



2022 READY TO WORK! RECAP

This year has been a busy one for all of Ready to Work! We were able to bring back all of our students in all levels, which included 5 Level 1 classes, 3 Academy classes and 16 students served in level 2. It is great to have our students back at the Ranch and working within the community. We are grateful to all our families and partners for believing in our students and supporting their success. Many of our students secured employment and/or continued their journey of furthering their education.

In this edition, you will read in more detail about what's been going on within our program this last year and exciting things upcoming for this year. We look forward to 2023 and all the new opportunities that will arise for our students.

NOW ENROLLING FOR 2023!

We have openings in our Level 1 & Academy Classes beginning in March and April. Level 1 is the prerequisite for all other levels of the program. Our Level 1 runs on the weekdays & weekends in 15 week cycles. If you know anyone that you feel would be a good fit for the program, please feel free to reach out!

Camryn Gelfo, Program Coordinator
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Level 1
Student:
Briana
Reyes



Level 2
Student:
Luke
Spinelli



RTW!
Academy
Student:
Jacob
Tatlock

LEVEL 1

We completed four Level 1 classes in 2022 and one class that will wrap up their session in February 2023. Totaling 15 students we have served within the Level 1 program. Each student in this program comes to Carousel Ranch for 15 weeks to enhance their skills and learn the basics of employment. Within the program, our students get to partake in a wide variety of work experiences. This year the students refurbished benches, put on Tack Sales, groomed horses, conducted car washes, and grew many different veggies and plants in the greenhouse (including, cucumbers, cherry tomatoes and wild flowers). In addition, the students worked at a variety of events including Carousel Ranch's Annual Heart of the West and Concerts in the Park. We find these experiences valuable for our students who are starting out in the program. They are eager to learn about different jobs within the community and ways they can use their skills to make a difference.



Saturday's current Level 1 session working hard on their weekly tasks inside the classroom and outside on the ranch!



Pictured above are Level 1 classes that finished during 2022!

We currently have one Level 1 class in session on Saturday (3 students), and are starting 2 more in March. The Saturday class began in October and have already participated in several work tasks including cleaning up donated tack to sell in the Tack Shack, planting California wildflowers in our Ready to Grow! greenhouse, and painting pumpkins for our annual Express Pumpkin Carving Contest! They look forward to finishing their class and moving onto the next step. Many of the students who completed Level 1 this year have moved into our Level 2 and/or Academy program. We love watching our students discover their skills!

We are always enrolling for classes. If you would like to be involved with Ready to Work! please reach out.

LEVEL 2

Here at Carousel Ranch, our Level 2 students are doing great things! Within Level 2, the students work at an individual pace to work towards accomplishing their specific goals. Our students are working on a variety of different goals including, employment, advancing education, personal finance and independence. Level 2 gives students a chance to follow their own path and accomplish the goals they have set for themselves. Their Level 2 instructor helps them find that path and direction, while creating a space to try new things. We are incredibly proud of all of their hard work and dedication to achieving their goals!

Some highlights for Level 2 students include:

- Christian H. employment & CA drivers permit
- Emma P. employment
- Marie O. employment
- Robert R. CA drivers permit

In addition to the many job changes, volunteer opportunities and independent skills achieved by our Level 2 students, we currently have had three students participate in our supported employment program at Chevron. We are happy to partner with their incredible team who is dedicated to celebrating neurodiversity!



Level 2 students Jacob , Christian, Marie, and Luke working at the Ranch and in the community.

RTW! TACK SALES

At Carousel Ranch, we strive to find meaningful off-sites where the students can practice some of the job skills they have learned in class. Rosewood Equestrian Center in Santa Clarita has been an amazing place for our students to show off what they have learned! Students plan the tack sale event by gathering, cleaning, and inventorying the donated tack to be taken, participate in the tack sale by providing customer service and running transactions, and help with clean up after the event. These tack sales allow students to get first-hand experience selling merchandise to people they are unfamiliar with. Students practice their planning and execution skills while working this event and have expressed how useful it is to get hands-on experiences like these. We are forever grateful for Rosewood Equestrian for providing the space for our students to learn and thrive! As always, all proceeds go right back into the Ready to Work! Program.

We are always looking for exciting off-sites to better our student's overall experience and add to their awareness of community resources and employment opportunities!



We are currently accepting lightly used tack for our program! If you have something you would like to donate, let us know!

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READY TO WORK! ACADEMY



Carousel Ranch's Ready to Work! Academy program... strong! Our two spring classes graduated at College of the Canyons in August (*pictured right*). Our students successfully completed their certification in Customer Service or Warehouse Management and Fulfillment. This was the second graduation of we have hosted for our Academy students.

