program here, <https://gracelakeministries.org/physical-therapy/>.

85%
of participants report Equine Assisted Physical Therapy has made a significant improvement in their DAILY FUNCTION.

* Spring 2022 participant survey data

Grace Lake Ministries
Horses, Hope & Healing

Want to help support our mission? Donate from our Amazon Wishlist!

Click here to donate needed items from our wish list



[AmazonSmile Charity List](#)



Grace Lake is on the hunt for our next Outstanding Equine Team Member! Please spread the word. If you have a horse that might be a good fit, just fill out this form and we will get back with you! We will purchase or accept donations for the right horse.

<https://gracelakeministries.org/horse-donation/>



100%
of participants report
Equine Assisted
Physical Therapy has
increased their
balance, gross motor
skills, coordination,
and muscle strength.

MOBILITY

* Spring 2022 participant survey data

Grace Lake Ministries
Horses, Hope & Healing.



70%
of participants report
Equine Assisted
Physical Therapy has
had a significant
impact on their ability
to function
independently.

INDEPENDENCE

* Spring 2022 participant survey data

Grace Lake Ministries
Horses, Hope & Healing.



We recently reached out to our Facebook community asking for help to get this specialized therapeutic riding saddle and received amazing support! Thank you to everyone who donated and shared our post with others. We received almost 100% of the funds needed to purchase this saddle! We will be receiving the saddle soon and will be sure to show you once it arrives.

THANK YOU!

Thank you RBFCU!

Thank you RBFCU for sponsoring our 2022 Horse Show.

Grace Lake has partnered with RBFCU to offer membership eligibility to employees and volunteers and their families.

Log onto www.rbfcu.org for more information and to join if you so wish. Please use the promo code DA0264 to join free!



Follow us on Facebook to see pictures of classes and other happenings at the barn.

[LINK](#)

It's Banking...only Better!

Grace Lake Ministries
employees and members can
join online today!

Open your
RBFCU account
for free
at rbfcu.org/join
or scan the QR code
to become a member.



iPhone or Android



Enter promo code
DA0264
Offer expires on 12/31/22

The Value of RBFCU Membership...



**RBFCU
Free Checking**
\$0 monthly maintenance fee
and \$0 minimum balance.



**2% CashBack Rewards
Mastercard® Credit Card**
Make shopping a rewarding
experience with unlimited
2% cash back on every purchase.



**RBFCU
Mobile App**
Use the free RBFCU Mobile app
to deposit checks, transfer money
and more.



**Low-Rate Home
and Auto Loans**
Purchasing a home or vehicle?
Refinancing an existing one? Our low
rates will help you save.

**Lamentations 3:22-23 ~ The steadfast
love of the Lord never ceases; his
mercies never come to an end; they are
new every morning; great is your
faithfulness.**

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.