



HorsePower
PO Box 2120
Lee's Summit, MO 64063

Thank You from HPEL!

The HPEL Board would like to take time to thank all of those who have given supplies and funds which enabled HorsePower to have another successful session. We are sure this list is not complete so for those who may have been left off the list, especially those who have been supporting HorsePower in prayer, know that we appreciate you as well!

The following served as mentors and horse handlers for the Fall Session

Tuesday, 4pm	Christy & Nathan Green
Michelle Brown	Tony Singer
Don Hogue	Diane Young
Eden Dowler	
Carolyn & Caitlin Jeffrey	Subs
Linda Secrist	Karen Crain
Diane Young	Marcy Lee

Tuesday, 6pm	Marilyn Combellick
Wilma Lauver	Steve Lambert
Gail Maxon	Shawna Arni
Tanya Thierry	Sue Hess
Lisa Epperly	Geri Mirick
Nancy Owen	
Kirk Mirick	

Thursday, 4pm	The Carons
Jim & Julie Ferguson	The Danboms
Natalie Ward	The Geigers
Shelly Abbott	Carolyn Sands
Cathy Johnson	The Mathewsons
Brenda, Ameilia & Marcy Dean	Stephanie Moore
Diane Young	Julie Naji

Thursday, 6pm	Pleasant Hill United Way
Paul Stanton	Premier Feed Store
Mitzi & Todd Akins	The Stantons
	Wal-mart

Those listed below have been generous with financial or item donations...

HorsePower Fall Volunteer Appreciation Event!

Join us on Sunday, Oct. 21, 3-6pm at the HorsePower Ranch

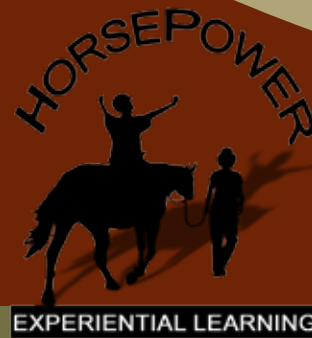
Fall Festivities for kids begin at 3pm.

Dinner will be served at 4:30pm.

Hayrides, fun & fellowship throughout!

Bring yourself, your family & your lawnchairs.

We want to take the time to thank YOU for all you have done to make HorsePower Experiential Learning a success!



HorsePower Experiential Learning Program offers relational HELP to youth at risk by developing essential life coping skills in a faith based equine facilitated ranch environment.

HorsePower News

Issue No. 3
Fall Season
2007

THE CHILDREN OF HORSEPOWER to whom this newsletter is dedicated to...

By Torey Geiger, Director HorsePower Experiential Learning Program

You are 11 years old and should be living with mom and dad in a two story house, playing soccer, hanging out with buds and riding bikes. Instead, you have been removed from your home and placed in foster care where you may or may not be placed with a family because your mom was sexually and physically abusing you and your father was taking advantage of you sexually. Because you have not been living in a stable environment, and react differently then "normal" kids, you have now been diagnosed and labeled with oppositional defiance disorder, post traumatic stress disorder and dysthymic disorder, for all of which you know the abbreviations – ODD, PTSD and DD. This is your life.

Or imagine being 10 years old and being forced to function as the adult for your younger siblings due to severe neglect by your parents. When dad does pay attention to you it is to sexually abuse you, which he learned from his father, your grandfather, who has also taken liberties with you. When placed in a foster home, you are met with more adults who abuse you sexually and physically so you are moved around to several homes – without your siblings. By now, it is hard to trust, you have no desire to meet much less live with anyone new and you have developed enuresis (urinating on yourself) and encopresis (excreting on yourself) because you can, it's your choice, something only you can control – no one else.

These are not imaginary

situations, these are the realities of two students whose eyes I have looked into as they participated in HorsePower this session. After teaching HorsePower for six years and accepting the reality of these children's life's, I have now been stunned by the short history of one of my HorsePower classes. The amount of abuse these children as a whole have experienced got my attention. To see a group of children walk through the door with body language saying loud and clear "my walls are 10 feet high and I am shut down" is devastating. I can only ask myself...what can I really do? Then I take a deep breath and remember...God has a plan! And that reality reminds me that I do not have to be dependent on what I can do, but instead what He can do through me.

I love this volunteer work, I love seeing what God does in seven short weeks with these children who are so broken. One little girl this session was so withdrawn she told her mentor she would not be back the next week, but she was and oh how she improved from the previous week. It's exciting to watch the Lord take down the wall of fear brick by brick and build something beautiful. God takes this horse and adds that mentor and weaves a relationship that that will be imbedded in the child's memories for a lifetime. It is our hope that each child that comes to HorsePower experiences the love of Jesus. Please continue to pray for the children of HorsePower.





Adopt a Horse!

Currently HorsePower has three horses and a henny up for "adoption" They are Nugget, Coco, Thunder and Jethro.

If you are interested in adopting one of these excellent animals, decide which horse you most connect with and choose an adoption level you are comfortable with: Silver Shoe (\$50/mo), Gold Shoe (\$80/mo), Platinum Shoe (\$115/mo).

You will be contributing to the care, feeding and training of the HorsePower horses, an integral part of the HorsePower program and the students who lives are touched by the horses. Some additional benefits of contributing to this program include: An official "Adoption Certificate" with a picture of your horse; an invitation for "HPEL Family Day" just for horse owners and horse adopters; an invitation to take part in "Saturday's with Stephanie" a 3 hour horse training with your adopted horse held most Saturdays...to name a few!

