



Morning Star Youth Ranch

Fall 2009 MSYR Newsletter

Challenges That Lead to Blessings

Life is full of challenges! But with each one, God continues to increase our faith and draw us ever closer to Him.

Late one evening, just before going in for supper, I noticed Fire was not eating like all the other horses. Colic had reared its ugly head at Morning Star. After conferring with our local veterinarian, it was clear that without hospitalization Fire would not survive the night. Our prayer warriors went to work as we drove south to Alamo Pintado Vet Hospital in Los Olivos. We arrived just after midnight, and Fire, like the lady she is, faced her challenge with patience and grace. Thankfully, Fire did not need surgery; she stayed for two nights receiving wonderful care.

Although Fire recovered completely, her ordeal confirmed our need for another horse



Cooper

with her skill and patience with children. God led us to Cooper, a big, stout, gentle gelding with patience, curiosity and joy. We had been praying for such a horse since we first began receiving horses at Morning Star. Read more about the challenges Cooper is overcoming on our website.

Our little three year old Whisper who has struggled with immune system issues



was diagnosed this past summer with stomach and colon cancer. She maintains a joyful, willing attitude, exercises with enthusiasm and greets visitors with interest. Please keep her in your prayers as she continues to respond positively to treatment.

See some pictures of Cooper and Whisper on our web. www.morningstaryouthranch.org



805-226-2859
 email: info@MorningStarYouthRanch.org
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Morning Star
 Youth Ranch
 1385 Exline Road
 Paso Robles, CA
 93446

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

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



In June four of us, Bill, Carl, Sandi and Diane, from Morning Star were invited to Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch in Bend, Oregon to attend their annual information clinic. We shared information and experiences of getting a youth ranch started. We met amazing people with a heart to serve our Lord. It was a rich and wonderful experience to retell the stories of how God had faithfully built and sustained Morning Star over the last three years.

Thank you Kim, Troy and staff for sharing your incredible journey with us and so many others.

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After much prayer about what to do with the generous donation of a mobile home, God made it clear that it was His provision for permanent housing for the Director. I was able to purchase the home from Morning Star and Carl is graciously providing the land to set it on. Amazingly, in just two months, God has brought about the permits, grading, construction of the adjacent garage, and set up of the double wide! Thank you for your continued prayers for electrical service and other necessities so that we can be in before winter.

Finding hay for the right price to fill our barn for winter feeding is a test of stewardship and patience. We praise God for bountifully supplying this need. Our barn is filled with feed for our animals for the year ahead!

That which fills us with joy can also be challenging. Wondering how to find a meaningful work project for the ten third graders that visited the ranch in October was a stretching experience! We were amazed to see them fold a thousand brochures, rid the garden of weeds, and still have time to visit with the horses, especially enjoying little Teaspoon.

Meeting the challenges set before you can certainly strengthen you and build your faith and confidence. May each of you find strength and hope, knowing that the challenges before you are for your growth. May they draw you closer to the One who loves you with a love that surpasses all understanding.

At Morning Star part of our mission is to adopt horses in need, either to come to the ranch to minister to children or 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.

Reflections by Carl Linn

The Highlight of 2009, for me, was our trip to Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch in Bend, Oregon, the first week in June. It was like a four-day worship service for me. That is the way Troy and Kim and their family live and operate Crystal Peaks. I could literally feel God's love flowing from that place. I'll admit I was a little envious of the whole ranch and their staff and location - just beautiful! Then, I realized that God has blessed us with an equally beautiful and unique place here, and even more with the amazing volunteers who have given so much of themselves to making this a safe and fun place for the kids who come here. Each volunteer has unique talents and stories. They show these young people that there are folks who love them just the way they are who will actually listen to what ever they want to talk about.

God's love is flowing from here, through these humble people. Amazing grace! Thank you Jesus.



Jon's First Ride

Jon was positive that he was ready. He had learned over the last few weeks how to halter his horse, lead confidently, groom



immaculately, place his saddle pad and bareback pad in just the right place and tie the cinch up just snug. He and Fire had become good friends. Yes, I agreed it was time for that first ride. Providentially, on this particular day Jon's mother had accompanied him to the ranch. It was now time to don his hard hat and make his way to the mounting block. Very uneventfully he settled himself down on Fire's back and proceeded into the small arena, but the smile on his face said it was not uneventful, it was an enormous accomplishment. To know in your heart you have done a difficult thing very well is greatly satisfying to your soul, but to share that moment with someone who means a great deal to you is ever so much sweeter. A big smile and thumbs up! Way to go Jon!!

