



Morning Star Youth Ranch

Summer 2009 MSYR Newsletter

From the Director By Diane Odell

Great is the Lord and Greatly to be praised. Our mighty God has been visibly working at Morning Star since our last newsletter. As we have prayed and waited, labored and trusted from the time Morning Star began, finally this April, all our horses and facilities were moved to the Linn ranch. We are no longer split between two ranches. We will be forever grateful and thankful to the Hansens for their generosity in keeping and caring for our horses and facilities at their ranch and providing a safe place for mentor training till preparations were complete and the timing right for the long awaited move.

Thank you to all the helping hands that joined together to safely move arenas, corals, horses and miscellaneous equipment up the road and finally home.



Having all our horses and facilities at the ranch and having safe facilities for both children and horses is an exciting next step in the life of Morning Star. As mentors finish up their training we will be able to welcome more children to the ranch.

Please call for an appointment to visit the ranch or to be added to our waiting list.

Tack Shop Miracle

Prayer is a privilege and an exciting means of communicating with our Heavenly Father. For over a year now we have been meeting monthly, along with anyone desiring to come to the ranch, to thank and praise our Lord for who He is and all He is doing in our midst. We also beseech Him for wisdom and guidance as we move forward and bring our needs and desires to Him also. To our delight, our prayer walks have provided us with an exciting history of Morning Star. What follows is just one of many miracles we have been privileged to witness:



805-226-2859
 email: info@MorningStarYouthRanch.org
 www.morningstarYouthRanch.org

Morning Star
 Youth Ranch
 1385 Exline Road
 Paso Robles, CA
 93446

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 PASO ROBLES CA



Since then I have had the privilege to be mentored just as the children are - to experience what happens

between a person and a horse - to find myself changing as I have to face who I really am inside. I wear many hats: on the board as the treasurer - a mentor-in-training - unofficial photographer - office/computer work - and general laborer at times.

I will never tire of seeing a child's face light up when they have spent time with a horse. I will never cease to be awed when one of our horses turns and graciously interacts with a child. I will always be thankful for the family God has given me through the friendships of all the MSYR folks.

My most favorite thing is watching the horses (and mini, donkey and goat) interact with each other and with us. Each one is unique - so thanks Indy, Libby, Hannah, Whisper, Selah, Fire, Anya, Teaspoon, Billy, Midnight and BC (barn cat). I am now an official horse person! How do I know? - Because my friend Matt bought me a cowboy hat (although he laughs at me cause I don't wear it very often - I don't want to get it dirty). Maybe I still have a ways to go.

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

As Kathy and I were preparing for our monthly prayer walk we were made aware that we were in need of western saddles to display for sale at our used tack shop at the San Miguel Flouring Mill. We added this request to our prayer sheet and thought little more about it. Tours are also part of the life of Morning Star and a fun and interesting way of sharing our vision and meeting new folks interested in what we are doing at the ranch, but we never schedule them on Sundays. Saturdays are often good days for tours, however try as we may this one tour would not fit on any other day but Sunday after the prayer walk. So amidst my complaining I consented to meet these interested visitors just as the prayer walk would be ending. During the prayer time we enjoyed a picnic lunch, singing our praises and bringing our request to Him. We not only prayed for a saddle, but one ready to sell (no cleaning or repair necessary).

As we hiked out of the back meadow and up to the highest hill on the ranch to conclude our prayer walk with a panoramic view of the ranch, in drove my scheduled tour. With a hasty farewell to our prayer warriors, Kathy and I raced down the hill (the first miracle experienced-- as with my knees, racing down hill is not possible) to meet our visitors. We greeted each other,

had a great time sharing and touring the ranch, and just before leaving they presented us with a donation of tack including a beautiful, like new, western saddle and saddle pad.

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

An answer to our prayers was in the works long before we uttered a word. Not only were our prayers answered then, but also in placing the saddle at the tack shop

on Monday morning - saddle and pad were sold the very next day for just the amount needed to cover an unexpected expense.

Board of Directors Change

The board of directors of Morning Star Youth Ranch wishes to thank Norm Cone for his years of service, time and talents in serving on the board during the formative years of the ranch as he retires from the board. We also wish to welcome Sandi Rose as our newest member. She has already jumped in as manager of our used tack shop located at the San Miguel Flouring Mill.

Sandi brings with her many skills and talents as she spent 29 years working as a court manager. She has also worked as a CASA volunteer, was involved with the Special Olympics, and helped children in the juvenile court system. She is dedicated to fulfilling the mission of MSYR and is in training to be a mentor. She and her husband Lou have lived in Paso Robles for over 18 years. We are pleased and excited that Sandi has joined us.



New Additions to the Family

At Morning Star part of our mission is to adopt horses in need, either to come to the ranch to minister to children or, right now, to help train our future mentors or to find loving homes where each horse will fulfill their potential and find joy and purpose in their lives. This last month we have been able to do both. Our newest "Equine Counselor", Anya, a beautiful 9 year old bay mare was actually donated to us last September. We were unable to give her a

home at the ranch at that time due to lack of facilities. However, we were able to find her a home with a dear friend who loved on her and worked with her till her 4 yr old daughter was riding her bareback on a lunge line. Now Anya is home with us at the ranch. She is sensitive, kind and loves being with anyone who will spend time with her. You can read more about Anya's story on our website and see her pictured with Sandi in this newsletter.

Another "angel" finding a home at the ranch recently is Buddy, a precious little flea-bitten gray gelding that Carl has adopted as his own horse. Buddy's previous owner sadly became ill and recently passed away. This cute little guy, although much loved at his last home, has some foot issues so it will be a few months before Carl and his new "Buddy" take off on the ranch trails.



**Meet the Board
Our Surprised Treasurer Kathy Whitacre**

I joined Morning Star by "accident" - well at least that's what I thought at the time. I didn't know the life changing impact it would have on me. Although not a horse person myself, I had come to appreciate horses through my long time friendship with Diane. I was fascinated by her dream of reaching children through horses.

Diane and 5 other ladies were scheduled to visit Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch - at the last minute two of them couldn't go, so

Monthly Events

Prayer Walk - 1st Sunday afternoon of each month 3:00 pm
Board Meeting - 2nd Thursday of each month 7:00pm
Mentor Training - 3rd Saturday of each month - 8:00am

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

I was invited. As I got in the car I was handed the book "Hope Rising". I sat and read the whole book on our way to Bend, Oregon - thought it was nice - but probably embellished to make a good story. I was really just along for the fellowship of my friends.

The conference started on Thursday morning - by Friday I hunted Diane down and told her if she wasn't going to start a ranch like this I would find someone who was and get involved. What changed me in 24 hours? Seeing that CPYR was the real deal - meeting the horses and people who were in the stories I had just read. Watching the way Troy and Kim Meeder treated their staff and volunteers - seeing their hearts in action. (I can't now read "Hope Rising" without crying)

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