



# ***Jeremiah's Crossing Quarterly Newsletter***

Volume 5, Issue 4

February 2022



***Kindness is like snow. It beautifies everything it covers.***

— Kahlil Gibran

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How could a cowboy  
ride into town on Fri-  
day, stay just two days,  
and ride out the next  
day on Friday?

Answer: The horse is called Friday!

#### Beautiful winter

— we love you so. . .  
But you make us shiver  
— with all that snow. . .  
And then we wonder  
— when will you go !!!



#### Wintertime on the ranch.

The horses grow thick long hair  
and huddle together to fight  
the cold because it helps them  
share warmth and shut out the  
cold.



So the guy says to me,  
“Whinnying is everything.”

## From the horse's mouth— an interview with Chief

Chief is our resident Mustang, and he knows how to assert himself when situations arise that call for a little leadership. He is a master at moving horses around. He's also a good decider, quick and authoritative, always geared to keep the herd in good order.

It's pretty easy to see why he's the accepted leader of the pack— he always knows what needs to be done on any situation. The name says it all— Chief!

#### Interview with Chief:

**The herd seems to fully accept your authority. Why is that?**

Chief: “In all modesty, all I can say is that I care for all of my fellow horses in the herd, and I can spot trouble brewing and just know how to step in and put a stop to it.”

**Since we last interviewed you in 2018, there have been some changes here. Do they make a difference?**

Chief: Are you kidding? We're in the big league now. The arena is fantastic. We no longer have rain days when we have to call off lessons.



Hopefully we'll soon have a tack barn where we can put on our saddles out of the rain. It's gonna happen. I can feel it!

## Editor's comment

We hope this issue of our newsletter finds you well versed in the ways and means of surviving these difficult times. I always feel I am gathering thoughts to share with kindred spirits as I bring together content informing and entertaining our readership.

Although we cannot hide from the trials and tribulations of these current times, we can govern our own pathways and keep our eyes looking forward. Sometimes we just have to direct our focus on what we ourselves can do, where we can improve, how we could make a positive difference. Rejoice as we savor anything that goes well or simply delights— beautiful blue sky and fluffy clouds, the beauty of snowflakes as they cleanse our land, kindness bestowed, smiles, laughter, prayerful peace. We control our focus, we choose the pathway to take, we can care, we can love.

We here at the ranch are so very thankful for all of the ongoing contributions that come in to keep this ministry going. So many of our supporters have showed up to help us through this tough winter, and it reinforces our belief that Jeremiah's Crossing is indeed a ministry with wide community support, thanks be to God.

In this issue, (on page 7) we give a special shout of thanks to Wyatt Erdman and his fellow scouts who constructed our storage shed, now set up in our arena. It was his Eagle Scout project, and it looks great. Job well done, guys!

We can report that our herd is healthy and well conditioned to handle our winter challenges. Footprints in the snow reveal our determination to insure that each of our horses have the care they need as we tough out the frosty conditions. Special thanks we extend to all who have contributed to enable us to feed them well and care for their veterinary needs. This has been a tough winter, but we will survive it. We just keep sailing along, despite any adverse conditions.

Phil George, Editor



## Our beloved Jack passed away

We end year 2021 wishing to pay our respects to our beloved horse, Jack. He was certainly the hardest working pony at Jeremiah's Crossing.

Jack touched many lives and will be deeply missed. He was a good and faithful servant.

"In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, O Lord, will keep me safe." Psalm 4:8.



*OK Guys, she's got that camera out again— smile pretty!*

## Who We Are

Jeremiah's Crossing is a therapeutic horseback-riding ranch for those with physical, cognitive, emotional and academic special needs. Lessons are provided at no charge to students. Located in Wood County, Wisconsin, we are a ministry that is dedicated to helping horses help kids.

We use this newsletter as well as a number of special projects and community events in an effort to spread the word about our services.

Therapeutic horseback riding can be immensely effective in awakening within students an new feeling of motor control, learned through the smooth and rhythmic motions of the horse. Some refer to it as joy in the saddle.

Jeremiah's Crossing is God's ranch. He has provided for many people to be involved, using their gifts and talents to help others. We are volunteers who help with lessons, events, the newsletter, mailings, and every manner of grounds work and building projects. We have considered what we are passionate about and have found a way to share that passion with the Jeremiah's Crossing family.

If this sounds like something you might want to do, simply contact us at the ranch or by telephone to learn more about how you can join us to help horses help kids.

