

HORSE  TALES

NEWS FROM

FEB

★ REIGNING GRACE YOUTH RANCH ★ 2015



Welcome to the
Winter/Spring
Session!

Where Redemption Runs Free

Volunteer/Mentor of the Month - Heidi Schultz

Heidi goes out of her way to make people feel accepted and needed. She is a charismatic spirit that loves to see people change and grow and she is selfless. She recently married her best friend Jeffrey and instead of taking the shower gifts, she and her husband made it a shower for Reigning Grace Ranch. There are so many other things that Heidi has done for Reigning Grace and its program, but we just don't have the room to list them all. We are pretty darn lucky to have this girl on our team. She is such a blessing to the Reigning Grace Family!

RGR: How do you volunteer your time at Reigning Grace Ranch?

Heidi: I am a mentor at RGR.

RGR: Why do you like volunteering your time at Reigning Grace Ranch?

Heidi: I love spending time at the ranch because the ranch is my family. It is the best part of my week. I love everything about the ranch, from the time I spend with my mentee, the relationships with other mentors, the horses...I could go on for hours on the ranch.

RGR: What is special to you about Reigning Grace Ranch?

Heidi: I love the ranch because I see the difference it not only makes in the children that come there, but in myself.

RGR: What is your favorite part about Reigning Grace Ranch?

Heidi: My favorite part of the ranch is the changes it makes. Changing lives is the biggest influence you can have in this world. To change just one life can make a huge impact. RGR will never know the impact it has made in not only the children that come, but the mentors like myself.

RGR: How much horse experience did you have before you came to the ranch?

Heidi: I had no horse experience prior to the ranch, yeah I was raised on a farm and yeah I spent a lot of time at Arabian horse shows with my cousin, but never had an interest in animals let alone horses. When I first heard about the ranch I felt called to go to the information meeting as I have spent many hours mentoring children in the past (back home in Nebraska), when I moved to Arizona I lost that part of me. It's truly the biggest part of me and the part I hope goes in my obituary one day. When I came to the information session held by Amanda and Chris I choked through the whole thing, praying that I could hold back the tears (which of course I couldn't) because it hit me hard. I knew when I left that this was the PERFECT place for me. I was nervous at first admitting I came from Nebraska, lived on a farm and knew nothing about horses. Now I call myself the "horse whisperer" but we all know that I'm nowhere close to that yet. There sure is a lot to learn about horses but I couldn't imagine a more perfect place to learn!!!!

RGR: If you could tell people the first word that comes to mind when you think of the ranch what would it be?

Heidi: FAMILY.....and I'm gonna add a little more...because it needs to be said. If you feel like you're missing something in your life and aren't quite sure what it is, come to the ranch! That is what I always tell people. :)

RGR: Why should others volunteer at the ranch?

Heidi: Volunteering anywhere helps you develop into a bigger and better all-around person. It helps you appreciate what you have, what you don't and it pushes you to another level you may have not known you had inside you. The ranch specifically will change your life, open your eyes and the best thing, OPEN YOUR HEART. Deep down we all want love and there's no better place to receive LOVE than RGR.

RGR: What made you successful at the ranch?

Heidi: Well, I wouldn't consider myself successful at the ranch, but I'm learning. It's not easy to mentor, it can crack your heart in a million pieces, bring you to your knees but ALWAYS make you reach for more. I've always believed success isn't measured by what you have in your bank account, but how much of an impact you have made, even if it's one person. It can change the world.



Where Grace Abounds

Horse of the Month - Joshua's Dream

by: Joshua's Dream

I was penned at the backside of the property, in a 10'x10' stall, barred from ceiling to floor; a big black horse, weighing in at about 1000 lbs. (underweight) and 17 hands tall, with very little access to sunlight and forbidden to move in my containment. My head hung low in the corner and my eyes spoke of abandonment and pain. I—son of Johannesburg and great grandson of Secretariat—had sustained a severe injury to my front right leg, resulting in some permanent loss of motion in the leg. Sadly, this affliction could have been remedied or even avoided. But because of the repeated, forced, driven damage, it was now irreversible. At the peak of my career, I had a six-figure income and was a quite talented racehorse. Once garnished in wreathes of roses and applauding fans, I now stood invisible in the shadows of a dark stall. I was only six years old.

One afternoon, while a team of RGR volunteers were meeting, the telephone rang. An anxious man on the other end explained that he needed help. He and his wife had spent the last ten years rescuing hurt and broken racehorses from the tracks in California. They had provided us a second chance at life, saving us from an otherwise fatal end. A rewarding experience, yet now all of his financial resources had been depleted. He was losing his home, and thus the safe haven for his beloved Thoroughbreds. With 25 horses on his property, a home in foreclosure, and nowhere to turn, he called for aid.

As they toured the ranch, I struck one's interest, but would not acknowledge her presence. Over the next several weeks she could not get me off of her mind or her heart. My shadowy, haunting figure meandered continually through her thoughts with increasing awareness. Fortunately for me, she called my owner and requested that I be brought to reigning Grace Ranch permanently, but what good would I, a lame horse, do at a children's ranch?



In wise anticipation of the long ride, I was somewhat sedated so I wouldn't be in pain. Eager to move from my pen, I moved through the maze of stalls and aisles that were home to the remaining Thoroughbreds at the farm. With labored walking, I held my head high as I proceeded through the barn with dignity. I displayed no pain, nor exhibited any sign of weakness. I was a magnificent animal with a triumphant heart, clearly ready to move on to greener pastures.

Little by little, I gained more range of motion in my leg and for the first time, I had hope. I simply needed someone to believe in me. Today I frolic, play, tease and love. Not to brag, but I am a favorite of the children who visit the ranch.

It is laughable now to look back at my initial struggles and doubts, wondering if I could do any good at a children's ranch. In our mentorship, I have seen rough boys who, at the onset, appear unreachable by humans. Many of our kids have known what it means to be invisible, they understand how it feels to be used and thrown away. But once they hear my story of redemption, they identify with me, and a bond is formed in that moment. With their own stories of survival and courage, they realize they are not alone. I console them with my soft muzzle and tell them, "I understand your story, but don't give up. God wastes nothing."

It was by no accident that I was meant to be a walking miracle at Reigning Grace Ranch. The official registered Jockey Club name given to me at birth is "Joshua's Dream." Appropriately, Joshua in the bible means GOD RESCUES. Indeed, He does!



Where Love Heals



Ways you help Reigning Grace Ranch!

Frys Community Rewards Partner - Hey ya'll did you know that we are now a Fry's Community Rewards Partner? If you do not have an online account click on the link <http://www.frysfood.com/> and register and then follow the directions to add Reigning Grace Ranch. Every time you shop at Fry's a percentage of your purchase will go directly to the ranch!

iGive! - Did you know by shopping online at your favorite stores using iGive, those stores will donate a percentage of your purchase to Reigning Grace Ranch without any additional charge to you? <http://www.igive.com/0LgSHUA>

Callin' all Wrangelrs! – We are in dire need of some devoted folks willin' to “Be Our 100!” We need just 100 supportive “Angels” to pledge to donate a minimum of just \$10 a month! This'll help us wrangle up some good grub for them horses! (That's only \$10 – the cost of 2 Starbucks drinks!) You can send a check or visit us online at www.azrgr.org – “How You Can Help”

Amazon! -We can't keep this wonderful program running without your support too! Will you support Reigning Grace Youth Ranch? It takes 20 seconds to sign up and doesn't cost you a thing. A small percentage of what you spend will be donated to the ranch. Check out the link and learn more about Amazon's giving program. <https://smile.amazon.com/>