



THE POST

THE LATEST NEWS FROM EMBRACE EQUINE MINISTRY

www.embraceequineministry.org

DECEMBER 2020 |

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Upcoming Events

JANUARY 2020

– EMBRACE Staff Training continues
– Daybreak Youth Services Sessions start

FEBRUARY 2020

– HRC Sessions start

MARCH 2020

– UGM Sessions start

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A Year in Review

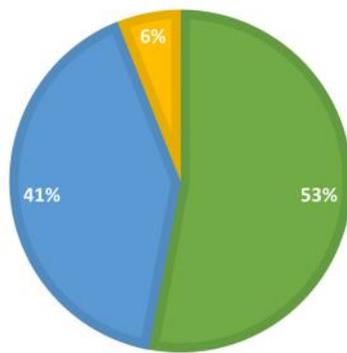
By Samantha Means

The last thing many of us want to do right now is remember the last twelve months. 2020 has been a year of numerous losses and disappointments and the desire to start fresh in the New Year is higher than most years. The Israelites can relate.

After the Israelites left Egypt, suffered horrible losses and crossed the Jordan River for the Promised Land, God commanded the Israelites to remember what happened in the season of loss.

2020 INCOME

■ Donations ■ Fundraisers ■ Misc.



2020 Income for EMBRACE Equine Ministry as of December 15, 2020.

God does not want us to remember the pain and suffering, or dwell on all that was lost. Rather He calls us to remember His faithfulness in the midst of the suffering. Each of us at EMBRACE, like many of you, have endured hardship in the last twelve months. We've buried loved ones, had scares at the hospital, lost homes, jobs, had plans change, and disappointments around every corner. Yet we look to remember God's faithfulness, specifically within the ministry He called us to.

see YEAR IN REVIEW, page 2

YEAR IN REVIEW, cont'd...

Here's what we've witnessed:

Despite COVID-19 and all that has transpired in 2020, EMBRACE was able to serve the Union Gospel Mission Center for Women and Children (UGM CWC), Daybreak Youth Services of Spokane, and the Children's Village in Coeur d'Alene.

Typically EMBRACE does ministry 60 days out of the year from February 1st until Thanksgiving. In those 60 days we serve an average of 100 women, adolescents and children. In 2020 we were only able to operate for 35 of those days, and still the Lord made a way for us to serve 90 women, adolescents and children.

In 2020, despite the struggling economy, the Lord blessed EMBRACE with more than \$8,500 in direct donations (almost exactly what we received in 2019), and more than \$6,500 in fundraisers, a 50% increase from 2019.

Additionally, the Lord revealed a way to save 80% on one of our largest annual costs, and He provided seven new remarkable volunteers to our team. Yes, 2020 has been a challenge on many fronts. We must not forget, however, the greatness and goodness of the God we serve in the midst of the suffering and hardship. God is working out all things for the good of those who love Him and He has not forgotten us nor forsaken us.

Thank you for your incredible partnership in this difficult season. We look forward to a new year with you in 2021 as we continue to partner to advance the gospel.

DO YOU USE AMAZON?

Shopping on Amazon is another way you can donate to EMBRACE!

When you visit smile.amazon.com you can choose to donate a percentage of your purchase to a nonprofit of your choice, and EMBRACE is one of your choices!

Every penny matters to our ministry, so when you make those orders on Amazon, just type smile.amazon.com and choose EMBRACE Equine Ministry as your nonprofit of choice to donate those pennies to!

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CURRENT NEEDS

- Winter gloves and hats
- Winter coats
- Boot socks
- Arena toys
- Prayers: continued unity within our ministry, protection over our horses, families and supporters, precision during ministry sessions.



In 2021
YOU ARE NEEDED

TUESDAYS - DAYBREAK YOUTH SERVICES
NOON - 4PM

THURSDAYS - UGM & HRC
NOON - 4PM

OCCASIONAL SATURDAY - CHILDREN'S VILLAGE OF CDA
1PM - 4PM

WE NEED: HORSE SESSION LEADERS, CRAFT LEADERS (CRAFTS AND SUPPLIES PROVIDED) AND CHILDCARE.

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GOLDEN MOMENT

Each month we'll feature a photo that stood out from one of our sessions

“Overcoming Fear”

Madeline, Ed, and Moe, 2020 © EMBRACE



Colleen Ripatti and Nitro, 2020 © CHRIS HOLLOWAY

COLLEEN RIPATTI

Volunteer of the Month

Colleen is one of EMBRACE's founders and serves as EMBRACE's Vice President. While Colleen is most at home in the arena leading a horse session, life circumstances have temporarily shifted her influence to the craft and devotional area of our ministry in 2020.

Colleen's heart for the Lord and her willingness to speak truth and serve Him wherever He has placed her is an inspiration to all of our volunteers. Colleen is passionate about the gospel, a devoted wife and mother, and always ready with a hug and hands to serve in any aspect of life.

Colleen we are so thankful for your leadership and influence in EMBRACE!

DEBORAH'S TESTIMONY

"I've known most of these women for at least four years and over the last four years of being a part of their heart, I have seen so many transformations. This is not just about overcoming fear and learning to trust God. It's about empowering women to be confident in who they are and in who God has called them to be and created them to be. They are so passionate about helping women overcome the traumas and the past hurts in their lives so that they can fully embrace who they have been created to be. God has a plan and purpose for each and every one of us and sometimes we have to dig deep to find out who that is. These beautiful and amazing women help people do that. I love them and I trust them. They are incredibly beautiful."



Deborah Lynn, 2019 © EMBRACE

SESSION SNEAK PEAK...

“LIFTING THE VEIL”



L to R: Colleen, Sonia, Oscar, and Chris, 2020 © EMBRACE

Each of EMBRACE's sessions has what we call a "springboard" that sets the stage for how the session will unfold. We never know how the horse activity will impact our participants, or what kind of insights our participants will receive, but it's always a beautiful and God-glorifying experience.

Primary Scripture:

Proverbs 3:5-6. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take" (New Living Translation).

Horse Activity:

Each rider has one session leader on a lead line and another session leader on the other side of the horse for safety. The rider rides the horse blindfolded, while her partner stands at the opposite end of the arena giving directions through a course.



L to R: Karen, Robi, Heaven, Jayne, and Chloe, 2020 © EMBRACE

Once the rider has navigated the course successfully, the guide returns to the starting line with the blindfolded rider and guides the rider through the course at her side. The guide cannot touch the horse or rider, but she can use anything (including the advice of her session leader) to navigate the rider through the course.

Once finished, the guide and the blindfolded rider move to the second course and the guide becomes the blindfolded rider and the rider becomes the guide. They repeat the new course in the same manner.

The riders are often surprised by how disoriented they are in the saddle while blindfolded—even the most seasoned riders struggle to know which way is forward and which is backward. They quickly must activate their other senses to hear their guide above the other noise in the arena and learn to follow the instructions even when it goes against their instincts. The guide learns how important it is to speak clearly and loudly to successfully and safely help their friend through the course.

Following the Holy Spirit can feel scary and uncertain and His directions can feel misleading. When we obey, however, we find we got right where we needed to go even if it didn't feel like it until we arrived. We can't always trust our feelings, but we can trust the voice of our Guide as it lines up with Scripture.