We give God all the glory for this place called Wings of Hope Ranch. As you know, we use rescued horses to help minister to the children who come here. We also have a theme-based devotions time each week, where we share the Gospel with the Ranchers, in hopes of leading them into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

God has blessed us beyond measure by giving us the ideas for our themes as well as providing the resources to create lessons for each session’s devotion time. Some of the themes in the past have been on Creation, The Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes, Fruit of the Spirit, and Super Heroes of the Bible. We give praise that during the Spring 2017 session, six children accepted Christ as their Savior!

The Fall 2017 session theme will be Building Relationships – Starting with God. We will begin the session by talking about what it means to have a personal relationship with God and how we do that. In the following weeks, we will talk about how our personal relationship with God is the basis for our relationships with our friends, family members, neighbors, strangers, horses, and even our enemies!

God’s hand, as always, was in the decision for this theme. Brad Shultz, program director at Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch (the model of our ministry), spoke at our Ministry Clinic this summer. Among the many seeds he planted was the importance of pointing out the glory of God in everything around us in such a way that those we are ministering to will desire a personal relationship with Him. We will be bold! We plan to offer the Salvation message, not just at the end of the session, but every week! We thank you for your prayers for this ministry!

For the past several years, Joyce has led the important task of creating child-friendly devotional lessons for the Ranchers. These lessons help bring the Bible to life for the youth participating in our program and take place in small groups before or after working with the horses.

Inside This Issue

| Message from the Executive Director | 2 |
| Praise Report and 2017 Wish List | 3 |
| Ranch Ministry Clinic | 4 |
| Volunteer Spotlight | 5 |
| Hoedown for Hope | 6 |
| Fund for Hope Update | 7 |
| 2017 Calendar of Events | 7 |
Greetings Ranch families and friends!

We have experienced so much goodness this year it is hard to put it in to words! We want to thank God who worked through His people this year to bless and support this ministry. Thanks to increases in volunteers and session supervisors, our Spring 2017 session was our biggest season yet with 55 ranchers served per week.

Most praiseworthy, we had six ranchers receive Christ this spring during our devotional times! As a result, we are in the process of organizing the framework for new believers to receive Baptism and for their families to get plugged in to one of the incredible local churches in our community. This is a new step and layer of ministry we all agree is needed to continue to grow and disciple the families God sends us to minister to.

Operationally, thanks to the generosity of many people, we will save about $2,500 in 2017 due to our mowing being done by two volunteers. Due to the mild winter, many farms found themselves with leftover hay in the barns while the new hay was being cut and soon to be delivered. This turned out to be a huge blessing to the Ranch, as we have received hundreds of bales of donated hay, possibly saving us another $3,000 in 2017.

We have been blessed with so many new and wonderful volunteers with unique and special skills to offer the Ranch. These amazing volunteers stepped up to supervise sessions, installed new electrical outlets in our barn so each horse could have a fan during the hottest days, installed lights in our shed, replaced the motor on our hay elevator, retrieved and unloaded hundreds of bales of hay, and so much more.

Finally, this June, we hosted our third annual East Coast Ranch Ministry Clinic, which drew more than 70 people for two days of education and fellowship (see article for more details). God is sending us people to minister to but He is also asking us to reach out and encourage others across the USA who are running similar ministries.

For me personally, over the last decade I have learned that God knows me in unique and personal ways, so much so I have come to understand He has an incredible sense of humor and can delight me in unexpected ways. One of the ways He delights me is through eagle sightings strategically placed and planned to encourage and surprise me. I could drone on and on with examples of this BUT at our East Coast Ranch Ministry clinic this June, I stood in the riding ring watching Rachel Shultz teach a lesson entitled “Worthy Boundaries.” As she taught (and Samson was an excellent model student), a vulture flew over the riding ring. I thought to myself, “Wouldn’t it be fantastic if God had a bald eagle fly over us next?”

