



EQUIGRACE

Past

WINTER 2016

WISH LIST

- Youth English Saddles
- English Girths/Tack
- Grooming Tools
- Grooming Supplies
- Panels
- Plastic Manure Forks
- Cross Ties
- EquiBuddies & EquiTeens

Gift Cards to:
BIG R

TRACTOR SUPPLY
HOME DEPOT

Thank You

A very special thanks goes to Debbie McNaugh, and her husband Mark, because without their incredible generosity, none of this would have been able to happen.



EQUIGRACE
EQUINE ASSISTED ACTIVITIES & THERAPEUTIC RIDING

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Thank you Everyone for a GREAT YEAR!!

Wow! What a great first year at our new location! We were able to offer equine assisted activities and therapies to the community all while developing a great group of team members (horses, students and volunteers alike) and it could not have been a better start to this new adventure!



January, we will be offering therapeutic groundwork, riding, and horsemanship, as well as EquiBuddies, EquiTeens and volunteer opportunities for the 2017 season and we look forward to the next step in our journey. Thank you everyone for your continued support!

STUDENTS & VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR 2017

For more information, please contact us!

We would love to have you as part of the EquiGrace Family!



VOLUNTEER VIEW

It was a warm, sunny morning when I first pulled into the wooded parking area of EquiGrace. I'd just passed Cindi (founder, executive director and all-around wonder woman) on the road, so knew it would be a little while before her return. I was glad to be alone so that nobody could see my childlike excitement as I ran over to the corral to gush over the four horses who I'd soon learn were Hawk, Rosie, Annie and Boomer.

So, confession. I love horses. I've never lost the impossible-to-explain-unless-you-also-are-a-horse-lover thrill at seeing one, the joy of feeling a soft muzzle in your hand, the contentment just to inhale their smell and bask in their wonderfulness. Oh sure, I love riding, too. But as my bones and joints age, I take just as much pleasure from their proximity with my feet planted on the ground.

As a horse lover suffering from a serious bout of equine deprivation, I was filled with anticipation when I saw the online posting about EquiGrace needing volunteers.

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HAWK

AGE: 21-23 years old

HEIGHT : 15.1

WEIGHT: 1100 Lbs

COLOR: Gruella

ROLES: Riding and Groundwork

TEACHING STYLE: Intuitive

QUOTE: “Here, let me help you with those treats.”

Hawk has been with EquiGrace since the beginning of our journey. He is a funny character and has proven that even in old age, he is as sharp as he was when he was 10, just physically a little slower and a bit more laid back. He is a gentle soul that intuitively knows what his job should be for each person he meets. I have watched him stand stock still to be brushed by a student in a wheel chair, I have seen him softly put his head on nervous parent and sigh in order to ease their concerns and I have seen him “be naughty” and tug a volunteer towards the hay so that person could learn to be more assertive. He just seems to sense what a person needs at that moment... and then gives them his heart. He is truly a kind and generous soul and we couldn't have asked for a better all-around therapy horse and friend.

VOLUNTEER VIEW (Cont.)

I was excited to read about the program's mission and the opportunity to be around horses that were going to make magic for all sorts of people in all sorts of ways.

Flash forward. Everything I hoped I would experience as an EquiGrace volunteer has come true. My heart has been filled by the chance to be around these most special horses who each have an uncanny ability to know how to provide the needed “therapy” in every situation. I have groomed them, led them, walked next to them with a rider on board, swept up and “picked” up after them (every horse poops) and tried to be a helpful volunteer in any way possible. It really is true that volunteers receive more than they give.

In addition to the horse joy, what I've received is the camaraderie of my fellow volunteers. For the most part I don't know what they do or don't do for a living, their political views or religious beliefs, or whether they believe in climate change. What I do know is that they, too, are horse lovers, and that we share the deep satisfaction of seeing how horses can touch and change people in subtle and profound ways.

And seeing our horses and their people in action? It's hard to put into words. There's the enthusiasm of Rayne, one of our riders, and seeing how her balance and confidence grow with every ride. Her hugs are genuine and priceless, and I look forward to them like Hawk looks forward to his after-ride treat of apples and carrots.

And then there's Mack. His smile and blue eyes say everything that words cannot, and it's obvious to any horse lover that he is definitely in our club. He loves grooming Hawk and holding his lead rope as we push him (via his wheelchair) through our creative and silly obstacle courses. It's impossible to know Mack and not adore him.

And then there's Tori and Samantha and the woman we call Nancy-Eileen- Fred (don't ask). Suffice it to say that every time these three get in a saddle they look taller when they dismount. And surer of themselves and their abilities. Being on a horse can do that. EquiGrace does that.

It's now winter break at EquiGrace until we reopen in January. I can't wait! I hope we find more riders or non-riders who want to give horse magic a try. The horses and volunteers will be ready! The grace part just happens. Come and see for yourself.

-Lori, “Volunteer” Volunteer Coordinator

