

DREAMS, HOPE AND FAITH FOUNDATION

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SUMMER
NEWSLETTER

SECOND CHANCES

By Bonnie Paasch

Someone once told me that there are three things every person needs in order to feel complete. Number one, they need to feel loved. Number two, they need to feel a part of something, like a family. And number three, everyone needs to have a purpose for their life. I hold these words of wisdom close and I always think of them when I am working with someone who seems to be lacking joy in their life. I think, ‘Which of these are they missing and what can I do to help fill the need?’ It is amazing how important these three areas are to people. What I didn’t realize is that they apply to animals as well.

This is one of those times.....

During our racing career, we were blessed to meet many people that trusted us with very expensive horses. Kamsack was one of those horses. As a two year old he showed amazing talent. He won his first race against some of the most highly touted two year olds in the country and actually had an oil Sheik who wanted to buy him privately. His owners, Rod and Lorraine Rodriguez, wouldn’t sell him for anything. Unfortunately, his racing career was cut short due to a leg injury. Being very well bred, plan B was to stand him as a stallion. Unfortunately, once again, soon after going to the ranch, the Rodríguezes learned that Kamsack also had fertility issues, so the decision was made to geld him and he would live his life as a normal horse on a ranch in Cottonwood, California.

One day, while Chris was visiting Rod and Lorraine at their ranch, he asked them how Kamsack was doing. The Rodríguezes were always touched by the special bond between Chris and Kamsack, so in an act of kindness, they generously gave their special horse to Chris. Just like that, Kamsack was coming to spend the rest of his life with us at Cornerstone Ranch.



We put Kamsack in a pasture with several geldings that we use for our riding program at DHF (Dreams, Hope and Faith Foundation). Kamsack was not a real social horse. He mostly preferred to stay by himself. Occasionally Chris would come down to visit his old friend and Kamsack would respond with a joyful nicker and trot up to the fence. The ranch was very busy and when the kids came to pick out their horses, Kamsack was always left behind. As time went by, the routine of being a horse without a mission left our once admired super star lonely and lifeless. Sometimes the kids would go out to pet or feed him a carrot, but Kamsack seemed to sink deeper and deeper into depression. It was so sad to see our once shining star just hanging out with his head drooping.

Now..... Sara is one of the most bashful kids I have ever been around. She is a beautiful sixteen year old who has been coming to the ranch for several years and she absolutely loves horses. Soon after her first visit to the ranch she became exceptionally attached to a horse named Dakota. The two of them were beautiful together. One day I watched as Sara went out to the pasture to catch Dakota. When he saw Sara coming he ducked into the huge cypress trees which lined the front part of the pasture. I could see both of them, but Sara was unaware of where Dakota was hiding. As Sara searched for him Dakota moved in a way to stay hidden behind the tree. That crazy horse continued playing his game, poking his head out then ducking it back in as Sara turned toward him. Then he suddenly jumped out from behind the tree and came galloping out to her with his head held high as if to say, "Ha Ha, I got you."

But, sometimes, for reasons unknown to us, our day full of sunshine will suddenly turn into a deep dark cloud full of unimaginable sorrow. Dakota colicked and had to be put to sleep in order to end his suffering. It was a very sad day for all of us and Sara was devastated. She couldn't even bring herself to come to the ranch for a time. I called her often in hopes of encouraging her to come out, but she needed her time to heal. I could almost hear the tears in her voice. When she finally did start coming back to the ranch, it just wasn't the same. Sometimes she would ride Bob or Chief, but they were older horses and they didn't have much spunk. Sara had learned a great deal from Dakota and she had become an amazing young rider, but she seemed to have lost all interest.

One day, as I looked at Kamsack standing there all by himself, I had an amazing thought. Could Sara be a good enough rider now to ride him? His leg injuries were well healed, but I didn't know how he would act in western tack, and he hadn't been ridden for several years. I thought, maybe, just maybe, two broken hearts could come together and heal each other. I cautiously went to Sara and asked her if she would consider working with Kamsack. Her eyes lit up and she quickly replied with an enthusiastic, "Really??" She knew he was a special horse. I told her that she could only work with him if I was there to assist, and if he acted ok.