Then I got back to paying attention to the class. About 10 minutes later, as we were finishing the session, Patti Bryan, of Walk on Water Horses in Florida, grabbed my arm and said, “Did you see the eagle cloud?” What? I looked up and saw the most perfect flying eagle in the clouds over us. I snapped a photo to share before it disappeared. Some saw a dove of peace, but for me, I knew it was an eagle, and I also know God was up in the heavens saying, “She asked me for an eagle, I sent her one, and now she is about to miss it!”

This fun and truthful story also drove home one of the main take-a-ways I had after the clinic weekend, GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US. If He feels far away, it is because we have moved A Message From Our Executive Director continued on page 3
2017 Ranch Wish List

The following wish list items, listed in order of importance, are things that would be a huge blessing to us!

Please contact Wings of Hope Ranch if you have any of these items to donate. We will happily give you a tax deductible in-kind donation receipt for your gift!

- Items for our annual silent auction which is part of our 2017 Hoe Down for Hope, October 14 (favorite items include gift certificates, jewelry, upscale craft items, special giveaway trip, horse paraphernalia, unique services to donate)

- Lots of participants representing Wings of Hope Ranch, beneficiary of the Ashland Harvest Run (5K and 10K) and Pumpkin Walk. Visit our events tab on our website for more information www.wingsofhoperanch.org

- New or like new 4-wheel drive ATV or Small Tractor (automatic, 23 horsepower, front bucket, and four-wheel drive)

- Mechanic/moving company to move and set up a donated car port to provide shelter for horses when in the pasture during hot or wet days

- Supplies and workers to assemble a cinderblock shavings collection area

- Heavy Duty Gorilla or similar brand 10 cubic foot dump cart

- Newer Spreader brand Manure Spreader model number 225

- Quarterly Landscape Grounds Team to help keep the ranch tidy and maintained

- New or like new hay elevator/conveyor (we already have a new motor for it)

- Gift certificates to Ashland Feed Store, Montpelier Feed Store, Champion Saddlery or Tractor Supply

or we are not looking up. He is there and with us every step of the way. Joshua 1:9 “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

We cannot help but feel we are in the palm of His hand here on this grassy knoll called Wings of Hope Ranch. Pray for us to continue in His service, with His goals and missions in mind, in ways that point more people to Him.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our MANY events this fall that keep this ministry financially afloat!

Praise Report

Special thanks to Ellen and Keith Brooks for donating eight, personalized halters for the rescue horses with each name embroidered to help identify tack gear for our herd. Orders can be placed through our friends Bruce and Linda Warner at Champion Saddlery.

Thank you to Walmart volunteers from the Culpeper store who drove a long way to participate in spring clean up day at the Ranch!

Gratefully,

Alison Boyd,
Executive Director
Cars and trucks pulled into the Wings of Hope Ranch parking lot early on a cool June Saturday morning and more than 70 people from as far away as Texas, Florida, Missouri, and Oregon made their way up the driveway to our third annual East Coast Ranch Ministry clinic.

The scent of a hot breakfast wafted from the porch and praise music played in the background. Special guests Brad and Rachel Shultz from Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch greeted people as they arrived, anxious to glean the wisdom and enthusiasm they sought for their existing or soon-to-be-started similar ranch ministries.

Wings of Hope Ranch is one of more than 200 similar ministries in the USA and 12 countries around the world. The common thread for each is that we were inspired by the little anointed book Kim Meeder wrote called Hope Rising. The book chronicles Kim’s life, her long journey with God and Christ as her savior, and the creation of the inspired ranch ministry Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch in Bend, OR. The true story shares the mystery of the healing power of God working through horses, and in this case, rescued horses. Kim’s inspiring book in the hands of another faithful believer and lover of horses, over a period of about 15 years grew to the 200+ ministries that exist today.

To help people get started, Crystal Peaks offers two leadership clinics per year to help those who would like to launch a ministry of their own, and to support and educate the ministries modeled after them. Our clinic was designed to pull together those people in ranch ministries on the East Coast to share ideas, wisdom, experience, and fellowship.

