

Holiday Greetings from HorsePower Experiential Learning!

When God is Present Anything Can Happen

At the end of the last session, I received an email from one of the students via her therapist's computer. It read...

*Thank you for letting me get on the horse. Mrs. Torey thank you for the Chinese food. I really like that food I will miss Jojo.
Love godliness*



A simple note, but proof of an amazing connection that developed during a HorsePower session. This student was one of the most heart tugging cases I had ever been around. When Janice* arrived she was so withdrawn, so shut down. Through her body language, she let us know that she didn't want anything to do with anyone or anything,

including the horses.

God was sovereign as he matched her up with a very special first time mentor. This mentor was so encouraging, beyond what I could have hoped. It didn't matter how disconnected this little girl acted the mentor never appeared discouraged. Janice even convinced the staff who transported her that she wanted nothing to do with the program manipulating them into letting her not come one week. We continued to pray despite how grim things looked.

It is truly amazing when the most difficult cases end up showing the most improvement. It's these cases that help us hang in there, and be patient and prayerful and hopeful. Through these things, Janice began to head in a new direction. She confronted her FEAR and we began to watch God give back what the enemy had stolen. In the end, when watching her on horseback, she appeared to be a different person than who arrived 7 weeks before, and I believe she was someone new. Praise God!

I then received an email from Janice's therapist that read:

*Torey,
Janice really wanted to send you a thank you email and I thought it was very cool that she wanted to do that. I have been very impressed by the way she has grown through HorsePower and is able to use the experience in talking through other areas of fear in her life. I was telling her about all the positive things that you and her mentor had written and she wanted to read them (I think because she didn't believe me) I let her read them and a huge smile came to her face and she was so proud of herself. She immediately wanted to send you a thank you email and that seemed like a great idea to me. I was also surprised that she signed it Godliness and knew you would know who she was.*

I also wanted to say thank you personally for your work with Janice and Suzy this term. Both of them have gained so much from the program, it reached them in a way that hasn't been possible before. Thank you for your patience and hard work with these girls!
-The therapist*

So I want to take this time to thank you for your support of the HorsePower Program. Whether you are a volunteer, donor or prayer warrior, you through Him are helping stories like Janice's unfold. I believe we have no idea what God is doing in the heart of a child when they have this unique opportunity. I trust that God is God and he does the rest.

Bless you and your family throughout this very special season.

Loving Jesus,
Torey Geiger, Director of the HorsePower Program

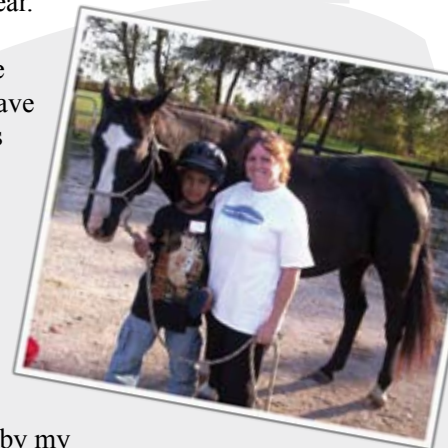
**The names have been changed to protect the privacy.*

From Your Volunteer Coordinator

This time of year we reflect back on the year's activities and look forward to next year's opportunities. I wanted to express my gratefulness to all who give to the ministry of Horse Power. The depth of gratitude is difficult to put into words, so I will use the words of Paul. "Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil, according to the will of God our Father, to whom be glory forever and ever." It is this hope that we trust that all who are in bondage to the evil of this world, will be delivered.

To the many people who selflessly give to HorsePower in the various ways including; the board of directors, donors, horse donors, instructors, coordinators; equine stewards, equine trainers, mentors and horse handlers a very heartfelt thank you. We look forward, with great hope, that God will bless and give us many opportunities this next year.

This last year, 70 students were warmly received by you. We have a wonderful team of volunteers and donors, numbering about 135. I was looking at the numbers and it occurred to me that is about 2 to 1 ratio. I thought about the verse, Matt. 18:19 and 20, "again, I tell you that if 2 of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my



Father in heaven. For where 2 or 3 come together in my name, there am I with them.” What a great promise that is.

I hope you have a very Blessed Christmas and we look forward to serving with you this next year. We will begin in April and will have training in March, so if you have friends who would like to join us, please pass the word. My number is 16-697-6637

Julie Ferguson, Volunteer Coordinator

Fall Volunteer Event, Fun for All!

HPEL Board Members were thrilled with the participation at the Fall Volunteer Appreciation Event that was held in October. Over 50 people came out to the ranch to enjoy fall games (like bobbing for apples and pickles) and fall activities like pumpkin carving and a hayride. The event concluded with a great dinner where mentors from different sessions met for the first time and new contacts were made. One of the highlights was knowing that our leftover food was going directly to



the Langsford House where the young, male residents got to enjoy a surprise feast. Marilyn Combellick, President of the Friends of Langsford House said they were thrilled and appreciative.

It is such a joy to be able to celebrate successful seasons at HorsePower but even more joyful to share in fellowship with old and new friends who have the same hearts full of love for God, children and horses. Here's to a fabulous holiday season and a mighty and amazing new year!

Shannon Gammon, HPEL Administrator & HorsePower Instructor

HorsePower '08, Mark Your Calendars!

It's never too early to mark your calendars and start recruiting new volunteers for HorsePower. Below is the 2008 HorsePower Schedule for your information. We are thrilled to already have signed contracts from Marrilac for 2008.

Spring Session: April 1 – May 15
Tuesdays & Thursdays 4:00 – 5:30pm
Tuesdays & Thursdays 6:00 – 7:30pm
Make-up classes: Weeks of May 19 & 26

Summer Session: June 3 – July 17
Tuesdays & Thursdays 4:00 – 5:30pm
Tuesdays & Thursdays 6:00 – 7:30pm

Make up classes: Weeks of July 24 & 31

Fall Session: September 2 – October 16
Tuesdays & Thursdays 4:00 – 5:30pm
Tuesdays & Thursdays 6:00 – 7:30pm
Make up classes: Weeks of October 20 & 37

Last-Minute Gift Idea...

It was written recently that “most of the time, people choose purchases for themselves and only buy things that they expect to value at or above the price they pay. With gifts, by contrast, recipients end up with items that givers guess that the recipients might appreciate. Both activities generate spending, but not of equal benefit.”

In other words, the odds are unlikely that you're ever going to buy somebody something that brings them as much pleasure as what they could buy themselves. The best gifts it would seem, are therefore cash, or something that is difficult to measure with traditional cost-benefit analysis, like say, charity.

So here is a plug for you last-minute gift-givers to give a gift to HorsePower in the name of your gift receiver. It's fast, it's easy, it's smart (and tax deductible), and it's a whole lot more likely to please your recipients than going down to the mall and picking out yet another candle or bottle of hand lotion. Plus it just feels good! For more information about the card your recipient will receive or how to get it to them (or you) before Christmas, email horsepower@kc.rr.com or call Shannon at 816.246.8730.

