

Grace Lake Ministries

Quarterly Newsletter 2023

Issue 1

www.gracelakeministries.org



Important Dates

1/31-Scholarship Applications Due

2/1-Deadline for Spring Session Sign-up

2/18-Training for new Volunteers

3/4-Spring Session Begins

5/13-Horse Show & Open House

[Online Calendar Link](#)

Thank You 2022 Donors!

We would like to extend a special thank you to everyone who gave so generously to Grace Lake this past year. Here is the impact your donation made in our participants' lives:

*My boys went from the trauma causing them to be so fearful to confidently trotting on their own! Thank you for being part of the healing process God uses to build back my boys' confidence, security and joy.

*My daughter feels like she has friends at lessons.

*We feel supported in our journey for a successful future.

*My daughter just has such peace when she's out there!

*My daughter gets a boost in confidence and self-esteem.

*My son's language is improved. He likes talking with others!

*My son has grown greatly in his verbal communication. Watching his growth from uncertainty to excitement to get on Snickers every week and to hear him verbally giving cues and talking with his team has been a joy to watch.

*My son is starting to warm up to people other than family, His speech has improved, along with core strength. He does not get tired as fast.

Horses, Hope, and Healing continues because of you!

WALK

Linda & Jerry Adams, Albertsons Safeway, AmazonSmile Foundation, Bradley Bates, Lennetta Box, Holly Brochmann in memory of Brent Strange, Carlene Chambers, Bonnie Combest in memory of Steve Combest, Angie Cox, Mary Beth Cranfill, Robert & Laura Garza in honor of Ryan Garza, Valerie Greer, Jenifer Florence, Jennifer Jennings, Judi Kelley, Don & Julia Kendall, Yelena Kouznetsova, Kroger Southwest Community Rewards, Frances Lawrence in memory of June Nicholl and Doris Hicks, Debbie Lewis, Rollie & Marilyn Little, Cindy Long in memory of Dakota, Rick & Erin Lovern in memory of Robert Strange, Christopher McDonald in memory of Carl Ray, Heather McDonald, Laura McDonald, Cynthia Michaels, Meghan Miller in honor of Bill Wilkinson, Gary and Bobbye Jack Minshew, Mobility Sense PT, PLLC, Linda Moore, Floyd & Suzi Prozanski, Ginger Rippley, RLC Controls, Inc in memory of Robert Strange, Brian Shade, Jim & Cheryl Stoup, Shara Szott in memory of Robert Strange, Michael Tucker, Kim Vaught in memory of Robert Strange, Gloria Wagner, Ron and Alev Wieland in memory of Dakota, Diane Woods, World Wide Deb, Judy Ziola, 4 anonymous, 1 anonymous in memory of Robert Strange, 1 anonymous in memory of Norma Lanie Romero



Welcome our new
bookkeeper, Nicole
Chilson from Texian
Belle!

<https://texianbelle.com>

Horse Show Sponsors Needed!

Our Annual Horse Show and Open House provides our participants an opportunity to demonstrate their accomplishments to family and friends. This elite event is a tremendous motivator with exceptional social benefits to show off their abilities in the equestrian sport.

[Horse Show Sponsorships](#)
[| Anna TX | Grace Lake](#)
[Ministries](#)

TROT

John Bailey, Kimberly Cheatham, Karen and Evan Crump, Liz Culley, DEW Contracting & Metal Works in honor of Lexilynn Waites, Laura Green in memory of Vere Shelton, Ben Hodge, Amie Mitchell, Jody Morris, Network for Good, Siobhan Pederson, Marvin & Regina Sweetin, RBFCU, The Aileen and Jack Pratt Foundation, Gayle Valice, Michaline Yeager, 1 anonymous

CANTER

Kathleen Bates, Terry & Julie Casey, Cutting Edge Pediatric & Adult Therapy, Reinhard & Shelley Egger, Elmarie Meintjes, Tony Pellegrini, Kyle & Holly Robinson, Charlotte Strouse, Bill & Katie Weaver Charitable Trust, 1 anonymous