All of these benefits will be yours, regardless of the level of giving that you choose! For more information about our Adopt-A-Horse Program, contact horsepower@kc.rr.com

The Spirituality of Mucking

By Kendra Mathewson, Equine Steward and HorsePower Horse Adopter

There is nothing so humbling as mucking horse poop. Every Friday night our family serves as equine stewards at HorsePower, and I am not a horse-lover. But my daughter loves horses and I love Jesus and it is at that intersection that I find myself surrounded by horse manure each Friday evening. And it isn't always with a cheerful heart.

One evening I was particularly grumpy because it seemed we were the only ones mucking each week. I confessed the battle in my mind to Jesus and He quickly and quietly spoke back, "This is not about what everyone else is doing or not doing. This is about the work I have for you to do in this moment."

In that instance, I felt immediately humbled. It became clear how judgmental my heart was being and I hadn't even realized. So in that place of humility I opened my heart up to God and listened. I looked at the piles at my feet and it hit me that this was not just any poop. I knew from my talks with Torey that God had placed this ministry on her heart, that He had specifically spoken to my own heart and called our family to serve

here, that He had chosen each horse and horse owner to find HorsePower. HorsePower is GOD's ministry. These horses are God's horses. And this poop that I have the privilege to scoop is God's horses' poop. It became a delight to do it.

It's also great therapy for a perfectionist. When I first started, I tried - and failed - to make the dry lot perfectly clean. You can work for 3 hours and look over the dry lot and still see manure. I'd get frustrated, I wanted to quit. I'd say to my husband, "Can't we just go? We've been working a long time." And he'd quietly shake his head and keep working diligently until he'd gotten it all - and he could! He is a man who does everything with excellence - not perfection, but excellence. Finally, I noticed that he would rake and then scoop and get most of the pieces. So I started doing that, too.

Over the past six months, I've realized that some days my best mucking is better than others. There are some great conditions better than others for mucking - but no matter what, I have learned to give it my best and God sees that. By putting me in a place I didn't want to be, God has freed me by helping me realize that in other parts of my life, everything does not have to be perfect, as long as I am giving it my best and doing it for Him.

Winter Break

The HorsePower Experiential Learning Program will be taking a break until March, 2008. However the ministry will continue to need volunteers and financial support for horse care through the late fall and winter months. If you are interested in being a part of the continued care of the HorsePower horses, let us know! Mentor and HorseHandler training will be held in March 2008 so watch your mail box and emails as spring gets closer. Until then, continue to pray for HorsePower, it's volunteers and the children.



From Your HorsePower Mentor Coordinators

Julie & Jim Ferguson

HorsePower classes of 2007 are coming to an end and one thing that comes to my mind when thinking about the year is how great is God! He is willing to restore brokenness in all of us if we come to Him. What looks impossible, and may be by the standards of our knowledge and abilities are not impossible for Him. I believe it is hope and trust and faith that the people who serve in Horse Power reflect the most. The students who are able to participate are limited in healing, by the worlds standards and ability, but we know God can meet their needs and wants to! It is our hope that in some way, we can serve as a link to help connect these students to Almighty God.

I asked some of the staff people who transport the students to HorsePower if they thought HorsePower was of any help to these students, or was it just a nice "outing", something to do to get away from the facility. One staff person said "are you kidding! These kids are on their best behavior before hand, so they won't have to miss. It is the thing they look forward to most. You don't realize the effect it has on them". Another staff person said "These kids get to do a lot of things but HorsePower is different. There is a peace and comfort out here. In fact, I look forward to coming myself. There is something different here, it is great". I believe that is because God's hand is on this ministry.

Something I have seen during this year, is how many volunteer families are serving together. I believe every volunteer is a blessing, but it is special to see husbands and wives, fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, grandparents and grandchildren, sisters and brothers serving together and it is a blessing to the students to see healthy family relationships.

We are thanking God for every willing volunteer who wants to serve and be involved in a ministry to the children who need His hope. If you or someone you know would like more information on serving, please call or e-mail Julie Ferguson at 816-697-6637 or jferg@ionet.net



A Page from a HorsePower Student's Journal

No editing was done to this letter

Dear HorsePower,

Thank you for taking your time to have fun with us. I had a great time with everyone including Rio is a nice horse. Even though he bit another horse because he was just protecting food because he was hungry.

Overall Thank you Steve (the therapist) for inviting me because I had a whole new experience with horses I have never had before and the only reason I didn't pick Prize is because I didn't really feel the connection. The fun part was learning how to take care of your horse because that's where some of the most funniest things happen. And also my favorite part was being with my horse because when I had a bad day he would always make me happy. Even though when I come back I would be mad.

The best part being with Rio was when we were trying to get him to lift up his leg the second time. Rio stuck his head around and was like what are you doing. Like I said before I will charis the moments I have with Rio.

I probably would never liked horses as much as do now! To be quite honest I never seen a horse ever in my life or even imagined to me a horse. But I am glad I did meet Rio because his a very close trusting friend. The reason I say this is because when I was young I lost someone who was very close to me my mom. That's the reason I take things serious when I'm around Rio. It's probably hard on to

lose close to me because its very sad to me. Well I probably hared a lot of my moments so I might want to stop and say "thank you" for listening.

To all the good moments I had with Rio.

Signed,

Brad
(HorsePower student)

HorsePower Experiential Learning

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