



Morning Star Youth Ranch

Winter 2008 MSYR Newsletter

From the Director By Diane Odell

What is it about change? Change has always been difficult for me. It leaves me anxious for a time. Even changes that I know are for the best or even good for me still leave me struggling to find that sense of order or balance or familiar feeling again. As things at the ranch continue to change, to take shape, to move toward the vision He planted in my heart years ago I am frequently reminded that I am not the director here, He is. All things move in His time and in the order and schedule He has planned. Learning to surrender to His plans and His time has been stretching and frustrating for me over the last few months, but oh what treasures and blessings He has bestowed on Morning Star over this past summer.

Our volunteer base has grown in numbers and depth. Projects of both building up and tearing down have not only been productive but a lot of fun. With the removal of our old hay barn the area is now cleared for our needed office and with a large door



in the side of Arcy's barn our winter hay is now safely stored away. Our faithful mentors in training are growing both in proficiency and in number with some nearing completion of their training. Thanks to many hands and earth moving machines 3 of our 4 arenas will have safe footing and our 2 remaining horses could be at the ranch by the end of the year.



Our prayer walkers have also grown in numbers and boldness as we praise Him and beseech Him on behalf of the children, horses, mentors, volunteers and projects. We have delighted in warm summer evenings of worship and prayer, and enjoyed each other's company over good food.

We have had numerous opportunities to share our vision with our community. We were the beneficiaries of the California Dressage Society benefit horse show and a fundraiser at Stacked Stone



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At one point and with great patience, Diane made a circle in the arena sand and drew what would be the horse's movement to execute this maneuver. Then Diane suggested that I pencil out the movement on paper as many times as I needed to understand the operation. I went ahead and did this and also penciled in where I would be in this equation.

I now realize how the mentor's shoulder must be positioned parallel to the horse in the beginning as she is pacing around the arena and then we make the backing up movement while facing the middle of the horse and exchanging hands with the stick and inviting the horse to move in the opposite direction. The more I look at this maneuver the more I realize what a finely tuned piece of choreography it is - with a little bit of geometry thrown in. The body needs to exhibit certain expressions and positions, or the horse

will scratch its head wondering what you are up to. We've all had this happen.

When the reverse movement is finely tuned it is a beautiful thing. I think it is like all things that look very smooth and effortless. That is, when an accomplished musician plays - it seems effortless, but there is a great deal of effort made to get there - hopefully not as much as it will take each of us to learn the reverse maneuver! I was proud of the day I had a break through and really "got it" about this movement.

Andrea Hobbs
 Mentor in Training

NEW ADDRESS
 Morning Star now has it's own mailbox and physical address. Please note the change and update your address files. Change can be exciting! **NEW MAILING ADDRESS:**
 1385 EXLINE RD.
 PASO ROBLES, CA 93446

Cellars. We also attended the grand opening of Atascadero Hay and Feed. We have been truly blessed!

As summer changes to fall, the barley has been harvested, the cows with their calves have returned to the ranch, days shorten, trees change colors and winter coats return. Much stays the same as we cycle through another year, but as this one draws to a close the changes are evident as Morning Star grows and takes shape. He is faithful, in growing and changing me, our horses, the ranch and those He chooses to bring here. Thank you to each and every one of you for your hard work, support and encouragement. May you feel the blessings of His love and peace as we give Him thanks, celebrate His birth and look forward to next year with hope and confidence in Him.



Meet the board

Our Reluctant

Vice-President Jani Meyers

My story of getting involved with Morning Star came through a series of divine "coincidences." I had no intention of being a founding member of a new nonprofit organization back in 2005 when I was introduced to the wonderful book, Hope Rising. This book so touched the heart of my friend, Karolyn, that she decided to visit Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch where the true-life account of Hope Rising took place. Crystal Peaks was offering their 1st Information Clinic to help other interested

parties start similar horse rescue with youth type programs. Karolyn invited me to travel with her to Oregon to attend the clinic. I had no real interest other than getting to spend time with my dear friend. I also planned to collect the information to give to another dear friend in Colorado, named Diane, who had long dreamed of doing such a program. We invited Diane to come but the timing was not right.

"Working with a horse means first of all working on oneself." Klaus Ferdinand Hempfling

I mailed all the Clinic info to Diane along with the book in hopes of bringing her back to California. I helped Diane where I could to make connections with people who would support such a ministry. I simply started sharing Diane's vision along with the book Hope Rising with people in the *social circles where I was involved.

At this point in time my heart was simply available to help a friend. I still had no desire to become involved with a new non-profit...too much time and work I kept telling myself. At a San Miguel Resource Connection meeting I announced Diane's plan of starting a ranch program for kids. An out of town acquaintance named Rick, asked to speak with me more about it after the meeting. Rick then explained he had been holding onto a shell of a non-profit for 10 years, unsure of what to do with it, after the ministry had decided to end their program. The non-profit was named, Morning Star Ranch, and had \$10,000 sitting in the bank. Rick went back to his board and they agreed to transfer Morning Star Ranch to our newly formed group of volunteers! Wow! Okay God, this is an unmistakable green light for Diane to move here but I am still not sure I should get involved.

I was also trying to help Diane find a

location for the ranch program. I mentioned this need to a small group of folks who were meeting in my home. Among them were Matt and Amy Linn, whose parents I had known for many years. Matt exclaimed, "Why don't you talk to my parents? They have always wanted to do a program with kids like this on their ranch!" I couldn't believe my ears. I immediately arranged a meeting with Carl and Arcy Linn to meet Diane and hear her heart for this program. We were at their home for what seemed only five minutes when Carl and Arcy excitedly asked, "When can we start?" I thought, wait a minute, don't you need to know more about this? Shouldn't this be harder? I could feel God's big grin and tug on my heart. See Jani, I will use you even if your heart is unsure or unwilling.

Donations
Please use the enclosed envelope to contact us regarding donations, to request a tour or volunteer application. Or feel free to contact the office @ 805 226-2859

Diane was ready to go to Crystal Peaks' next Information Clinic in 2006. We invited some women who we hoped would become a part of Morning Star. I was not going to attend, since I was only helping and not really involved. Diane reserved spaces for six women to attend! At the last minute 2 ladies from Colorado were unable to come but their workshop spaces were paid for. So, guess who came at the last minute? Yep, ...the reluctant "supporter."

God continues to show me I am to be more than a supporter. My husband Pres, encourages me to listen to what God wants. Pres and I recently visited Crystal Peaks where we got to see their ranch in "full swing" filled with the laughter of children, loving attention of mentors, and joy of recovered horses. My heart has since been captured and convinced that I am to be more than just a part of this new non-profit called, Morning Star Youth Ranch.



Monthly Events
Prayer walk - 1st Sunday afternoon of each month (November thru March) 3pm-4pm
Board Meeting - 2nd Thursday of each month 7pm
Mentor Training - 3rd Saturday of each month - time varies
Ranch Community Training - 4th Saturday of each month - time varies

Prayer
Prayer is a vital part of MSYR and we appreciate all of our prayer warriors who faithfully uphold all of us working to birth this vision.
If you would like to be part of this important team and receive our prayer requests via email please return the enclosed envelope or email us at Kathy@morningstaryouthranch.org

Mentor Moments Learning to Dance



I keep asking myself, of all of the "Dancing with Horses " moves - why is the turnabout, or reverse the most difficult? I have heard other mentors mention the same, although some have learned the movement very well. There were times when I felt that this move was going to get the better of me, but Diane and I became determined that I would "get it."