



**WE ARE BACK!**

### **COVID-19 Update**

Thanks to generous donations from volunteers, board members, the community, and having been successful in some local government and grant applications, we have resumed operations and continue to build our programs for this summer! Please note that we have restrictions in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at our facility and to protect those at highest risk for severe illness.

Please follow our website at [PRTR.ORG](http://PRTR.ORG) for more information.



### **NEWS FROM PRTR**

#### **Say Goodbye to Ace and Kate & Jack**

With a smile in one eye and a tear in the other we are saying goodbye to our wonderful friends. We are sad that they are leaving Promise Ranch but of course glad that they found a wonderful new home. Gina Kuttrus is graciously taking our long time therapy horse Ace for retirement. He will be rejoining his long buddy Dante, who Gina took home from Promise Ranch last December. We are so grateful to Gina for providing a wonderful retirement home to these boys.

Kate and Jack will be leaving us on July 12.

So please don't forget to give them a big hug when you are over at the barn next time.

We will be sharing detailed stories about Ace and the donkeys in the next newsletter.



## Patchie the Lucky Pony

- Story and photos provided by Theresa Sanderson

Our sweet Shetland pony Patchie is retiring from service at Promise Ranch. In the four years she's been with us, Patchie worked with all ages, from senior citizens to our youngest of visitors, helping to build confidence and abilities. Her calm demeanor made her just right for every job she was given. With Patchie, people at the ranch became accustomed to seeing a horse spending time inside the building, and were always delighted to see her there! Dressed as Olaf from "Frozen", she teamed up with our miniature donkeys and Yeti, our Norwegian Fjord, in 2016 in the Parker Carriage Parade. She also represented PRTR at the Castle Rock Star Lighting, a community event held to kick off the holiday season.

Now in her late 20's, Patchie has developed some vision issues that make doing her job more challenging, so she has moved south just a few miles to live and play with two miniature horses at the Wild Rose Ranch. Patchie begins this new chapter of life with Promise volunteer Theresa Sanderson, who has worked with her since she arrived at the Ranch.

A special thanks goes out to Carter Likos and Josiah VanHorn for all the time they have spent training Patchie! Patchie would love to see her friends from Promise again.

Patchie with Cecilia



Patchie with Carter



Patchie with Josiah



If you'd like to head over and see her just give Theresa a call at 303-506-9489.

Patchie with Riley



## New Volunteer Coordinator

In May this year Miriam Dudley joined our team as new Volunteer Coordinator. Miriam comes to Promise Ranch with over 20 years of experience in horseback riding and equine care. Her experience as a volunteer at a Therapeutic Riding center and a Horse Rescue will provide a common perspective for our volunteers as she paves the way for our expanding programs. As a team player with strong communication skills, her experience includes administrative tasks, customer communication, and management. Miriam earned her BA degree in International Business Communication from AKAD University Stuttgart, Germany.



## Volunteer Handbook

We are proud to have our very first volunteer handbook in place. The handbook is meant to be a guideline for all volunteers involved in our daily operations. Please find the handbook on our website at <https://www.prtr.org/volunteer/sign-up/>

## New therapy rooms

With the help of volunteers and board we were able to build a new treatment area in the back of our shop. Thanks to everyone who made this project possible!



## WHAT'S NEXT?

### Therapy Sessions

**Independence Day July 4 > no classes**

**Make Up week:** July 12-18

**Break week for horses:** July 19-25

**Start new sessions:** July 26

### Upcoming Volunteer Training

**Orientation & Side Walker training for new volunteers:**

July 11, 01:30pm-03:00pm

August 1, 01:30pm-03:00pm (sign up possible after release of new schedule starting on July 26)

Please note that all volunteers that aim to become a head walker have to attend the following training:

**Ground handling & grooming training (2 options):**

July 25, 10:00am-12:00pm (please send an email to [volunteer@prtr.org](mailto:volunteer@prtr.org) if you are interested)

August 8, 10:00am-12:00pm (sign up possible after release of new schedule starting on July 26)

**Basic Horse Anatomy training:** July 18, 10:00am-11:30am

Dr. Mindy Smith will be covering basic equine anatomy and discussing common ailments & issues that arise with horses.

**Tacking & Saddle Fitting training:** August 1, 10:30am-12:00pm

(sign up possible after release of new schedule starting on July 26)

**Head Walker training:**

August 22, time tbd (sign up possible after release of new schedule starting on July 26)

If you are interested in attending please sign up on VSP or send an email to [volunteer@prtr.org](mailto:volunteer@prtr.org).

