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HHLA NEWSLETTER 2020

Since 1999, Horses in the Hood (HHLA) has been introducing young people from Watts and adjoining communities to the joy of caring for and riding horses. The participants' experience can open their minds and hearts to never-before imagined possibilities.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we were not able to conduct our camps. As if that weren't challenge enough, Mill Creek Equestrian Center closed after 42 years of operation.

The good news is that Horses in the Hood is in a strong position to resume camps in a great new location once we get the go-ahead. Read on for the latest news....

HORSES IN THE HOOD is a non-profit public benefit corporation.
horsesinthehood.org

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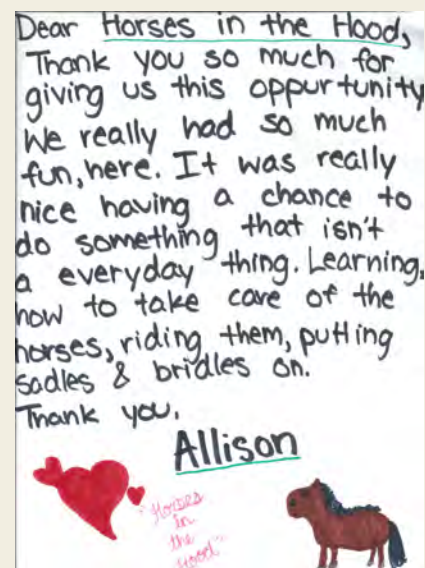
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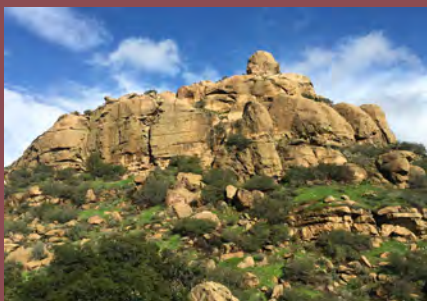
My first time on a horse was with Horses in the Hood. I'd never experienced that sense of peace and being one with a horse. The entire experience has been refreshing. Being taken out of my usual comfort zone and being placed into the comfort of nature. The atmosphere it provided for the kids and myself to get away from Skid Row, is something I don't take for granted.

—Matthew Bennett, Program Assistant
Union Rescue Mission





Our horses had the summer off



The view from Ride On near Stoney Point in Chatsworth

The wild ride that was 2020!

We had six camps lined up this year, but then the Covid-19 pandemic intervened and all the camps had to cancel, along with most organized recreational activities.

Meanwhile, Mill Creek Equestrian Center in Topanga Canyon was sold. HHLA instructors Vivian Hall and Jenna McEwan have opened their own riding school in Agoura Hills and we planned a move to a new facility nearby in Chatsworth.

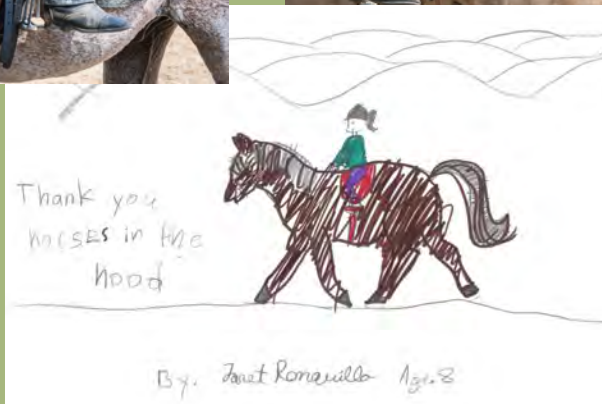
We will miss our longtime, scenic location and home at Mill Creek, but were able to arrange future horse camps with Ride On Therapeutic Horsemanship. They have been operating in Chatsworth for 25 years, teaching kids with disabilities as well as typical kids and adults to ride and care for horses. Ride On has a team of excellent instructors, volunteers and wonderful school horses. We are working with them to develop a long-term camp curriculum, while incorporating health department safety guidelines, with the goal of hosting HHLA camps next summer. Assuming things get back to 'normal' by then, Horses in the Hood will be ready to operate (along with our Pizza Parties!) at Ride On.

We are in solid financial shape and we have been in contact with our camp groups, reinforcing our connection and letting them know we look forward to welcoming them next year. Your past donations are greatly appreciated, and we are grateful for your continuing support.

HORSES IN THE HOOD

During my time at Horses in the Hood, it was an experience like no other. I went into the program having no skills working with horses, to having overall knowledge of caring for a horse. I was able to groom, saddle and ride a horse. Among those skills, you learn leadership by guiding the horse using the reins, on foot and in the saddle. This program is beneficial because it also challenged me to take on more responsibilities in caring for a large animal and using and storing the equipment properly. I recommend this program because it is educational and teaches children the responsibilities of caring for any animal.

