



THE POST

THE LATEST NEWS FROM EMBRACE EQUINE MINISTRY

www.embraceequineministry.org

NOVEMBER 2019

| ISSUE NO. 9

Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER 2019

- Winter Break Begins
Nov. 24th

DECEMBER 2019

- Staff Training
- Winter Break

In this Issue

EMBRACE
Testimony, p. 3

Volunteers Needed
for 2020! p. 3

Golden
Moment, p. 4

Becoming Partners
Article:
Lessons Learned
p.4

Closing the Season

By Samantha Means

2019 has been a year of many firsts for EMBRACE. As we close our season, this author finds herself reflecting on those firsts. Any door we open in ministry leads to an inevitable door opened in our own hearts that God wants to address. As our all-volunteer staff has learned, we can only lead others where we are willing to first go ourselves. For me (Sam) this was something I experienced often in 2019 through this ministry.

The last ten months involved many changes. In addition to our twice-a-week sessions we added a monthly session for Children's Village, an emergency foster care home in Coeur d'Alene. I was elated to be able to serve this vulnerable population, and I was entirely unprepared for the way the Lord would minister to my own heart through serving them. The unresolved hurts of my own past, many of which took place as a child, surfaced without warning. The Lord is eternally gracious, and even as I was able to love on and serve these beautifully broken kids, he ministered to my own heart. Rather than shut off the pain and run away, I did what I encouraged the children to do and brought it to Jesus. As I practiced this, I found myself able to offer hope and encouragement to them each month.

We hosted our Faith-Based Equine Assisted Philosophies training seminar, certifying EMBRACE staff to lead EAL sessions. It was a large personal investment on many of the staff's part, and it wasn't a decision that anyone came to lightly. The financial investment required me to

CLOSING, page 2

CLOSING, cont'd...

answer the question I felt God was asking: *how much do you believe in what I am doing through you in this ministry?*

Doing ministry requires an enormous personal investment on the part of every volunteer, and sometimes the only return anyone receives is the peace in our hearts of knowing we're doing exactly what God has called us to do. We're right where we're supposed to be, investing in *his kingdom*. Sometimes we're blessed to see people change, to witness someone come to Christ, to watch as revelation lights up their eyes or to see a teenager drowning in depression smile for the first time in weeks. The personal decision to invest in the EAP certification was, for me, solidified my conviction that having the tools to better reach the lost was worth any cost.

We hosted our first horse day-camp for children ages 7-12 and it was a hit! We were not only able to teach ground work, arena work and trail, but we were able to share the gospel in a new and fun way that connected horsemanship skills to the kids' relationship with the Lord and with others. It served as a fundraiser for our ministry and it was an opportunity to serve children and their parents in a demographic we don't usually get to reach. Our team is looking forward to doing another day-camp in 2020, so keep looking to these newsletters, our website and social media platforms to stay in the loop!

2019 was the first year our ministry went entirely mobile, operating completely from the cargo trailer we purchased last year. We've managed to fully operate out of four locations because we had everything we needed for sessions and crafts in a place that could be mobilized at a moments notice. We continue to pray for a ranch to call our own someday, but I am reminded of Jesus's message to the man who said he'd follow him wherever he went: "Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head" (Matthew 8:20, NLT). Always, his heavenly Father provided everything he needed, and we depend on him for the same.

2019 was also the first year we put out a newsletter to share with the community how your prayers, financial and material donations and general support makes a real difference in the lives of the people we serve. As a writer, this was a particular blessing to be able to use my gift in another way to share the good news of what God is doing right here in north Idaho. Revelation 12:11 tells us that we defeat the enemy by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony, so we shout the testimonies on the pages of these monthly newsletters.

As we close 2019 we are both sad to see it end, and grateful for what the Lord has done in these short months. However, though our season of public service is over for 2019, EMBRACE will begin receiving training from professionals within the community to better serve our participants in 2020. As we grow and learn individually, and as a team, the Lord is equipping us all to meet the needs of others, one person at a time. We are just beginning.

If you'd like to see the numbers for 2019, December's newsletter will have an update with details about the people served and where your donations have gone to support them in 2019.

SIERRA'S TESTIMONY



"You guys are so kind and compassionate. I really appreciate that. Being around you guys makes me feel like I can be kind and compassionate. I appreciate your guys' devotion to your horses, and to this program. And I really value and appreciate every one of you guys. I've had a really good time. I'm going to miss everyone."

Sierra and Abe, 2019 © EMBRACE

WHEN do we need you:

Thursdays, March—November 2020
Serving women from UGM
12pm—4:00pm

Tuesdays, March—November 2020
Serving youth in substance abuse recovery
12pm—4:00pm

WHO are we looking for:

- 2 Horse Session Leaders
- 2 Craft Leaders, supplies & projects provided
- 2 Childcare wranglers, kids ages <1 to 4 years

Call our volunteer coordinator, Becca Ward: 208-920-3422
or fill out a Volunteer Application on our website!

Volunteers Make the Difference



WE NEED YOU



EmbraceEquineMinistry



EMBRACE BOARD & STAFF

PRESIDENT | Renae Buck
embraceequineministries@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT | Colleen Ripatti
contact@embraceequineministry.org

SECRETARY | Tawnya Bennett
embraceequineministries@gmail.com

TREASURER | Julie Behnke
contact@embraceequineministry.org

BOARD MEMBER | Elizabeth Comfort

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR | Becca Ward
contact@embraceequineministry.org

OUTREACH COORDINATOR | Julie Behnke
contact@embraceequineministry.org

MEDIA/MARKETING COORDINATOR |
Samantha Means | photo credit
media.embraceequineministry@gmail.com

BECOMING PARTNERS

Each month one of our staff will provide a horse training tip and reflection.

Lessons Learned | By Colleen Ripatti

I have been completely amazed by my lesson horses lately. As my students sit on their backs, struggling to learn what to do, I watch my horses being so patient, careful and slow. They don't panic. They don't judge, yell, or get angry despite the mixed messages from the student. You can see the wheels in their minds turning as they try to fill in the blanks of what the novice rider is trying to say up there. And when they just can't figure it out, the horse will come to the center of the arena and stand next to me. To me. The one who knows them best. The one who loves them and who trained them. The one they know can help the new rider understand what to do next. And I do. When the student takes my guidance, I get to see their partnership grow and flourish.

What would happen to our relationships if we took a lesson from the horse? What if we operated that way in any relationship, anytime we are communicating and doing life together? Like the horse, we can choose to be patient, slow, to not panic, judge, yell or get angry. Instead, we can come to the "center." We can come to the One who made us, knows us, and trains the very people we're dealing with. Then this same God can help us to know what to do next. He can show us how to help our relationships, our partners. "With all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love," - Ephesians 4:2

Training Tip:

This month's training tip is more for our friends with horses instead of the horse. Let's treat people with patience and love and hold back judgment and anger. Ask God what we should say and do next to help build better partnerships and relationships. "Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive."

- Colossians 3:13

Colleen, Asian & Abe, 2019 © EMBRACE



GOLDEN MOMENT

"Navigating Creation"

Each month the Post will feature a favored photo from one of our many horse sessions.