That day was the beginning of one of the most beautiful things I have ever witnessed. Life began coming back into the eyes of a once proud and glorious race horse and a broken hearted little girl suddenly began to bloom with the brightness of one of the most colorful flowers you could ever imagine.

One sunny day, as I watched Sara peacefully grazing Kamsack, I began to reflect on the words of wisdom that had once been given to me. Those three important principals I hold so dear to my heart. Wow, they don't just apply to people, but to our furry friends as well. A lonely retired race horse now feels loved. He is the first horse at the gate looking for Sara. Kamsack is part of something special. He is an important member of the DHF equine team... And his purpose? Well, I will just say that the smile on Sara's face says it all.

God continues to show me every day, that with Him all things are possible. I believe He created every living thing with a unique purpose- even a broken down old race horse. Our Creator has such an amazing way of taking something so withered and giving it a flick of hope and with that hope, He restores the brightness back into a life, so brilliantly.

FINDING A FRIEND

By Sara Thompson

Hi, my name is Sara T. I've been coming out to the ranch for a few years now and it's made a huge impact on my life.

When I first began coming out, I was lost, and a little confused. I didn't know who I was or what I wanted to be. After a few months, I made a new best friend, a little bay horse, named Dakota. I grew very attached to the little guy and preferred to be around him more than most of my friends. We were kinda inseparable. I had something to look forward to and something to give my all to. But, 2 years ago, Dakota had a severe case of colic and was put to sleep. Mad at the world, I didn't understand why it had to happen to something I loved so much. The only thing I ever felt so close too. I didn't know why, I knew there had to be a reason, but it never made sense to me until now.

Kamsack, who was once second in the country, is now first in my heart. I remember always seeing him so sad and lonely, he was just there. No one ever paid much attention to the animal who use to give his all. Every once in a while I'd brush him or feed him, but he was the horse I thought I'd never have an opportunity with. Then one day, Bonnie asked me if I'd consider working with him. Many things came into my mind at once but I felt excited and honored. I would be with this huge, majestic animal. Soon enough, both lights started to shine. He brought joy, to my once dull world and he started to act happy again.

Kamsack has made a huge difference in my life. And I don't know where I'd be without him, but I know it would be ugly. Having him around created a new stability for me, like what Dakota gave me. I've finally found that closure I needed again. It's been difficult at times, and much of a challenge, but every time we conquer the slightest thing, it's all so worth it. I wouldn't trade him for the world and I couldn't ask for anything more. He gives me his all in just about everything we do. Except right now he's kinda scared of cows, but he will put his all into running from them, lol. I know soon he'll figure them out. See, not just kids, but everyone needs something to look forward to. They need a purpose, and that form of closure, to feel complete. And I've found that here.

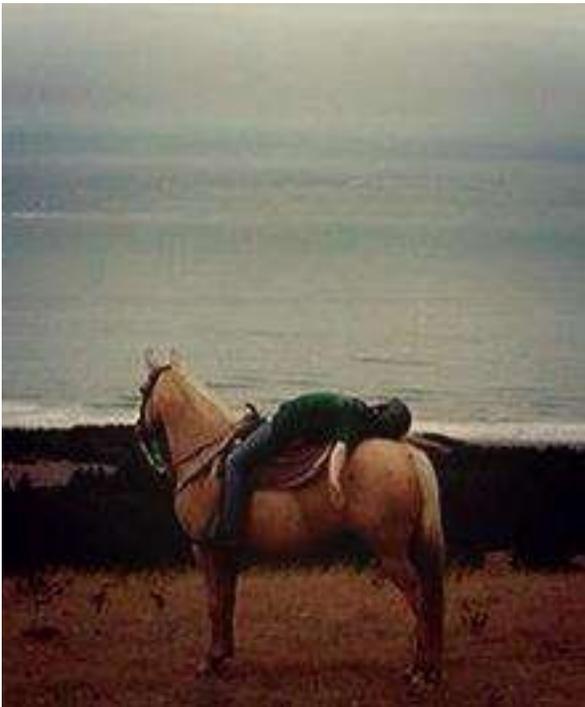


GROWING UP WITH DHF

By Arianna Salcedo-Morel

Hi my name is Arianna and I found DHF when my grandma saw in the newsletter that they were having an open house to raise money for the feed in winter. So we went and played games, like dunk the principal or throw the football through the hole, but I wasn't interested in those types of things.