## How about writing a horse limerick?

### LIMERICK

A five line poem with rhymes in line 1, 2, and 5, and then another rhyme in lines 3 and 4

What is a limerick, Mother?	A
It's a form of verse, said Brother	A
In which lines one and two	B
Rhyme with five when it's through	B
And three and four rhyme with each other.	A

- untitled and author unknown

### How about this one?

Jim ordered a racehorse online  
A thoroughbred sold in its prime.  
Now just for a laugh  
They sent him a giraffe  
But it wins by a neck every time.

### Now you try! Finish the last line

At Jeremiah's we needed some feed  
As all that was left was a weed.  
This was so sad for the horse  
For he was hungry of course.

(See page 8 for one possible last line answer)

*There is something  
about the outside of  
a horse that is good  
for the inside of  
man.*

*For Winston Churchill*

## Facebook reflections



**Jeremiah's Crossing** - December 24, 2021 at 4:31 PM With a heartfelt blessing and with abundant gratitude, we thank you for blessing Jeremiah's Crossing this year. We are grateful for every ministry team member. May you know the greatest gift ever given to humanity, our Savior. And may 2022 find you blessed beyond measure. Merry Christmas!!

*We would like to express our thanks to the many friends of Jeremiah's Crossing who take the time to review our Facebook offerings. Facebook keeps our friends up to date with what is happening at the ranch, and we always appreciate the supportive comments that are written in our honor.*

*We truly love serving our students and their families, and it is a joy to work side by side with so many in our community that offer us support. We all comprise a wide team of dedicated workers who strive continually to serve those in need with their presence at the ranch, at fundraisers, and with their prayers. We all gather together in a community of love to carry out this mission. Praise God for his guidance to inspire us and sustain us with so many helping hearts and hands.*





*Increased confidence and self-esteem are just two of the possible results of therapeutic riding. Because therapy horses approach humans with patience and understanding, they can ease the fears and anxiety of riders, offering a sense of safety while also promoting independence.*

*Confidence comes from a Latin word 'fidere' which means "to trust"; therefore, having self-confidence is having trust in one's self.*

*"Usually in this frigid weather I just hibernated (slept), but now I can just hop in the arena and scamper on dry ground. Much better! I eat stale acorns for food. The herd seems to love the snow, and they're always eating. They get hay, lots of hay. I suppose you'd eat all the time also if you lived outside. But you'd also need a really thick fur coat!*

*Timothy Trotalong Toolittle*



## What equine assisted riders say

The many wonderful benefits of therapeutic horseback riding are sometimes best expressed by those involved.

- My body feels amazing. I have improved my core strength and balance (a cerebral palsy participant).
- I have much more confidence in myself. Before riding, I was too afraid to try things because I was afraid I would fall. Now I want to try new things.
- Riding and being with horses is an escape from troubles of life.
- The calming sounds and tranquility of the barn with the horses puts me at peace.
- I have a purpose and something to look forward to. Riding has added joy to my routine and given me a new sense of purpose.
- It is easier to build new relationships. I am excited to share my love of horses with others.
- I have a new four-legged friend. My best friend is my horse. He has taught me a lot and is the greatest listener.

- I have been able to meet others with disabilities. It is cathartic and reassuring to be able to have camaraderie with others who share similar experiences.
- I have a second home. I come alive at the riding center because I am fully accepted there.
- I gain independence. Riding is my freedom from my chair. It is my place of constant yeses in a world of no's.
- I learn new skills. I can groom, clean tack, feed, assist with lessons, lead and hand graze the horses.

## Fencepost viewpoint by T. T. Toolittle

Timothy here. By golly, there's snow everywhere, but I'm doing just fine indoors. Yeah, I can run around without freezing my feet in the snow.

Ya know why? Sure you do. I'm in the arena, nice and cozy. I loooove this place. It's like a palace. OK, it's not a palace, but more like a fancy hotel. Well maybe I should call it a cave. How about my hideout. Yeah, it's

my hideout!

My gal, Felicity Fieldmouse is also here. She scurries around like an excited turkey. It's like we are in a fancy hotel, but I digress. Let's just say, we like the arena.

Our horses actually like being outside. I think they like to play on the snow. Maybe you should try it. You know, unlike people, they wear their

furry coats all the time. Actually, in the winter they grow their coats thicker—a lot thicker. In the spring they will shed all that winter fur—it has to be groomed off with brushes. What a mess, but that's another story.

But my paws (hands) are too small to make a snowball. Wish I could do that!



## Staying in expectation

Waiting for God to do what only God can do is one of the most difficult parts of faith. Our timing and His are usually two completely different things. But God promises never to be late and even states that He is not slow as man defines slowness (see 2 Peter 3:9). But usually He isn't early, and we do have to wait. It is important to wait with a good attitude and have courage. Trust that God's time is the right time.

