

The Rundown

A Quarterly Newsletter

December 2021

Issue #12

Allerton Pony Ride Event

Excitement hummed through the air. Kids bubbled with it as they strained to see past the tables to the horses beyond. Four Unicorns and a painted Dragon waited beyond the fence, grazing to pass the time until their next rider arrived. Smiles abounded as children were lifted into the saddle and transported on a dream to the fields of a fairy tale. The horses walked quietly through the meadow at Allerton, transferring their strength to the riders on their backs. The motion of their body brings healing in the most subtle of ways. Even in the short amount of time it takes to get around the meadow, we can see a change in their faces.

Our pony ride event this year was a huge success. We look forward to doing it again next year!



A New Partnership

We have been working on raising money for new barn siding for about a year now. Hope Lives Youth Ranch has recently established a relationship with Rector Construction in Savoy, Illinois and they have decided to reside the barn for us! Their supplier donated the materials, Rector donated the labor, and our barn looks amazing! The new siding will keep our building sound and dry for many years to come. We cannot thank the people at Rector Construction enough for this investment into our program. Jesus continues to bless us as we grow. I can't wait to see what He will do for us next!



Residing is almost finished! For the completed look visit facebook.com/Hopelivesrr

A Successful Introduction

The horses and donkeys at the ranch inhabit two enclosures. Two of our horses, Winston and Cashew, and the donkeys, Mabel and Black Jack are together on the west side of the barn. The other horses, Faith and Cezar, enjoy the back lot and pasture on the east side of the barn.

Winston, our blind horse, is getting an eye removed this fall because of some painful irritation that cannot be healed. While he recovers from his surgery, I don't want him to have to worry about staying out of Cashew's way in their paddock during the day, so I decided to introduce Cash to Faith and Cezar, so he can join them during Winston's recovery.

When he first arrived at the farm, Cashew and Cezar had a pretty rough go of it. They spend the entire first day squealing and trying to strike at each other from across a gate. It was very nerve-racking. We decided they should never be in the same enclosure. But lately, the boys have been spending a lot of time together. Cezar and Cash began taking their afternoon snooze across the fence from one another. Their new peaceful relationship gave me hope for the future, so we started with Faith.

When it comes to horse personalities, Faith is vanilla. She seems like she gets along with everyone. I set her loose in the field with Cashew and she took off doing laps and kicking up her heels, happy to be in a new pasture. Cash tried to chase her around with his ears pinned to show her he was going to be king, but she ignored him and continued her jubilant celebration. He seemed confused and ran over to the corner to watch her for a second. After a few moments, he tried again, catching her down the long side of the field and trying to boss her around. She ignored him again. They finally settled in opposite corners of the field and that was that. Drama over, both horses occupied themselves with the grass and didn't bother one another again. Perfect.

The next day I put Cezar and Cash out together. They acknowledged each other's presence with the flick of an ear and started to graze like they had been pasture mates for years. I couldn't have been happier! I don't think I have ever seen such a mellow introduction. Later that afternoon, I put the three out in the big East field together. It felt so good to see the three big horses out together and happy. Cashew wasn't even worried about where his donkeys might be (on the other side of the property). It could not have been easier.



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Also Find Us on Facebook and
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www.facebook.com/hopelivesrr/

www.instagram.com/hopelivesrr/

How We Are Funded

Every session at Hope Lives Youth Ranch is free of charge. However, we request a donation from students to cover babysitting charges incurred by our director, Emily Reichmann. We are a registered 501(c)3 and are funded solely through solicited donations and the generosity of our community. 100% of the funds donated to Hope Lives Youth Ranch are used to care for the horses and to create a safe environment for the children we serve. If you would like to donate to our program, go to www.hopelivesyouthranch.org/funding or mail your contribution to: 976 E 2250 North Road, Monticello, IL 61856.

Notice! We have a new web address.

We renewed our website address to better reflect our name. You can now find us at www.hopelivesyouthranch.org