We are currently offering certification-based courses in Customer Service as well as Warehouse, Logistics and Fulfillment. Student participation includes both a classroom portion at COC, alongside a practicum/work experience. We started a new Customer Service class in October. For this cohort, students started at Holiday Inn Express and will finish at Pet Supplies Plus. We are so thankful for our partners for turning this program into a fulfilling, experience-based course!

In the coming months, we will be offering new classes and curriculums to students who have completed our Level 1 program. We cannot wait for the continued development of this program and success of our students!



The current cohort is in their 13th week of class and have gained so much knowledge about the nuances of Customer Service during their classroom time as well as their practicum sites at Holiday Inn Express and Pet Supplies Plus. We find having work experience partners allows the students to become familiar with different work environments and businesses they could work for in the future. For example, at Holiday Inn Express, the students worked in the various different departments including housekeeping, the front desk, and food service. This hands-on learning allows the students to incorporate the material learned in class at their practicum site. The continuation of this program is made possible by Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger. In the future, we hope to offer classes on culinary and automotive! We appreciate all of the support from families & students, as well as the continued support from our community!



“ We saw so much progress with Emma through the program. She was opening up, feeling less anxious, making friendships and learned how to work as a team, the importance of being patient, and the value of respect. All the traits we need in the workforce. There aren't any words to describe how amazing the staff at Carousel Ranch are. ”

EMMA'S MOTHER



BRAND NEW RTW! VAN

We are excited to share our brand new Mercedes Sprinter Van, made possible through a generous grant from The Ahmanson Foundation. As the Ready to Work program continues to grow, each of our program components (Level I, Level II, Academy, etc.) has some combination of off-site engagement, such as business partner tours, job shadowing, work practicum experiences, mock and real job interviews, coursework at College of the Canyons, paid internships and employment.

This van, outfitted with a wheelchair conversion will enable us to provide transportation which will be a real game-changer enabling our students to have access to more opportunities and experiences. Before long, the van will seen around town branded with the RTW logo and colors.

A huge thank you to The Ahmanson Foundation and Mercedes-Benz of Valencia for making this dream a reality!



Carousel Wishes & Valentine's Kisses



We need your help in February! With a goal of \$130,000, we ask that you please donate, share, and spread the word of our annual Carousel Wishes & Valentine Kisses campaign. There are so many ways to help – from making a donation, to participating as a fundraiser (setting up a fundraising page and sharing through social media) or simply by eating lunch or dinner out and supporting our campaign partners. Through February, donations to Carousel Ranch will grow twice as big thanks to an up-to-\$50,000 matching donation from Wayne and Dianne Crawford. Truly, no gift is too small...\$10 becomes \$20, \$25 becomes \$50, etc. Every dollar adds up to make this month a success for our kids and ensure that our programs will continue long into the future.

Get Involved!

ALL MONTH LONG

- CAROUSEL CAKE @ WOLF CREEK (FEB 1- FEB 13)
- NOTHING BUNDT CAKES VAL-O-GRAMS (FEB 8- FEB 14)
- ELEMENTS MASSAGE- ADD AN ENHANCEMENT OR PURCHASE GIFT CARD
- MERCEDES- BENZ OF VALENCIA - \$1 OF SERVICE WILL BE DONATED

SPECIAL THURSDAYS

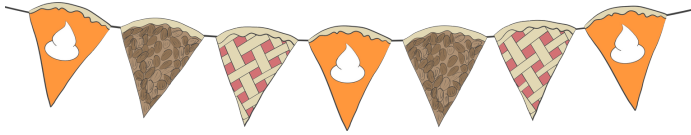
- FEBRUARY 2 - SALT CREEK GRILLE
- FEBRUARY 9 - WOLF CREEK RESTURANT & BREWING CO.
- FEBRUARY 23- MARSTON'S RESTURANT

**MUST MENTION CAROUSEL RANCH*

If you are interested in participating, please contact Taylor Adachi at tadachi@carouselranch.org

RTW! HOLIDAYS

FRIENDSGIVING



On November 17th, Ready to Work! past and present students joined each other for a day of fun, food, and festivities! We had 11 students and their families join us for this special occasion. Students brought homemade Thanksgiving dishes for a huge RTW! potluck! From cheesy potato casserole to the essentials like cranberry sauce and bread rolls, students enjoyed the company of their classmates, peers, and instructors while celebrating the holidays together. It was fantastic bringing together this many of our students for second annual RTW! Friendsgiving!



SANTA DAY



In December, our current Level 1 students participated in Santa Day at the Ranch where they worked hard to serve hot chocolate, coffee, and holiday treats at the Sweet Shop, as well as sell merchandise in the Tack Shack. Santa Day helps the students get more experience with customer service as they serve the many families of Carousel Ranch! This is an event our students look forward to every year, as it is a celebration of all students who have been served by Carousel Ranch. After the students worked, they were able to enjoy Santa Day themselves, by getting their faces painted and a trip to see Santa!



Thank you to our 2022 partners & donors for
your continued support!