As you wait on God, expect something good to happen at any moment. That will allow you to enjoy the wait instead of being sour and miserable.

*But those who wait for the Lord [who expect, look for, and hope in Him] shall change and renew their strength and power; they shall lift their wings and mount up [close to God] as eagles [mount up to the sun]; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint or become tired.*

Isaiah 40:31

## THERAPEUTIC HORSEBACK RIDING benefits

- Trunk control, balance, muscle tone, and strength
- Range of motion and joint mobility
- Fine motor coordination
- Sensory integration and concentration
- Spatial awareness and perceptual skills
- Cognitive skills
- Speech and language skills
- Self-discipline and self-awareness
- Confidence, pride, and self-esteem



Therapeutic riding is an equine-assisted activity for the purpose of contributing positively to the cognitive, physical, emotional and social well-being of individuals with special needs. Therapeutic riding provides benefits in the areas of health, education, sport, recreation and leisure. Throughout the world, there are thousands of individuals with special needs who experience the rewarding benefits of horseback riding. A disability does not have to limit a person from riding horses. In fact, experiencing the motion of a horse can be very therapeutic. Because horseback riding rhythmically moves the rider's body in a manner similar to a human gait, riders with physical disabilities often show improvement in flexibility, balance and muscle strength. In addition to the therapeutic benefits, horseback riding also provides recreational opportunities for individuals with disabilities to enjoy the outdoors.

At Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.) centers, professional staff and volunteers work closely with riders to ensure safe riding sessions. A new rider is generally assisted by two sidewalkers who walk alongside the horse, as well as a horse leader. Riding classes are taught by an instructor who has a strong equine background, as well as an understanding of various disabilities.

## Special horses are specially trained for therapeutic riding



At Jeremiah's Crossing our horses are specially trained to adjust to a student's specific needs, both of the body and of the mind. It becomes a joint venture—a willing student working with a willing horse. The young students climbing into the saddle see the horse in terms of endearment—a big warm

trusted friend with a face that invites nuzzling. The horse is seen as a means to have a good time.

Horses trained for this service must be sound, and their size and shape must be specifically suited to the student's needs. Size and age of horses govern the student selection, and even horse temperament is given careful consideration when pairing horse and student.

Older horses are often ideal for this type of work because their temperament can be more subdued and perhaps wizened with experience.

Volunteers work with horses new to the ranch as long as it takes to help them become comfortable with the

commands that will be used in the lessons.

The horse is trained to become accustomed to props that assist the student in developing coordination skills—stuffed toys, basketballs, or plastic rings. The horse is also acquainted with mounting ramps, which by nature might be threatening to an untrained horse. The horse must be trained to accept handling by different people.

This all takes time to develop, and the drills are done repeatedly until the horse shows no signs of apprehension. Horses are finally pronounced ready for their new career when they exhibit evidence that they are able and willing to accept their new role.



*Horses become our Partners in Healing by allowing us to experience the serenity of the present moment and providing for us mirrors of our own emotions, ways of communication, and challenges in relationships.*

## The Mane Event was fun for all

We are grateful for all who attended and supported our major winter fundraiser last November. We always appreciate all the help we get from the community and volunteers to provide food and auction items. The entertainment was just perfect for the occasion.

The live benefit auction for the many gifted items that were on display as well as offerings of feed for the horses greatly helped raise necessary funds to keep Jeremiah's Crossing going. Our guest participation for this event was wonderful. These have been hard times for the ranch, and we feel blessed to have such heartfelt community support.

The November Mane Event was a success. Thanks to all who attended and volunteered to make this charitable cause a reality. It is a lot of effort to stage this event, and it is gratifying to witness the support it garners from our community. God bless you all for helping us in this manner to prepare for all our winter challenges.

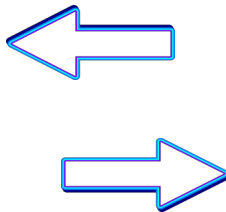
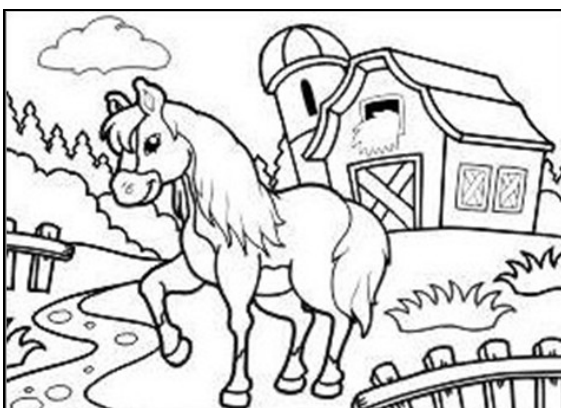
The reader might note the guy in the red shirt whipping it up on the dance floor. That's your editor with his daughter, Jeremiah's Crossing Vice President, Elizabeth Hipke. We were really whipping it up, and I didn't fall down!

