



THE POST

THE LATEST NEWS FROM EMBRACE EQUINE MINISTRY

www.embraceequineministry.org

MAY 2019

ISSUE NO. 3

Upcoming Events

MAY 2019

-Flower Pickup, May 10

JUNE 2019

-Horse Camp, ages 7-12

JULY 2019

-Horse Camp, ages 12-18

-FBEAP Certification Seminar by Unbridled Faith

In this Issue

Golden Moment, p. 2

EMBRACE Testimony, p. 3

Horse Day Camp, p. 4

Becoming Partners Article: A Holistic Relationship, p.5

One Way God Uses the Horse

By Samantha Means

She didn't say much when she arrived. Some girls are excited to meet the staff and horses while others try to hide. She seemed to fade into the crowd, as though accustomed to disappearing. She smiled when I said hello, but it didn't reach her eyes. She even let me hug her, but it was a bit like holding a wilting flower. Her eyes were vacant, and she slowly drifted between people avoiding their touch. All of which and more told me she was barely holding on. She didn't even have enough life for a fight. Not to hide, or even to survive. She seemed to be waiting for some inevitable outcome.

She stared blankly at the horse she'd been assigned as her session leader checked the cinch and grabbed the bridle. The happy-go-lucky sorrel hung his head, still sleepy from standing in the sun for the last half hour. When she was encouraged to pet his neck and say hello she reached out and ran her fingers under his mane. He turned his nose curiously toward her and, for the briefest moment, I saw a flicker of light come into her eyes. The corner of her mouth lifted involuntarily and it was as if the world outside of that small space ceased to exist. They connected.

USING THE HORSE, page 2

USING THE HORSE, cont'd...

When she climbed into the saddle there was a little more curiosity, attentiveness, and hope in her eyes. It was as if she wanted to know how to connect with the horse on his back as much as she had in that moment on the ground. She listened to instruction with an intriguing intensity and wordlessly tried to do all that she was told. I saw fear bubble to the surface when she was taken off the lead line, and I watched as she took a deep breath and pushed fear aside to ride.

Girl and horse spoke without words as they weaved between poles and turned in circles. The spark of life I saw earlier was fanned into a flame with every stride in the saddle, with every word of encouragement and celebration from her session leader on the ground, until her smile was so wide I almost didn't recognize the face that wore it.

She didn't share one word about her personal life. She hardly spoke at all. Yet something happened in the saddle. When she dismounted she wrapped her arms around her horse's neck and pressed her face into his mane as if he'd given her a gift we knew nothing about. Except we did. We told her Jesus loved her far more than this horse loved her, and that He wanted to share a lot more than that with her if she'd let Him. Words she may not have been able to receive an hour before were suddenly seeds planted. When it came time to leave a couple of hours later, her eyes continued to sparkle with renewed hope. I didn't need to ask for a hug, she wrapped her arms around my waist and squeezed like she meant it, and she did the same with her session leader.

Then she ran to her horse and threw her arms around his neck once again. Pressing her cheek to his, tears come to my eyes when I saw her lips form the words, "Thank you," before she slowly turned to leave. That day, God used a horse to help this beauty bloom.

GOLDEN MOMENT

"From the Street to the Saddle"



Alicia | Fancy | Linda Cates | 2019 © EMBRACE

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

CURRENT NEEDS LIST

- Riding boots for participants; sizes 5-7 and 9-11
- Child saddle; regular horse tree, 13” seat (leather)
- PA system for fundraisers & events; \$500.00 | funds toward system
- High quality Digital SLR camera with video camera capabilities
- Funds toward cowboy Bibles (\$400 budget)

WHEN do we need you:

Thursdays, March—November 2019
Serving women from UGM
11am—4:00pm

Tuesdays, March—November 2019
Serving youth in substance abuse recovery
11am—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




Kai | Fancy | 2019 © EMBRACE



KAI'S TESTIMONY

“(EMBRACE) has given me a purpose and made me feel covered in love. They’ve given me people to talk to when my mom wont listen or I can’t talk to my grandma or my boyfriend about it, I can talk to the women at EMBRACE and they’ll give me a different perspective and make me feel better about myself. I don’t really lack self-confidence that much, but when you have that extra bit of love it makes you feel like warm and fuzzy all over. We need more warm and fuzzy people in this world. I was feeling pretty mean and kind of grouchy a lot, but when I come here I get lots of hugs and lots of wisdom and love. I love EMBRACE, and I know they love me.”