Our volunteers exceeded expectations as they welcomed new and old friends to the ranch, shared meals, horse training techniques, herd management tips, insurance insights and so much more. But perhaps most powerful were our times of worship, thankfulness, and the shared testimonies of how Jesus shows up personally for each of us as we walk with Him and His plans for our respective ministries.

The ranch served up meals, shared our barn, riding ring and horses to demonstrate all sorts of horse related educational topics. The nearby Shalom House retreat center served as our meeting space for classroom-based sessions. Little did Betty know her little ranch would not only bless hundreds of families who come weekly to participate in this ministry on her property during her twilight years but also serve as the meeting space to encourage hundreds of people around the country in similar ministry!

It is a real-life Field of Dreams story orchestrated by God Himself! We look forward to hosting a similar event in 2018 either at the ranch or one of the other similar ministries on the East Coast.

1 Thessalonians 5:11:
“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”
Five years ago Rick Bourque saw an advertisement seeking volunteers for a Saturday morning Clean Up Day at the Ranch. He called Executive Director Alison Boyd to share that he had a tractor and a mower he could bring, if needed.

That day, Rick ended up burying his mower in the mud by the pond, and ultimately, cutting more than 10 acres of pasture on his 60” zero-turn mower.

And he was hooked.

“I’m a computer geek. I’ve done well for myself building a career fixing computers. So coming to the Ranch is a whole lot more interesting than what I do every day for paid work,” said the volunteer, who is known as The Hayride Guy at events like the Hoe Down for Hope.

While most volunteers at the Ranch are eager to work closely with children or horses, Rick prefers to stay behind the scenes.

“I am a typical computer guy. I’m quiet. Just do what I can in the background, then disappear. I show up when I’m needed,” said the Hanover resident.

Rick spent time around animals most of his life. His uncle raised Thoroughbreds so he is familiar with horses. He also spent time as an animal control officer when living in Florida. His stories range from chasing loose monkeys, alligators, and horses that would get out and into a neighborhood development during the night. He met his wife in Tennessee before moving and settling down in Richmond after a work transfer with Owens & Minor. Today, Rick owns an IT company and is drawn to helping small businesses and nonprofits.

“My specialty has become nonprofits and churches. They are always short on cash and try to patch something to get by. Same as the Ranch! At the end of the day you feel like you’ve made a meaningful contribution,” said Rick.

On this hot day in the middle of July, Rick is fixing the motor on the hay elevator that is necessary to load hay into the loft over the barn. He is not interested in his picture taken but in the middle of this interview he has a side conversation with Alison, who is loading hay. She mentions that she is looking for a donated lap top for a volunteer who has been driving to the library to use the public computer while doing the scheduling of all the ranchers using Excel.

“I have one,” said Rick. “That’s easy.”

And he continues our interview without missing a beat.

Rick is a true servant leader. If there’s a problem he offers as a solution. If there’s a way to fix something broke he’s the first to show up. He knows that ultimately his time, talents, and treasures at the Ranch are going to help rescued horses and children in need. And he prefers to do all of this without any fanfare. Rick is also seeking other men to join him in the physical labor!
Wings of Hope Ranch
PRESENTS
Hoedown for Hope
AND SILENT AUCTION

October 14, 2017
3:00-7:00 PM

WINGS OF HOPE RANCH
14505 WEST PATRICK HENRY ROAD • MONTPELIER • VIRGINIA • 23192

For more information or to purchase tickets in advance visit:
WWW.WINGSOFHOPERANCH.ORG

Adults: $20 • Children 16 & Under: $10 • Families: $60

All ticket and silent auction proceeds benefit Wings of Hope Ranch.
Wings of Hope Ranch is a 501(3)(c) non-profit organization/ministry that pairs rescue horses with children facing conflicts or challenges to teach each other to love and trust again. Our organization is funded by individual donors and fundraisers. A financial statement is available upon written request from the Virginia Office of Consumer Affairs P.O. Box 1163, Richmond, VA 23216

LIVE MUSIC BY MOUNTAIN ROAD WEST • Q BARBECUE DINNER • KIDS GAMES
CRAFTS • HORSE DEMOBONFIRE • S’MORES • CORNHOLE • AND MORE!
Fund for Hope Exceeds Goal