—Jose Luis Luevano,
Watts Towers Arts Center
2013 HHLA participant



My experience at Horses in the Hood taught me about many things. It expanded my perspective and helped me understand the importance of nature. Being away from the city and being surrounded by trees and hills instead of streets and buildings was a radically different experience for me.

I was taught how to treat and take care of animals. I also learned about the importance of teamwork to enhance communication skills and I was exposed to different ideas and perspectives. I would often get stuck and not know what to do. But my friends and the staff taught me what to do and how to do it.

Horse camp taught me about leadership. The horses often would not go where you wanted them to, so you have to learn to guide them. I also learned about taking care of the horses.

I recommend HHLA camp to youths because it gives them new experiences. They can be free, away from the city and get to experience the rural lifestyle.

—Daniel Luevano, 2014 participant, Watts Towers Arts Center



For two decades we have witnessed how our city kids flourish when they are up in the hills with their four-legged best friends - it's pretty magical. We appreciate our partnership with Horses in the Hood and hope to keep on riding side by side for many more years to come.

—Jonathan Zeichner, Executive Director at A Place Called Home

Visit our website at www.hhla.org
or www.horsesinthehood.org

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MORE THAN EVER we need your donations so we can provide horse camp to inner city young people!

\$4800 sponsors a complete five-day horse camp for 12 participants.

\$400 sponsors one participant for five-day horse camp.

\$15.00 buys a copy of *Happy Horsemanship* for one camp participant.

\$_____ Here's my donation.

My gift is in honor / memory of (circle one) _____

Wear your support for Horses in the Hood. Specify quantity of each item.

Visor – black \$15.00 _____ Baseball-style Cap – black \$15.00 _____

T-Shirts – black, 100% cotton \$25.00

Youth Medium (10-12) _____ Adult Small _____ Adult Medium _____

Adult Large _____ Adult X-Large _____ Adult XX-Large _____

Total \$ _____

Make checks payable to Horses in the Hood and mail to:

Horses in the Hood (HHLA)

P.O. Box 573249, Tarzana, CA 913

Donations may also be made by credit card on our website, www.hhla.org – click on the 'Donations' link

Confirmation of your donation will be mailed to you. Donations are tax-deductible as provided by law. Tax ID #95-4628198 | Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of merchandise.



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FOUNDER'S MESSAGE – KATHY KUSNER

Continue the Joy of Horses in the Hood

This year, we had two big challenges: the Covid-19 pandemic which shut down most of the country for most 2020 and the closing of Mill Creek Equestrian Center, where we had our horse camps for almost 20 years.

We are grateful we had that time at beautiful Mill Creek. We will miss all the talented teachers, volunteers and the horses. Next summer, we hope to have our camps at a new location, Ride On Therapeutic Riding in Chatsworth. It will be a little different experience for our groups, but I think they will come away with good riding and horse care skills. And have fun!

Even though we didn't have the expense of camps this year, we have other costs associated with running HHLA: comprehensive liability insurance; an Administrative Director to keep things going and the production of our newsletter so we can stay in touch with YOU.

This is our only fundraising activity. All the money we raise goes to providing young people new experiences and unique, life-enriching skills at horse camp.

We hope you will support Horses in the Hood with a donation so that we can continue the honor of serving such worthy programs and the joy of bringing together young people and horses.

Kathy Kusner

Proposed Budget for 2021

\$28,800 for 6 camps @ \$4800 per camp

Includes Happy Horsemanship book for each participant and graduation pizza party

\$3110 transportation

\$6700 annual insurance cost for maximum coverage and major liability umbrella

\$3900 to produce and mail the annual newsletter

\$24,000 per year for Administrative Director, HHLA's only paid staff

Total: \$66,510

WHO?

Horses in the Hood, Los Angeles (HHLA) is a non-profit benefit corporation that has partnered with organizations and institutions in the low-income, largely African-American and Latino communities of Watts and adjacent areas since 1999. As of 2020, HHLA has sent 1411 at-risk youth to 120 horse camps.

WHAT?

Our goal is to continue to provide five-day horse camps, which are made possible by our donors. HHLA believes that individuals learn by doing and that education should be rewarding and fun. The shared experience of working with horses is conducive to forming emotional bonds and promoting personal growth. HHLA teaches the students new skills, which helps build self-esteem and confidence.



Visit our website www.horsesinthehood.org or www.hhla.org