

FROM THE STABLE

*The official word from Scenic Hills Youth Ranch
The Ranch of Discovered Purpose*



WELCOME TO SCENIC HILLS YOUTH RANCH!

BY JOCELYN DIETSCH

Have you ever had a dream? I often look at a wall hanging in my living room that reads, 'Don't dream your life, Live your dreams.' While not Biblical, it does put life into perspective. We get to live this life once. What are we living for? When God unexpectedly brought me back to the Midwest in 2014, I knew He had a greater plan. He gave me glimpses and also a promise. As my brother and sister-in-law made the trek from CA to WI with me, I heard God whisper, to find your life you must lose it [But you who give up your life for me will find true life. Matthew 16:25 EHV]. You see, this life, this God-given life is not about us. It is about Him. We can easily get caught up in the craziness of everyday life and the goals of what success might look like to each of us. It is often in the simple that God says, come to me that you may have life and have it to the full (John 10:10). If we truly want a full life, we need to surrender our every moment to His calling. The body of Christ is made up of many people with different gifts and callings. So don't run and quit your job, but take time to reflect, slow down and see how you can serve right where you are. SHYR is run by a village of volunteers and perhaps, you might even find a spot here to serve and learn more about our incredible Maker who died and rose again that He might be able to know you!

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VIEW FROM A BOARD MEMBER

By Gloria Brunner

Greetings! I am one of the Board members of SHYR. I will share with you a little about how I came to be part of this ranch. I have known Jocelyn for approximately 30 years. My husband and I joined the same church that Jocelyn's parents attended shortly before our son was born. One of Jocelyn's brothers was the same age as our son so both families shared many church activities together.

One night last January 2018, Jocelyn invited my husband and I over for dinner. It was a wonderful time and delicious meal. Reminiscing and learning of her desire to serve the needs of youth, she told us about her experiences of Christian mentoring at a horse ranch, and her vision of God's plans here for a youth ranch.

I retired from a law enforcement career in 2017 and understood a lot of what Jocelyn was seeing with disheartened and lost kids. I too have seen it. Broken homes, drugs, alcohol, and a sense of worthlessness, no hope, trust, or faith. I was excited when she explained what her long term goals were and knew the need was definitely there. God knew Jocelyn was the right person for the job! Shortly after that night, Jocelyn asked if I was interested in being a board member. **Yes! There wasn't a second of hesitation. Here I am Lord, Pick Me! I was tickled to be part of this!** After the summer sessions, Jocelyn advised us of the need for fall sessions, and implemented them. As we anticipated in one of our first board meetings, there is a need to increase our herd from two horses, to four. We are currently working to find our third horse. **We know there will be other changes, because this is a work in progress: God's work in progress. Join us as He leads our incredible journey!**



NEWSLETTER NAME: FROM THE STABLE

WHAT'S IN A NAME...

But you don't even have a stable! It's true, we do not currently have a stable or a barn. We have a lean-to area that the horses can seek shelter in when the cold winds blow or a storm rolls in but we do not have a stable. So why is our newsletter called *From the Stable*? Two reasons: True love (Jesus) was born in a stable or maybe a barn, but either way it had animals and he was laid in a manger. A stable is a humble dwelling where the Lord began his human life on earth. We have been blessed to begin this youth ranch while truly owning nothing. It has been nothing short of God's grace and mercy as He has built a sanctuary of peace and hope on borrowed land. Jesus borrowed a place to rest his head when he was born and Scenic Hills Youth Ranch, in it's infancy, is also borrowing a place to lay our heads. Someday, God will guide us to the land and place He has for us. Until then, we are eternally grateful that He saw fit for us to start here. It's a testament to God creating something out of nothing, just like when He created the world. Secondly, I've always loved the saying, 'if you want a stable relationship, get a horse.' God has given us His magnificent creatures, these horses, who are creating stability, hope, love and relationship in these kids lives as they mirror the love of our Father to these participants.

WHO ME? A MENTOR?