Thank you all for your support. See you there in 2022!



*An elegant setting for gracious dining and a lovely evening of good cheer and heartfelt charity.*

Can you spot 9 things that are different in these 2 pictures?



Differences revealed at bottom of page 8

## Loving what you are doing

The thing about loving what you are doing is that it never seems like a chore.

Perhaps this is a lesson in attitude. Feeling a little down, a little negative? Well then, maybe it's time to think outside of the box and focus outside your personal shell.

A little secret we all share at Jeremiah's Crossing is that we find delight in making something really great happen. You know, different, like changing lives, bringing sunlight into dark places in need of light.

It is the sunlight of happiness that brightens our day here at Jeremiah's Crossing. Happiness in the saddle is wondrously life enhancing for our eager young students.

Our horses enjoy the com-

pany of our students, and they, in turn, reward us with their new giggles and happy smiles. It is their newfound partnership with our horses that provides a life-changing view of how joy rightfully belongs in their hearts.

They love the partnership and cooperative spirit of our handsome horses. And we know the little secret that our horses just love to have their happy young riders in their saddles. Who wouldn't like to hear a giggle or feel a loving pat on the neck?

This ministry was born out of a prayer, a prayer for service to dedicate our lives to help children and adults with diagnosed physical, cognitive, emotional and academic special needs to

find a new pathway to reveal peace in the world around them.

For all of us that have the honor to serve at Jeremiah's Crossing, we enjoy being involved in this admirable mission. We are all thankful for this opportunity to make some wonderful, life-changing things happen.

Support for our efforts comes from many different sources. We are grateful to all who help us—volunteers here at the ranch, those who spread the word to people who need our services, and to the many that assist us in fund raising that supplies the ranch and feeds our horses.

It is a great life-changing cause, and we welcome assistance and support from all sources. Thank you all.



**Working with horses helps others have fun**

**Many volunteer roles: gardening, grounds, newsletter, bunkhouse duties, horse leaders, side walkers, grooming**

**Visit us on Facebook or  
Call at 715-884-2551**

## Boy Scout shed project

We want to give a shoutout of thanks for another Boy Scout Eagle project to help improve our infrastructure at the ranch. This involved the building of a storage shed for the arena. Congratulations to Wyatt Erdman and his fellow scouts who fabricated and finished the entire shed, complete with shelving. It currently is located in the corner of our new arena.

Wyatt had a special "Pay it Back" incentive in taking on this project. His brother, Chance, is autistic and was one of the first riders at the ranch. Jeremiah's Crossing, in their unfailing generosity, allowed Wyatt to ride with his brother for lessons. This has always stood out to Wyatt, even considering how young he was at the time. He wanted to do something to demonstrate his appreciation for the special efforts that were made to include him in the lessons. He was grateful to the ranch for aiding his brother and letting him help in the process.

Photos show the two brothers at the ranch. Brotherhood just doesn't get any better than this! We are grateful for the honor of serving this family, and most grateful for Wyatt and his fellow scouts for taking on the building of our new shed for his

Eagle project. The pictures show the two brothers together at the ranch as well as the completed shed—up close and what it looks like in the arena.





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The Board of Directors at the 2021 Mane Event

## Changing lives

Jeremiah's Crossing is a nonprofit mission ministry. This ministry serves as a therapeutic horseback-riding ranch and is located in Babcock, Wisconsin. The ranch is dedicated to helping horses help children and adults with diagnosed physical, cognitive, emotional, and academic special needs at no cost to the students or their families.

Jeremiah's Crossing is God's ranch. He has provided for many people to be involved, using their gifts and talents to help others. We want to share our experiences with all who have interest—both those wishing to join our team as well as those wishing to be our prayerful friends.

Now in our second decade of service, we serve a large territory that draws people with special needs from throughout the area—Marathon, Wood, Portage, Waupaca, and Adams counties. For more information, check out our website at <http://jeremiahscrossing.org> or view our Facebook page.

Page 6 spot 9 differences: cloud, hay, silo window, tree behind horse, barn window, grass on right side, left fence top, horse 2nd stomach line, horse ear; Page 3 possible limerick line: And his tummy was much in need!

Be our friend, inspired by our efforts. Keep us in your prayers, and enjoy our successes, beside us if you can, supportive if you're able.