GALLOP

Randy & Connie Christopher in honor of Chanda Smith, God's Gift, Tracy Matern, Earl W. and Hazel C. Pierson Foundation, Tasha Sherley in memory of Shelley Bogan, Pamela & Bradley Simpson, Brent & Liz Strange

In kind Donations

Collin Chilson, Natural Horse Trimmer, Cold Springs Animal Hospital, Stephanie Colson, LSR Roofing, Jody Morris in honor of Chewy, Romeo, Kody, Optical Perceptions, Haley Page in honor of Snickers, Holly Robinson, Pamela Sailor, Brian Shade, Emily Sloan, Laura Smith, Cheryl Stroup, Marvin Sweetin, Texian Belle Bookkeeping, Jamie Thompson, Julie Zeller



Welcome new herd member, Kip who joined us at the end of October. He is settling in nicely and will serve Grace Lake riders this upcoming Spring session.

Rider Spotlight



Alaina Flores, a sophomore in high school, has been riding at Grace Lake for 3 years and her mother has seen her transform from an anxious little girl to a more confident and relaxed young woman.

Initially, she was unsure of riding and fearful of trotting. She needed both a sidewalker and a horse leader. But in 3 years of lessons, she has progressed to independent riding and even learning to ride bareback and to cantor! Her newfound confidence and skill with her horse partners has spilled over to other areas of her life and made her more outgoing, caring and empathetic.

She started her riding lessons on Dakota and now one of her favorite horses is Chewy. Miss Debbie has also been working with Alaina on how to connect better with her horse through groundwork. She is becoming a regular horse whisperer!

Alaina's mom, Shandalyn, is one of Grace Lake's most enthusiastic supporters. She says, "The connection with the staff and volunteers has been such a blessing. I have

Grace Lake Offers 3 Programs

[Adaptive Riding](#)

Improving daily life functioning through riding skills for those with diverse cognitive, developmental, and physical needs.

[Equine Assisted PT](#)

Optimizing age-appropriate independence and safety to achieve full participation in life for those with movement and sensory dysfunction.

[Groundwork Connection](#)

Developing emotional awareness and regulation to achieve healthy interpersonal relationships and improve daily functioning.



reached out and been able to talk to them or ask them to pray about things that may not even relate to the riding. Everyone there has been so supportive of Alaina and as a parent, just being able to sit back and see the growth she has made in 3 years has been amazing”. She also recommends for other parents to consider therapeutic riding even if your child doesn’t have a physical disability. “Alaina has no physical limitations. She started at Grace Lake for an emotional outlet and since starting, she has actually gained both emotional and physical benefits”.

Mom, Shandalyn, and all the Grace Lake volunteers and staff are looking forward to the bright future that Alaina has ahead of her and are thankful that God allowed them to find each other and to participate in her growth.

*Author – Horse Leader Volunteer Susan Withrow

Support Grace Lake through Amazon. It's easy to set up! Go to settings and select AmazonSmile. Search and select Grace Lake Ministries and the next time you make a purchase, Amazon sends us a donation!

Your AmazonSmile



Grace Lake Ministries Inc
Anna, TX | Founded 2005
Change charity



FEBRUARY 18, 2023 | 1:00-3:00 PM
FM 1827, ANNA, TX 75409

Looking for a rewarding way to give back? Become a sidewalker! Sidewalkers walk alongside a rider during their class to provide physical support, help reinforce instructions, and to offer encouragement. Must be at least 14 years old and able to walk in sand and on uneven ground for 30 to 40 minutes. RSVP to admin@gracelakeministries.org.



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

[Link](#)

We need volunteers for our upcoming Spring session that begins March 4th. You can easily get the process started today! 1. Fill out our Volunteer Registration form [HERE](#). 2. RSVP to training by emailing admin@gracelakeministries.org. 3. Attend training on February 18th.

Psalms 139:14 ~ I will give thanks to you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Save the Date!



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.