We did it! Thanks to many individuals, businesses, and community organizations, we exceeded our first-ever annual Fund for Hope goal by more than $7,000. Our initial goal of $25,000 was set last fall and $32,300 was raised by June 30. We are humbled by the generosity and contributions of every person who made this possible. Your support allows us to continue serving children and families facing challenges at no cost to them. Including the ability to provide outstanding care for our amazing rescue horses; without them this ministry would not be possible. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

A financial statement for Wings of Hope Ranch is available upon written request from the Office of Consumer Affairs at P.O. Box 1163 Richmond, Virginia 23218

Wings of Hope Ranch - 2017 Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER 5: Fall Rancher/ Volunteer sessions begin

OCTOBER 7: Rehab the Ranch Day (fall cleanup day for volunteers) 9 a.m. to noon

OCTOBER 14: Hoe Down for Hope and Silent Auction 3-7 p.m.

OCTOBER 21: Ashland Harvest Run/Walk (proceeds to benefit the Ranch) 8 a.m. to noon at Ashland Carter Park

NOVEMBER 4: Trail Ride at Millstone 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Quinton, VA

NOVEMBER 11: Fall Rancher sessions end

DECEMBER 2: Rehab the Ranch Day (winter cleanup day for volunteers) 9 a.m. to noon

DECEMBER 9: Deck the Stalls (Live Nativity and tack sale) 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

To register or volunteer for any of our 2017 events, visit www.wingsofhoperanch.org, select the “Events” tab, and find out more!

Wings of Hope Ranch
14505 West Patrick Henry Road
Montpelier, VA 23192
Mailing Address
P.O. Box 1674
Ashland, VA 23005

MISSION
Wings of Hope Ranch is a Christian organization that rescues neglected horses and rehabilitates them to provide a horse ministry, free of charge, to children facing conflicts and challenges.

VISION
We strive for an environment where both volunteer and horse model God’s unconditional love and acceptance. We seek to love, encourage and share hope with everyone while providing a place where all people feel welcome, safe, and accepted just as they are. We pray the ranch is a place where children who come hurting leave each week seeing their true beauty, value, and self-worth.

CONTACT
804.833.8903 ext. 2
www.wingsofhoperanch.org
wingsofhoperanch@aol.com

Wings of Hope Ranch is a Christian 501c3 non-profit corporation, that relies solely on the generosity of volunteers and sponsors. These men, women and youth are the life-blood of the ranch and we could not operate without their time and resources.

Would you consider becoming one of our volunteers or sponsors?

Volunteer applications are available at www.wingsofhoperanch.org.
If you select Wings of Hope Ranch as your Amazon Smile charity, we can earn money every time you shop on Amazon!
Go to www.smile.amazon.com and select Wings of Hope Ranch as your charity once logged into your Amazon account.

Wings of Hope Ranch Guiding Scripture Verse

“He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler.” (Psalm 91:4 NKJV)

Girls Scout Troop Building Sensory-Friendly Area for Ranchers

Cadette/Junior Troop 5285 is partnering with Wings of Hope Ranch to earn their Silver and Bronze award. The girls are working in conjunction with Ranch staff and Occupational Therapist Wendy Atkinson to help restore an area of stalls and reconstruct them to be sensory play areas for ranchers.

The girls are working on creating a number of portable care kits that can assist special needs children with sensory issues when they are visiting the ranch. They are also creating a Parent Resource Area. The girls are working on this project for the 2017-2018 academic year and hope to raise $5,000 to complete the project.

The troop welcomes cash donations please contact Troop Leader Brianne Jackson at newhorizoned@gmail.com if you would like to sponsor one of the items needed for the play area. They are also accepting donations of books and other reading material for parents, dealing specifically with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Wings of Hope Ranch Statement of Faith

A place where Jesus holds the reins, our feet are firmly placed in the stirrups of the Bible, and people are encouraged to sit securely in the saddle of God’s hope and love.