Meet our new Garden Project Coordinator



One of our dreams for Morning Star has been to refurbish the old homestead garden area of the ranch. Spending time with children in the garden is a great way

Monthly Events

Prayer Walk - 1st Sunday afternoon of each month 2:30 pm
Board Meeting - 2nd Thursday of each month 7:00 pm

for them to see the fruits of their labor quickly and also provide a tasty reward. Additionally, producing food is just another way Morning Star can be supporting our community. This last spring, thanks to many donations, over 20 fruit trees were



planted and a drip system installed along with deer fencing to surround the designated garden area. What we have been missing is that special person with knowledge and passion willing to oversee all the necessary components to make this dream a reality. We thank the Lord for answered prayer and welcome Delisa to our busy group of volunteers. She is energetically taking on the challenge of preparing our garden for spring planting. She will be developing a team to build raised beds, put in a watering system, build and fill compost bins and take on the battle with the gophers. Much work is now going into design and layout. Many hands make light work and volunteers are always welcome. Volunteer applications may be downloaded from our website.

Out of the Mouths of Babes
by Bernice Bernhardt

Entertaining a precocious five-year-old sister of a child taking part in a mentor session, one day, kept me and two other volunteers hopping. She and I walked around the ranch visiting with the animals as I listened to her non-stop chatter. Suddenly, out of the blue, she very matter-of-factly asked me, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" That unexpected question took me by surprise, to be sure. I quickly evaluated the little, boisterous five-year-old and searched my brain for an appropriate answer. "I want to be a cowboy," was all I could come up with on such short notice. To which she adamantly said, "You can't be a cowboy. You are a girl. You have to be a cowgirl." I had to agree with her. The wisdom of a child-one moment dwelling in their imaginations, the next deeply entrenched in reality. Children can take us by surprise - be prepared.



Morning Star Youth Ranch would like to thank all of our volunteers and donors for your time, love and support.

We at Morning Star wish you joy and peace as you share this Thanksgiving and Christmas season with those you cherish.

JOY



Cooper

... what we do is only worthwhile if it is done in a spirit of joy and adventure, for ourselves and for our horses KFH

**MORNING STAR YOUTH RANCH
RESTORING HOPE AND TRUST
IN YOUNG PEOPLE
AND HORSES**



Kids Corral

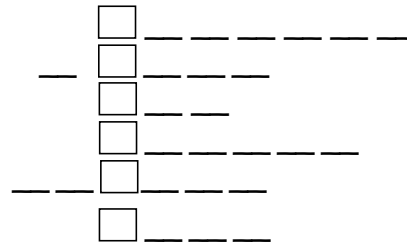
Learning to interact with horses and know them takes on many forms at the ranch. We encourage each young person's individual expression, and encourage and challenge growth in a variety of forms.



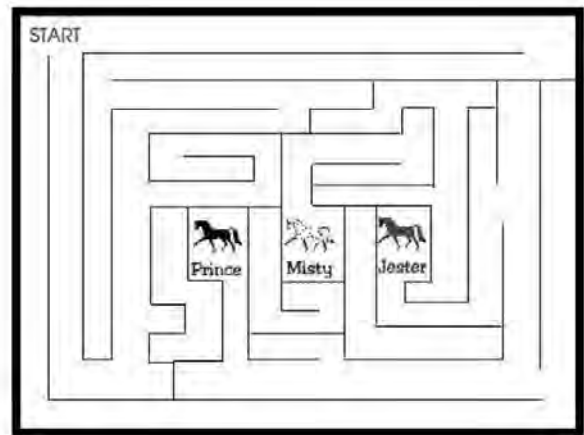
Mystery Word

Answer the questions to find the mystery word.

1. What you wash a horse with
2. The breed of horse with patches of color
3. A color of a horse that has a stripe down it's back
4. A horse like animal with large ears
5. What is put on a horse's head to lead it
6. What part of a horse's body notices you first



Art by Savy, Age 9



Which pony can you take on a trail ride?

Scrambled Words

Unscramble the words to name the colors horses can be

1. aorn _____
2. ksbcukni _____
3. aby _____
4. tcenhstu _____
5. papdglary _____



Riddle submitted by: Savannah

What animal goes to sleep with its shoes on?



Kids Corner Answers

Mystery Word Answers 1. Shampoo 2. Paint 3. Dun 4. Donkey 5. Halter 6. Ears Mystery Word: Saddle
 Scrambled Words Answers 1. roan 2. buckskin 3. bay 4. chestnut 5. dapplegray
 Answer to the riddle: a horse of course