



Horsin' Around The Ranch



Heartland Youth Ranch

Spring 2016

by Susan Schauer

What is Heartland Youth Ranch? What is Heartland Youth Ranch all about what do we really do? So many people tell us "that's so great what you are doing out there." When asked what we do most people respond, "You know, teaching children how to ride horses." That is true; we do give children the opportunity to ride horses and to be honest, if we didn't have the horse program not very many children or families would come. It is hard to admit they like the horses better than us. That's just the way it is. But just riding horses is not what we are about: it is a drawing card but not the real reason Heartland Youth Ranch exists.

I have shared in previous newsletters how Heartland Youth Ranch got its start and how God has laid on our hearts to carry out this work. So, if you have not heard our story just ask we would be more than happy to share our beginning with you.

Being called to a ministry is a bit scary. Ok a lot scary, at times shaking in your boots scary, crying buckets of tears scary, wanting to turn and run as fast as you can scary. It's learning to trust the God who has called you and stepping out in faith and trust. Like the verse says in 2 Corinthians 5:7a, "For we walk by faith, not by sight." I kind of understand that in my Christian walk. I can't see God, yet I know Him and believe in Him and do hear from Him through His word and the whispers of the Holy Spirit. But this ministry thing I want to know what it looks like, know

what needs done. In other words, I would like some written instructions. Maybe a ministry map would be good or a ministry Garmin to tell us what to do next and when to turn right or left or around.

I have to admit I do regress at times. I probably would have made a good Israelite. If you don't know what an Israelite is, read Genesis and Exodus. They are talked about a lot in there. They are God's chosen people. Spent a long time as slaves in Egypt; it was a hard life. Long hours without pay but they did have food. They kept crying out to God to deliver them and so He did. Ahh freedom, sweet freedom, and what did they do... grumble, look back and wish they were back in Egypt because there was food there. HELLO, you were also slaves! How fast we forget. I have to admit I am like the Israelites. I have looked back before the days of Heartland Youth Ranch. At times I have longed for the old life when I had a full time job and the security of a paycheck. You see, at Heartland Youth Ranch we do not charge anything for our services nor does anyone get paid monetarily. We do receive lots of hugs and words of encouragement and so many blessings from the Lord. Many in our society consider the security of a job freedom, but is it really or do we become slaves to earning more and more because we long for more? More what? More things, more power, more prestige? Do those things really bring freedom or do we then become slaves to those very things?

When I get my eyes back on God, as the old song goes, "the things of earth grow strangely dim." True freedom is found in Jesus. Surrendering all I am and all I have to Him. I look back and long for the old life less and less. Are things always easy? No! Do I get scared sometimes? Yes! I walk in faith and He gives me what I need for today, and tomorrow He will give me enough for tomorrow.

So back to the question - what do we do at Heartland Youth Ranch? I now answer that question with this: "We change lives!" Actually a better answer would be that we allow God to change lives. Mine being the first one He had to work on. I know I am not the person I was when we started Heartland Youth Ranch and I know He's got a lot of work to do in me yet. I celebrate the work He has begun in me and look forward with anticipation for Him to continue His work. We share the love of Jesus at Heartland Youth Ranch, that undeserved, unlimited, unconditional love that transforms lives.



UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS AT HEARTLAND YOUTH RANCH

March 12: Annual leadership training for volunteers and fund day for youth

April 1: Riding season begins

June 2016: HYR Annual Barbecue Fundraiser and day camps
(dates to be announced)

HYR Mission Statement

**Encouragement for
the child,
Healing for the family,
Empower the ministry,
Care for the equine.**



Heartland Youth Ranch is a 501c3 public charity. Heartland Youth Ranch provides a place for children and their families to find hope, healing and encouragement. Heartland Youth Ranch offers an environment of unconditional love and acceptance founded on the belief that we are all created in the image of God. A place where visitors will learn respect for themselves, others the animals they work with and the environment we live in. Heartland Youth Ranch is a faith based ministry founded on the belief that the Bible is God's inspired Word. A place where lives can be transformed through the love of the Savior. A place where the freedoms we enjoy in our country and the beliefs that it was founded upon are celebrated and appreciated and we support the men and women who serve in our military. Our values of good work ethics and honesty are evident in all ranch activities and we demonstrate these principles to all who visit Heartland Youth Ranch.

One aspect of our ministry is rescuing horses and these horses are used in our program. Something unimaginable and profound occurs when a human begins a meaningful, emotional and interactive relationship with a horse. Horses help us discover hidden parts of ourselves. They cause us to become better people, better parents and better friends. We serve children seven years old and up and their families and we do not charge anything to participate in our program.

We are excited to participate in the Big Give again this year. Funds received will be used to care for the horses in our program and to create some areas around the new barn and arena for visitors to have a special place to sit and enjoy the environment.

Connect with Heartland Youth Ranch!

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