When I walked around the corner there was a nice lady named Rebecca with a horse named Bob. I asked how many tickets it took to ride her, (Bob). She replied nicely, "There's no charge," and softly smiled.



I put a helmet on and walked over to the mounting block where she was waiting. She helped me get onto Bob's back, because she, (Bob), was triple my size. Rebecca asked if I had ever ridden before. I had ridden before, when I lived in California. With that she put the reins over Bob's head and said she would watch as I walked around on Bob. Like most of the kids, who usually do what they want, I walked off towards the barrel while kicking Bob to go faster. The farther we went, the faster she moved. I pulled her to a halt while shouting across the arena saying, "Did you see that? I trotted! I trotted!"

Rebecca said, "Oh, you did", with a slight smile, while thinking, "I told you to walk."

She walked over to me and chuckled as she helped me off. While I was riding, my grandma met Bonnie and signed me up for the Saturday program, so I could come to ride and learn about God.

Before I came to DHF, I was an ungrateful child who wanted to be spoiled. The biggest mistake before I came to the ranch is I didn't believe in God. Now God is my super hero and my Father in heaven. I think everything has a reason on earth to test you and to see what you will do in the worst times. I believe Jesus died on the cross for our sins. I wouldn't have believed, if it wasn't for Bonnie and Chris who opened their doors to both people who don't believe in God and those who do believe in God to come on their property and to ride their horses. I think God sent Bonnie and Chris as a blessing to help people get through hard times..... in case people needed to talk. They would always be there for any one. I have changed into someone new with the people that have helped me through thick and thin.

HEALING THE HEART

By Sarah Gourneau

My Name is Sarah G. and I have been bringing my children to the Dreams, Hope and Faith Foundation since March 2015. In February something devastating happened in our family. Our precious 12 year old daughter decided to try to run away from home with her friend. My world came crashing down around me and I cried out to God to show me how I could reach my daughter and repair and nurture our relationship. I just could not believe this could happen to us and that I almost lost my baby girl. As I was dealing with this situation, my Pastors wife mentioned that she had heard of a program in Gold Beach (just 30 minutes south of where we live), that brings in kids with issues and helps them heal and grow thru the therapy of working with horses. I thought, "How perfect!" My daughter has always had an interest in horses, and it was never something we could afford to give her. I decided to go check out the ranch, and was praying that the cost would not be too much, and that God would make a way for us to be able to pay for this kind of therapy for our Daughter.

When I met Bonnie I could instantly feel that she had a real heart for these kids, and a passion to help. She showed me around the ranch and explained to me her program and her vision. I was sold! I thought to myself, "I don't care how much this costs, I will do whatever I can to find a way to get my daughter into this program." So I asked Bonnie how much, and she said "No cost! Just come join us Saturday mornings and your kids can get plugged in!" I could not believe it!! "Praise God," I thought, "What an amazing program!"

We started coming out to the ranch Saturdays and it instantly became the main highlight of the week in our home. My daughter was reluctant and afraid of getting on the horses at first, because of her lack of experience. But Bonnie and all the Junior Leaders were so encouraging and patient with her. They let her take it at her own pace and just kept encouraging her. Pretty soon she was confidently riding on her own! My son also loves the program and is being taught to ride, as well as valuable woodworking skills in the Ranch's wood shop class. It is the highlight of his week as well.

Dreams, Hope and Faith Foundation has become such an important part of our lives. It's a place I can develop the close and Godly relationship that I've longed for with my children for so long.

We are all developing some amazing God centered friendships through this time of working, playing and praying together on the ranch. My kids are learning about God in a setting that truly impacts them so much more than just sitting in church. I have seen their walk with the Lord grow in leaps and bounds in just the few months that we have been coming to DHF.



I know that God is truly working miracles in kid's lives thru this ministry and I am so, so grateful for this opportunity for my family.

LABOR OF LOVE

By Christopher Paasch

In 2008, when Bonnie and I decided to step away from horseracing in order to give back, we never envisioned the scope of Dreams Hope and Faith Foundation today.