BY CONNIE STONE

When I first saw the Facebook post in May looking for volunteers for Scenic Hills Youth Ranch, I thought, "What? This is new. Where is it? Who is it? What are they all about?" After reading more, I learned *what*—kids learning to ride horses while working with adult mentors who show them God's love; *who*—it was Jocelyn Dietsche's vision; *where*—just a couple of miles from Sand Creek; *when*—8 sessions for about 2 hours during the summer - one adult, one kid, one horse.

I thought, I can do this! I'm retired. My schedule is wide open. I live nearby. I have lots of experience with horses and ponies growing up on a farm. Our family of 5 kids got our first pony when I was 10. I am the oldest and we added more steeds as the other kids showed an interest. We were involved in 4-H, did trail rides and some amateur shows. We mostly had fun with them around the farm and trails through the nearby hills. It was all about play. I don't think we ever had formal riding lessons!

As an adult, my husband and I raised two sons. As part of that raising, I was the volunteer teacher for our younger son's confirmation classes at church. We met every week during school months for 3 years from 7th - 9th grade. And my class was 10 boys! We made it through and we all learned from it, even though during some sessions it seemed we were moving backward instead of forward. There are LOTS of things going on in the hearts, minds and bodies of boys at that age.

On my first day with my first 'participant'...ALL my concerns disappeared. I was in tears at the end of the first session...I was being blessed so much more than any blessing I could give...

After many years of being horseless, I bought a horse for me. I missed the affectionate nuzzle of a soft horse nose! My horse was boarded miles from our home so I didn't see him often. I also learned that I didn't bounce when I was bucked off. And it took me much longer to heal.

All this to tell you I was concerned I didn't have what Scenic Hills was looking for in a mentor. Not enough formal riding training, limited experience with kids other than my own, too old, not agile enough, will I know what to say to them to help them learn and be comfortable around the horses and the other adults?

On my first day with my first 'participant' who happened to be a boy ready to enter 7th grade, **ALL my concerns disappeared! I was in tears at the end of the first session. I was overwhelmed at the flood of emotions I had. I felt I was being blessed so much more than any blessing I could give to my new ranch participant.** It was all about the smiles, the hugs, the teasing, the learning and **we were able to cast our cares on Jesus and have fun.** Jocelyn (SHYR) must have thought my first assignment was working out very well. Before I could protest, she had given me the privilege of working with another participant. This time, I got a girl!

We had an absolutely blessed summer together. I am grateful to SHYR: the director, board members, mentors, participants, contributors and family members. And, thanks to our horses, Mikki and Taffy, for being patient with us as we learned. I look forward to all that God has in store for us at Scenic Hills Youth Ranch NEXT summer!



Thank you for your support and encouragement through our first season of sessions and serving kids. We had the opportunity to serve seven kids this past summer with seven mentors who volunteered over 4,000 minutes or 70 hours mentoring (not to mention the hours spent training horses, training mentors, building and planning!). We ended the season with our 1st Annual Scenic Hills Youth Ranch Wrangle! Over 100 people came to the ranch on September 15th and had the opportunity to celebrate and see what our kids learned while riding in sessions over the summer. We had a potluck, played games, took photo booth pictures and enjoyed wagon rides with a team of Percherons! God's grace has been so good to us and we hope to continue sharing His incredible love with everyone who steps foot on the Ranch in 2019.

Support is always available through the PayPal link on our website or by sending a check to the Ranch.



Our most commonly asked question: How can we help!

Join us in prayer for the following:

Thankfulness for all God has done and direction in all He will do

2 horses to add to our herd who will be good with kids

Favor with the IRS as we await word on our 501(c)3 status!

Mentors as we begin accepting applications for Summer 2019 in March

Participants as we begin accepting applications for Summer 2019 in March

Supplies and safety for upcoming projects: Building a bigger riding arena; building raised gardens for the kids to work in and take produce home from; 2 lightweight youth saddles; 2 snaffle bridles

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