

SPRING 2022

CAROUSEL RANCH

Quarterly Newsletter - Spring 2022



Program Highlights

U 7 new equestrian students were taken off of the waiting list.

U We have 3 more students starting in the weeks to come.

U Two full RTW! Level 1 classes, many in Level 2, and several back to working.

U We are excited to bring our RTW Academy classes back to COC mid-April!

Welcome to our first newsletter in a very long time! As you will see, there are so many exciting things happening here, we just had to share it with all of you.

As we enter the 2nd quarter of 2022, there is a renewed sense of hope for the future. Coming out of two years of dealing with the pandemic, loss of staff, loss of therapy horses and so much unknown...we now look forward with so much positivity for the future.

As we work to serve new students, train new staff and new therapy horses, things are beginning to feel a bit more normal here at the Ranch. Both the Equestrian and RTW programs are working hard to get back to where we were Pre-Covid.

So as you can see...things are truly looking up around here! Thanks to each of you who keep our kids in your hearts - we simply couldn't do it without you.



Carousel Wishes & Valentine's Kisses



What an amazing month February turned out to be! This year's Carousel Wishes and Valentine's Kisses campaign was truly a success! We are so incredibly grateful for all of the generosity shown to our kids throughout the

month! From personal donations and peer to peer fundraising to supporting our community partners, everything played a role in sharing our mission and raising funds for our programs. A HUGE thank you to Wayne and Dianne Crawford for continuing the tradition of pledging a match up to \$40,000 in donations!

Together we raised over \$115,000, with more donations still coming in! Your contributions have made it possible to offer scholarships, care for our hard-working horses, as well as create an environment for our students to grow in, and that is truly priceless. On behalf of the entire Carousel Ranch family, thank you for keeping our kids in your hearts.

“Carousel Ranch is a special place, different from a typical classroom and gym for therapy. It's a place where she can feel like a cowgirl on her own adventure; she can learn and grow with her horse at her own pace.”

- Cassie Pastor, Evie's Mom



THANK YOU FOR DOUBLING THE WISHES!



Wayne & Dianne Crawford!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

AGUA DULCE WINERY

C&A CAFE & CREAMERY

ELEMENTS MASSAGE SANTA CLARITA

THE LOCAL PUB & GRILL

MARSTON'S RESTAURANT

MERCEDES-BENZ OF VALENCIA

NOTHING BUNDT CAKES

RESULTS FITNESS

SALT CREEK GRILLE

WOLF CREEK RESTAURANT & BREWING CO.

Thank you for your ongoing support and loving our kids all month long!

On the Road to Recovery....

BACK IN THE SADDLE



The past two years have certainly been extraordinary, challenging us in ways we would have never thought possible. We are beginning 2022 with a renewed sense of hope for the future. The best news of all is that we have recently added new

equestrian students off of the waiting list, the first since February, 2020!! Truly nothing could be better than the feeling of seeing new children riding at the Ranch after all of this time!

The obstacles faced during this time have taught all of us so much about being resilient and creative in providing our services. Though much was lost during this time, we've learned to not only roll with it, but to embrace the talents of each and every one of our team who really bring their own strengths to the table. As a team we are small, but mighty, and we are serving those who may be small, but most definitely mighty.

As our programs evolve and expand, we continue to be proud of our ability to serve our students throughout the various chapters of their lives creating an individualized program for each, continuously adapting to their specific needs and goals as they change over time. For those who become too big to serve safely on the horse, we offer ground lessons, which is very beneficial using our unique equestrian environment to offer work experiences. These opportunities allow our students to make meaningful gains in strength, balance, coordination and self-esteem, as well as developing their soft skills with following directions, problem solving and teamwork to name just a few along with being good preparation for the RTW program. Having options to move students through equestrian, into ground lessons if/when needed and then for many into RTW allows us to meet their needs throughout not only their childhood but through all chapters of their lives.



*"His smile is everything!
Aaron was doing some work at Carousel Ranch and when he was done I was lucky enough to snag this pic! His happiness makes me so happy!
Carousel ranch has made a huge difference in his quality of life and so many others!"*

- Becky O'Dwyer, Aaron's Mom



RTW! READY TO WORK! VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM

With great determination, creativity and persistence, the RTW program continued to deliver services throughout the pandemic. A small but mighty RTW team maintained contact with all of our students and their families and did their best to deliver innovative services both virtually and in person when we could. During this time, the RTW program became a vendor of the Regional Center – something we had been working toward for over five years.

Today we are so proud to share that the RTW program is back to full pre-Covid capacity with two current Level 1 classes, 11 students being served in Level 2, 16 RTW students currently employed and many others volunteering, working toward their driver's license, etc.

Finally, we are excited to share that after a two year hiatus our RTW Academy at College of the Canyons has started back last week with 10 students enrolled in two certification courses. These are the first of several courses in development with this session's certifications in "Workplace Skills in Customer Service for Retail, Food Service, and Hospitality" and a second course in "Warehouse Fulfillment and Logistics".