Join us!
June 26th—28th
 12noon—4pm
 Open to 10 boys & girls ages 7-12




14651 N. Reflection Rd.
 Rathdrum, ID 83858

HORSE DAY CAMP

3 days you'll never forget...




ONLY \$200!

Expect quality horsemanship from camp counselors with more than 75 years of combined equine experience, including local horse training and riding instructors Renae Buck and Colleen Ripatti. Bring your own *horse, a helmet, your Bible and learn to ride like you never have before. We'll create fun crafts, have lively Bible studies, and make some great friends!



Details on our website: www.embraceequineministry.org

*Lease options are available on a case-by-case basis for a \$100 donation

Join us!
July 24th—26th
 10am—4pm
 Open to 10 boys & girls ages 12-18

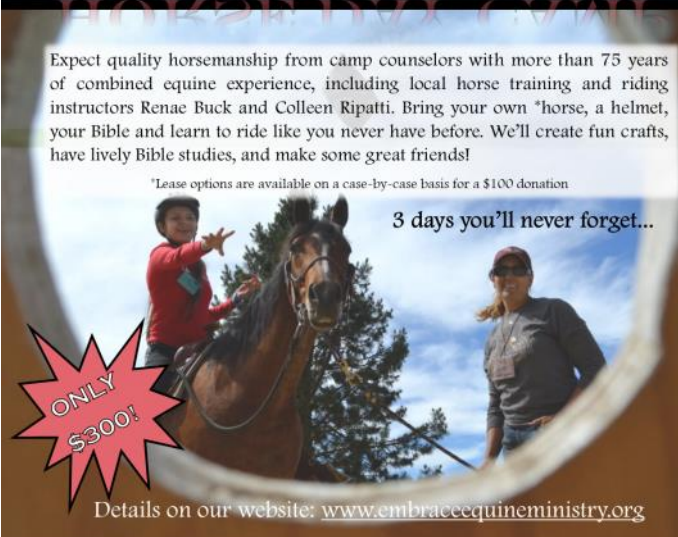


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Details on our website: www.embraceequineministry.org

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TWO Horse Day Camp Opportunities!

One for children ages 7-12 in June, and one for youth ages 12-18 in July! The camps are excellent for both beginners and advanced riders. Simply go to our website to register! All camp staff are volunteers, and proceeds from the camp will go toward future training opportunities for our staff in 2020!

If you have any questions contact our camp coordinator, Colleen Ripatti.

embraceequineministry.org | 208-691-8902

BECOMING PARTNERS

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

A Holistic Relationship | By Colleen Ripatti

Have you ever stood outside of an arena full of people riding their horses and just observed the teamwork between horse and rider? Other than riding myself, this is one of my favorite pastimes. Some teams are struggling to accomplish the simplest of tasks, like walking slowly forward. Others seem to be constantly fighting one another. Then there is the team who, quietly, diligently, are working alone, doing advanced maneuvers with beauty and ease. You can't take your eyes off them.

Theirs is the perfect example of partnership and connection. This is the horseman I want to learn from and spend time with to improve my own horsemanship. These kinds of horseman and women have true wisdom in their discipline. They've put in many hours, been knocked down and gotten up again, and they've learned how to develop this amazing partnership with their horse the hard way.

They're willing to put in the hours it takes to create change. They listen to their horse and patiently help him to understand with fair and timely discipline. They feed their horse top feed, provide great hoof and medical care, and they address everyday pain and stiffness with chiropractic and even massage. This combined care is what creates the beautiful team you can't take your eyes off in the arena. By watching and learning from these horsemen I better my horsemanship.

I am a true people-watcher in all circles of life. As a horsewoman I choose to focus on talented riders who have a great relationship with their horse. As a Christian woman, I choose to watch, learn and glean from the women who have a beautiful, peaceful, joyful, and loving relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus. I learn more from her than the woman whose life and relationship with Jesus looks like a constant battle.

I will love and help women in all stages of their walk with the Lord, but I seek to learn from mature Christian women. Women who have put in the hours, have a strong relationship with, and listen well to the Lord. Women who can patiently, and with love, better help me understand how to have a similar beautiful, enduring, relationship with Jesus. Just like the psalmist wrote, "Whoever walk with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm" (Psalm 13:20) and as Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, "Be imitators of me as I am of Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1).

Training Tip of the Month:

The best horse training tip I can give you is to take a holistic approach to a relationship with your horse. Spend the time patiently training and building skills, but also invest time loving on them. Give them proper nutrition, provide pain management through massage and chiropractic, and don't neglect good veterinarian and hoof care. Then the horse who is well cared for on all these levels can then feel your love and commitment, and you will have the partnership you have always dreamed of.