## Summer Camps

**Hand, Hearts and Horses:** July 13-17, 9am-12am (ages 8-12)

**Speaking of Horses:** July 27-31, 9:00am-12am (ages 5-12)

Please find more information on our website: <https://www.prtr.org/summer-camps-2020/>

### Opportunities to volunteer:

We are looking for 2 volunteers per day to support Promise Ranch during the summer camps.

Please send an email to [volunteer@prtr.org](mailto:volunteer@prtr.org) if you are interested or sign up on VSP directly.

## PEOPLE AT PRTR

### Rider Spotlight: Meet Josiah!

- Story and photos provided by Josiah's family & Theresa Sanderson

Eleven-year-old Josiah has been riding at Promise Ranch for about five years, and the unique opportunities he's had to ride and care for our horses and donkeys have helped him to grow his strength, knowledge and confidence. Having ridden several of our horses over the years with instructor Sharon, Dante has remained his favorite, as he has learned to steer through obstacle courses, post the trot, stop and go.

"One of the things I have learned is that I can always be improving my riding skills. I also learned parts of the horse and names of all the horses' tack," Josiah said. While the best part of visiting the ranch is riding the horses, he said, Josiah also enjoys caring for our "littles", the miniature donkeys Jack and Kate, and Shetland pony Patchie.

His mom Cherie explains that grooming and walking "the littles" is something he can't experience in a typical occupational or physical therapy setting. "The difference is that these activities actually have purpose to the one on the



receiving end,” Cherie said. “Patchie, Jack and Kate need to be cared for, and as Josiah does that caring, it gives him purpose. He is always the one needing help, but in this setting, the animal, who is larger than him, needs him.”

Josiah has been overcoming challenges since birth, and nothing comes easy, but he is determined to learn, mom said. When he first started riding at Promise, he depended on a walker to get around, but mom said once he started to ride, the walker was soon left behind! He continues to gain core strength, balance, coordination and flexibility as he rides. He has come so far!

“When Josiah struggles to control his own body in a typical way, it is very disheartening and frustrating for him,” mom explained. “As Josiah rides on an animal that is twenty times his size and he can successfully command that animal, he feels very empowered. The horse can move him around the arena and on terrain outside in ways that his own body cannot.

The smile on his face shows what an amazing and freeing feeling horse riding is for him,” mom said. “I can’t wait to get back to riding at Promise Ranch!” Josiah said.

In the meantime, he will be at home training his service dog, feeding his own farm animals, playing with his five siblings, reading and listening to books, riding his ‘quad’, building with Legos, playing games like chess and Battleship, working on engines with his dad, and learning about historical wars and United States presidents.

We can’t wait to see you again at the ranch, Josiah!



## Board Member Spotlight:

### Meet Mark Meyer

- Story and photo provided by Ainé Daveed



"Who is that masked man?!" Let me introduce you to Mark Meyer, affectionately known around these parts as "*Mark the Mucker*," a title earned out of overwhelming respect watching Mark showing up week after week in the dead of winter to clear our stalls and runs.

In other corners of the world, Mark is known by more distinguished titles such as *Foundry Owner*, with 35 years in the manufacturing of iron castings in the US and Mexico.

To his youngest daughter, who started down the path of dressage at the age of 10, first with her thoroughbred, then later with a warmblood as she neared her college years, he was *proudest dad ever*, thoroughly enjoying every show.

And then some 15 years ago, Mark had a rare summer "off," spending time at his home in Keystone, CO, and thought, "Why not stay busy at one of the stables while I'm here."

Stay busy he did. Rising at 6 am, catching and tacking out 30 horses, taking city folk on trail rides by day and hosting barn dances and parties by night, Mark became a sure-enough *wrangler*.

Although Mark is wearing a mask, you can see his eyes sparkling over the top as he says, "It is gratifying to step into the role of *financial planner* for Promise Ranch," and lend his business and management expertise to us at this critical time.

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**HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT**

**Support us while shopping:**

It's SO easy to raise funds for Promise Ranch while you grocery shop, here's how:

1) Follow this link:

<https://www.kingsoopers.com/topic/king-soopers-community-rewards>

2) Enter this code: ND279

3) Keep your own loyalty points!

4) Benefit Promise Ranch!

**Donation:**

You can easily scan this bar code with your smartphone to donate via PayPal.

**Volunteer with Promise Ranch:**

We are always looking for motivated people who want to donate their time to our ranch. Please find more information on our

website: <https://www.prtr.org/volunteer/sign-up/>

or send an email to [volunteer@prtr.org](mailto:volunteer@prtr.org).

**Other opportunities to support Promise Ranch**

can be found here: <https://www.prtr.org/give-to-promise/>



**A BIG THANK YOU**

**TO OUR SPONSORS**

**include BOARD & VOLUNTEERS**

Shout out to our volunteers  
working tirelessly  
behind the scenes

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