

Horse Power Healing Center

LINDA KONICHEK

Each year Thanksgiving starts me thinking about all we have personally and all the ways our family and friends have enriched our lives each year, and Christmas makes me even more thankful. We don't always get everything we want, but I have always felt there is a reason that things sometimes take a different turn or take longer than we want, often to better results, if we just keep believing and doing the best we can with what we do have. Certainly, our beginnings as Horse Power Healing Center (HPHC) have been amazing and the best thing we've ever done in our 26 years at Jericho Creek Farms. So we continue working hard on the dream of all of us, to make HPHC one of the best, most effective therapeutic riding programs in the state.

In the past eight months we founded HPHC as a Wisconsin Not-For-Profit corporation. And we have the federal 501©3 application in the works. Wendy set up the website at www.horsepowerhealingcenter.com, and Jodi set up the Facebook page; Wendy and Liz de-sensitized and trained seven horses for Therapeutic Riding les-

sons; held several training sessions for volunteers of all ages, set-up and implemented assessments and lessons for individual students; and held three summer/fall sessions, a total of 18 lessons for those who started in June. We started with seven riders and ended up with 12, all of whom plan to continue next year.

Other progress, Waukesha County approved us for their Voucher Program to help pay for those under 18 on the autism spectrum to take lessons; recently we learned of the IRIS state funding program, for adults with handicaps, who wish to take lessons; we already have one person in that program. In early June, The Mukwonago Chief and Waukesha Freeman newspapers did a nice job with feature articles to help us spread the word in the community, and another is being written now; we also held a successful Spring Open House; in August, a great silent auction at the Jericho Productions All Breed Open Pleasure Horse Show in Jefferson; and finally, celebrated everything with our Fall Festival Fund Raiser, in October, a really "funderfull" time for all who attended, especially

those who competed in our costume class, and all the kids and grown-ups who got to race Jamie's remote controlled cars. Watch for a complete article and photos in the February issue of WHN.

I always love December because of all the cards and letters that fill our mailbox, but the one I am including here from Josh Horne and his mom, Chris, pretty much says it all.

Every one of our riders with special needs exceeded his/her goals and every one of them continued as long as the weather cooperated, as we still lack an indoor arena. Lessons are on hold for the next few winter months, but we will be busy with planning and paperwork to make the 2011 sessions even better, and to continue in our goal to make Equine Assisted Therapeutic Riding available to all who want it and can benefit from it.

Our greatest Christmas gift has been the volunteers and students and all those who supported us with work and donations of all types. We could not have done it without all of you!

Horse Power Healing helped Josh

HORNE FAMILY

Thank you for all of the hard work you did to provide a family fun day for all the families at your fall fundraiser. Everyone did an amazing job and it was enjoyed by all.

It will be exciting to see this new program grow. We are all praying that the indoor arena will be available by next year for all the riders to enjoy. I am looking forward to watching the development and expansion of this program to include more and more families. It will be nice to know that other participants can receive the same kind and nurturing care that my son receives from each and every one of you at Horse Power Healing.

I am amazed to see the changes therapeutic riding has done for my son in such a short time:

- Helping him with balance and coordination.
- Giving him self confidence and self esteem.
- Helping him with his legs and work-



Josh Horne

ing on turning his feet in to help with his walking/gait.

- Allowing him to set his own measurable goals with his therapeutic trainer.
- Developing visual and spacial awareness.
- Developing a sense of responsibility with the care and grooming of a horse.
- Enhancing his senses: movement, touch, and pressure to help with sensory integration needs.

- Also helps with posture, breath support, and relieving anxiety.

Josh is now 20-years-old and his dream and passion for riding horses is finally coming true. Grandpa used to have horses, and Mom grew up showing horses, so Josh said it is in his blood, and he is a natural at it. Weighing less than two pounds and being born premature at 23 weeks and not given much of a chance to live, Josh is more than just a miracle – he is a fighter. Josh has overcome many obstacles in his lifetime, from home oxygen, apnea monitors, breathing treatments, and being tube fed for 13 years. Horse Power Healing has put the biggest smile on his face, and it lasts a couple of days. I am so amazed at what Liz and Wendy do, along with all the hard working volunteers.

I get just as excited to watch Josh as Josh gets when he rides. His smile is contagious and that is all he talks about. Josh's dream is to someday be an independent rider and to show horses. I

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believe in Josh, as he has proved us all wrong his whole life. Anything is possible with this wonderful young man.

Thank you Horse Power Healing for

giving my son something to look forward to each week and a dream to hold onto. Keep up the amazing work. You are all wonderful special people and so appreciated. I know things can maybe

seem slow starting at times, but hold onto your dream and for now enjoy the smiles on the faces of the people you touch! That indoor riding arena will come someday soon.