Fast-forward seven years and here we are on a 500 acre ranch in southwestern Oregon with the Rogue River running along the south side of our property into the Pacific Ocean..... our daily view.

God has surely blessed us with this place and we sit back in awe of what He has accomplished here. There are rolling hills, blue skies, running creeks, natural underground springs, as well as elk, cattle, eagles and osprey and what I believe to be one of His favorite critters..... horses. To sit here and look at all of, “nature”, and to watch it all commingle in such serenity gives me peace in my heart.

DHF continues to grow as we now have 30 to 50 children and some adults on Saturdays and 15 to 20 on Monday and Tuesday every week. With all of this comes a lot of responsibility, both personal and financial. We are blessed to have several volunteers who come here diligently every week to serve.

Our shortcoming now is our financial woes.

I think alot of people think, because we own this place, that we have unlimited finances. As so many were hurt in the financial crisis a few years ago, so were we, and a lot of the finances we were counting on to fund this foundation for many years to come were wiped away. We could have just given up and sold the ranch, but have decided to stay and fight.



Although difficult for us, we are asking for your financial contributions to DHF. Our annual budget remains at around \$75,000 per year. Bonnie and I have, over the last few years, made up the difference between our annual donations and budget. Unfortunately, we are no longer able to do that. We are asking for you to shoulder with us in this labor of love; to give generously to something in your community that gives the future of our country, the kids, something to look forward to. It's not only about learning to ride a horse here, it's about caring for that horse and doing the chores required on a ranch. It's about loving that horse and letting that horse return love to you. It's not only about coming out here to play and get a meal, it's about the friends we meet in the new friendships that are bound for a lifetime. Some of the best stories we have a DHF are putting hurting children with broken horses that have been rescued and abused and watch them heal each other. It is amazing.

We have a full working metal shop, a full working woodshop, a 3000 ft.² greenhouse and a music workshop. Along with that we have an outdoor arena, a round pen and a 24,000 square-foot indoor arena along with a lot of horses. We are not only looking for people to volunteer their time to help us as a volunteer we are also asking for your financial help in keeping Dreams Hope and Faith Foundation the gift that was intended to be for this community.

Note: Bonnie and I take no money from DHF. All donations are given 100% to DHF with no fees attached. 100% to DHF.

You can contact us at www.dreamshopeandfaith.com or call us at 541-373-0818.

LETTERS TO DHF

By KC Steele

A New Beginning by KC Steele...

I really enjoy helping you with whatever you need help with. As I told you the other day, I have dreamed of living on a ranch since I was very young, but circumstances in my life never allowed that to take place.

As you know, I've experienced a lot of loss in my life, which I've learned to live with, but the final straw was the loss of my career as a police officer. I had worked so hard to become an officer. I didn't want to give it up. When it became apparent that I would not be medically released to go back to patrol, I was nearly devastated. I knew God was still in control, but I was ready for Him to take me home, because I didn't really care to stick around on Earth without a purpose. I truly thought police work was where I could serve Him best, because I dealt with people in the lowest parts of their lives and could offer encouragement.

After hanging around Buena Vista CO for awhile and then Branson, MO, I decided to sell almost everything I owned and move to a little place on the OR coast, which I had picked out using the internet and had researched a bit, where I wouldn't need oxygen and my RV wouldn't freeze up. I prayed for the Lord to give me a purpose, His purpose, and off I drove. I also asked that He would make me a blessing to someone each day. Little did I know that He would bless me far more than I could ever bless others.



We at Dreams, Foundation would like to sincere thanks and gratitude to all of our many volunteers and donors that make this labor of love possible. We are truly humbled by the people who step up every week and roll up their sleeves to cook for, clean up after, teach, mentor, do maintenance, give snacks and love our kids and critters

And we also want to applaud so many of you that dig so deep into your pockets to give so generously to keep us afloat.

May God Bless each and every one of you.....

DHF is now on Guide Star. We will have every dime we spend audited and placed on Guide Star for your eyes. Talk about transparent.... Go to www.guidestar.org and look us up!

Hope and Faith take this time to offer our