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Sage Rudy



Sage has been with Carousel Ranch for many years. From beginning in the equestrian therapy program in 2004 to participating in Ready to Work in 2017, Sage has

always been up for a challenge. After completing Level 1, Sage stayed involved with RTW! and took part in various RTW! opportunities, virtual classes and even our RTW! Cooking Class. Today she continues her work in Level 2 with one on one coaching focusing on money handling, professionalism, and working toward her driver's license. In May of last year, Sage was hired at In N' Out Burger. Sage says she loves working there because the staff are friendly and she gets to meet new people every day. We are so very proud of Sage and how much she has accomplished. We know that with her hard work and determination, she has a bright future ahead.

"I really believe that RTW! helped me grow as an individual and in life with things such as money handling, professionalism, and how to keep a job. Now I am working towards my driver's license which will help me be more independent."

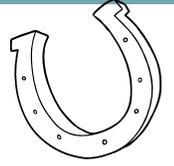
- Sage Rudy

*If you know of any one you think would be a good fit for the RTW program, please feel free to contact us!
cgelfo@carouselranch.org
661-268-8010*



Gabby

WELCOME TO THE HERD!



While the Ranch was closed earlier this year due to the holidays, weather and a few week Covid closure, our staff was busy searching for new horses to add to the program. Sadly, many of our beloved therapy horses are getting older and not able to take on the lessons that they were able to before. Unfortunately, as with everything right now, horses are hard to find and come with a hefty price. After months and months of searching have been fortunate, finding the perfect three to add to our team. We immediately fell in love with three new additions and are proud to introduce Coco, Gabby and Winnie!! Coco is a 6 year old Quarter horse with more whoa than go (which is perfect for the job). After only a week, Coco was ready for lessons. She is loving the work and all of the attention that come with it! Gabby is a 12 year old mule that is as smart as can be and eager to learn (not to mention very cute!). She just completed her training and began working in lessons just two weeks ago. The newest addition, Winnie just got here a few weeks ago and is a 4 year old Belgian draft. She is sweet and loves attention and is oh so cute. She's a work in progress and has just begun her training as a therapy horse. We have no doubt that all three of these girls will be amazing assets to our therapy program for many years to come.



Winnie

In Loving Memory

We all know that the last couple of years have been hard, and sadly the Ranch has been no exception. Unfortunately, many of our therapy horses are aging at the same time over the past two years, we've had to help too many cross the rainbow bridge. In just the last 4 months we've had to say goodbye to two amazing therapy horses, Mookie and Ebony.

Mookie was a part of the therapy team for 15 years! He was always our first choice when working with our smallest students and was as they say in the horse world "bomb proof", meaning nothing bothered him and he kept those little ones safely on his back. Because of his small stature the children weren't intimidated by him and he enjoyed the attention he received when they dismounted and came to say thank you to him. Mookie was such an integral part of so many of our student's lives, being many of our student's first horse. He touched so many lives and will forever hold a very special place in our hearts.

Although Ebony was only with us a short time, she had our hearts from the day she stepped off the trailer. Donated in September 2020 with her friend Sundance by Rick & Carol Karl, there was no doubt this sweet girl would fit right into our herd. She was kind and gentle as can be, the type of horse that immediately calmed your spirit and made you feel safe. Ebony was used for our students making the step from vaulting to riding in a saddle, helping them gain confidence as they took the next step to independent riding. She loved the snuggles and hugs she would receive from students, staff and volunteers.

While we will miss Mookie and Ebony so very much, their memories will continue to live in the hearts of our children and staff. We are so grateful for the time that we had with these incredible horses and for the impact that they made on the lives of so many.



MEET OUR BOARD!

Congratulations to our newly elected/re-elected Board Officers



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President

Express Employment Professionals



Alfredo Mendoza
Vice President

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Margie Shaffer
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Margie Shaffer and Associates



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Bryan Steiner
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Eric Stroh
Santa Clarita Concrete

Teresa Todd
Point of View Communications

Yvonne Waschak
Waschak Family Foundation

VOLUNTEER AT CAROUSEL RANCH!

Carousel Ranch is always looking for volunteers to assist in the work that we do in the equestrian program, for events and even in the office. As a volunteer, you will become a very important part of the Carousel Ranch team. If you are interested in working with us, please call (661) 268-8010 to schedule a time to visit or check out our website at www.carouseranch.org/volunteers



TYLER NGO

We met Tyler and his family when they generously donated their photo booth services at Heart of the West 5 years ago! They've continued to donate their time and equipment at Heart of the West and Santa Day. Last summer, he started helping in the equestrian program on Saturdays and quickly became part of the Carousel Ranch family.

STEVE PARR

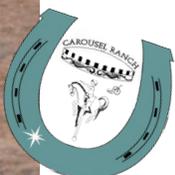
When Steve retired he started volunteering at Carousel Ranch and we are beyond grateful. He not only volunteers in lessons on Wednesdays & Friday's but he and his wife Ann also help during Heart of the West, our How the West was Won trap shoot event, and Santa Day. Steve also has a background in construction and so he brings those superpowers to the Ranch as well.



Save the Date!

HEART OF THE WEST *August 27th*

Join us for our 26th Annual Dinner, Auction & Children's Demonstration. Come & share in all that we have planned... a fantastic live and silent auction, a delicious dinner catered by Salt Creek Grille, dancing, and of course, a live demonstration by our amazing riders. All that we need to make it a perfect evening is YOU!



APRIL 2022

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