

Breakaway Youth Ranch

By Amanda Reichman

Eyes to See

~ Spring 2023 ~

I don't want to miss what God is doing! One bright, beautiful summer day we had a very special group of kiddos to the Ranch. Many had suffered unspeakable abuse in their young lives but were in a new place to have a chance at a better life. As the kids made their way to the ranch, our prayer was for them to feel safe, loved, and to experience God's creation with joy and new hope as we shared the love of Christ with them.

That day I had the privilege of working with one little girl that did not speak because of her past trauma. She wanted to ride a horse but was too terrified to walk into the pasture with me. A small black pony named Dixie would be the one for her. I haltered our smallest horse and walked to my new friend. As I brushed Dixie, the young girl slowly moved closer to touch the horse's soft nose. Without words from the girl, I could see the joy in her eyes and the fear melting away one small bit at a time. We took our time grooming this little pony, who normally was very anxious and annoyed to stand still at the hitching rail. However, that day I believe Dixie somehow knew what this little girl needed. As the time arrived to get on Dixie, several adults were right there to cheer this sweet girl on and to be a comfort on every side of the horse. My little friend mounted the horse as we prepared her for the first step. Dixie moved forward one step and the girl clung tightly to the horn of the saddle. Squeals of excitement, joy and fear came out of her mouth. We all stood there with her for a second as we processed her reaction. Dixie took another step and then another. Soon this young lady loosened her grip on the saddle and relaxed as I lead Dixie around the arena. After several laps, I asked her if she wanted to trot just a few steps. I explained how she would bounce in the saddle, but assured her that the team of adults would be right there. She nodded her head in agreement. As I got Dixie into a trot, this precious girl started laughing hysterically. The joy spread to all of us. We couldn't help but laugh with her. The excitement we all felt for this precious young lady brought tears to our eyes. She loved trotting so much that the other adults gave up running beside her. As I reflect on that time, my heart is so full and thankful for how God works and I realize again that I don't want to miss out on what God is doing.

For the last several months, I've been reflecting on John 15:4&9, where Jesus said, "Abide in Me and I in you. As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love." Abide means "to dwell in, to continue in, to breathe out as a heavy sigh." When we love God, He so wonderfully gives us opportunities to see Him all day long, whether it's in the giggle of a little girl, the kindness of a friend, the warm sunshine, or the nuzzle of a horse.

As many of you know, our beloved Jenny Young and her husband James recently had a beautiful baby girl, Ellen. Jenny has been instrumental in making Breakaway Youth Ranch what it is today. Jenny will continue her work full time this summer but is planning to step back a bit in the fall to care for her family and to see what else the Lord has for them. She is still planning to help at the Ranch but in a more limited capacity. We are eternally thankful for the work Jenny has done at the Ranch and are eager to see how the Lord will continue to use her, James and Ellen! While change can sometimes seem so scary, I must learn how to abide in Him because I don't want to miss what He is doing! Every summer at the Ranch is different. No season has ever been like the one before. As we enjoy everything the Lord has given us in Breakaway Youth Ranch, we must also hold everything out to Him with open hands. May we learn to abide in His love and choose to see what He is doing. I don't want to miss a thing!

Horse of the Quarter:



In many ways Sport is the "golden child" of the ranch. He is literally a golden color. He is friendly and very gentle. He is fun. He is athletic and spunky. He is eager to please and kind hearted. He is one of the youngest and fastest horses in our herd, but his buddy is our ancient, slow mule, Claude. Their friendship makes us smile almost every day. Finally, Sport is a testimony to how nice a

horse can become when the owner puts a lot of time and consistent effort into their training. Sport was bred and trained to be a barrel racing horse. Unfortunately he injured his knee and had to be retired. His owner brought him back into really good shape and then donated him to us so that he could continue to live a useful, happy life. Fortunately for us, his injury healed up enough to enable him to do a significant amount of work with kids and teens here at the ranch. So now, instead of turning barrels, he helps to turn kids' lives around for the better.



A Few Dates to Save:

Monday, May 15th

Session Scheduling opens for June.

Give Amanda a call!

Thursday, June 1st - 5pm

Music Jam and Prayer Evening

Monday, June 5th

First Day of Sessions!

Monday, July 3rd

NO Sessions. Happy 4th!

Just for the fun of it. . .

Question:

What is the best type of story to tell a runaway horse?

Answer: A tale of WHOA!

Music Jam and Prayer Evening!

If you like to pray, or if you like to play, or if you just like to make a joyful noise to the Lord, then please join us at 5pm on Thursday, June 1st. This will be an informal time of worshiping the Lord together as we kick off a new decade of ministry for God's glory and for the love of our neighbor.

Chord music will be provided. Prayer Requests will be provided. Snacks will also be provided.

Directions to BYR: Take exit 267 off I-90. Turn south and follow Cottonwood Rd. for 2 1/2 miles until you see the big red barn. Turn in and join us!



This summer, instead of supporting one particular ministry, we have chosen to support a couple who works in a variety of **prison ministries** in the Gallatin Valley. **Randy and Sherry Jones** are heavily involved in bringing hope to those who find themselves behind prison walls. Randy is the area Chaplain which involves many varied ministry opportunities. In addition, they are involved in Bozeman Prison Ministries, Celebrate recovery, and various Bible studies - among other things. If you stop by to see us at the ranch, or sign up to have sessions with us, please consider bringing your spare change so we can raise funds to support them in their important work of ministry to those who need hope!

Donations have been made to honor this special person:

BIRTHDAY: Joe Howell

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