



Heaven's Gait Ranch, Inc. Therapeutic Riding Center

December 4, 2020

Dear Family & Friends,

We wish you and your family a healthy, wholesome, and happy holiday season. Your prayers and support have carried us through some of the darkest, most challenging times of our lives, and for that, we are forever grateful for your commitment to our mission at Heaven's Gait Ranch.

They call 2020 unprecedented. Unimaginable. Uncertain. And even unfair. They've thrown numbers at you. Percentages. Probabilities. And staggering statistics. Meanwhile, your loved one isn't just a number; your loved one is your whole world.

That's why when we look back on 2020, we'll think of you and smile because you've proved time and time again that you're the best of the best. You're our champions who choose to put others first, even when the world is falling apart. And if that isn't class, I don't know what is. They say 2020 has brought out the worst in people, but I'd argue, we've surrounded ourselves with the very best.



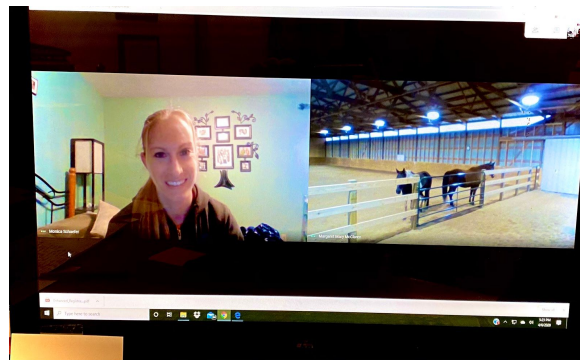
Because time is guaranteed to no one, I want you to know that if you're on our mailing list, you matter to us. And your life has touched ours in a way we'll remember and honor -- by paying it forward to support those who need it most -- our U.S. military veterans and participants with special needs.

Considering less than 0.5% of the U.S. population serves in the military, and one in four people have a disability, some people might argue "that's hardly anyone at all; why should I care?" But you? You know better. You know that numbers matter because *they're not numbers: they're human beings*. And that number includes *your person*. Your child. Your sibling. Your spouse. Your grandparent. Your cousin. Your friend. Your neighbor. Your *whole world*. And that's why we're grateful for you. You know that *one person* has the ability to positively impact the trajectory of millions of lives. So thank you for teaching and showing others what it means to really value the dignity of life. In all forms. At all stages.



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Do you know why it's amazing to work with people who have special needs? Because they revel in every moment! They don't stay down in the dumps; they find ways to lift themselves up. Sun's out? They're riding. Rainy & muddy? They're grooming. Cold & blustery? They're Zoomin'. They're still smiling, and they're rolling with the rules. And then there's our veterans, who quietly respect and consider the greater good in all that they do.



Like you, they're resilient. When something is in their way, they create a different path. Like you, their minds and bodies constantly adapt, and their senses grow stronger because of it. Like you, they're do-ers. They're problem-solvers. And like you, they're considerate of their fellow man in need. Growing up in families that show up and show love through action and deeds, such as visiting the sick and burying the dead, it's difficult to stay away from those we love. So, what do you do in times like these?

You thank God for a new day the moment you wake up in the morning, and you decide it's going to be the best day of your life. With that in mind, you search for signs. Inspiration. A reason to do good. You thank God for those who show you what you can do, for those who make you think outside the box, and for those who help you in ways you never thought possible. And when you aren't impressed by the humans around you, you look to the skies. To nature. To animals. And they touch your soul.

We don't have to tell you how hard 2020 has been: you know, because you're living it too. In April 2020, unemployment soared to its highest level since the Great Depression. By September, 865,000 women fell out of the labor force in addition to 216,000 men. Make no mistake, your financial support makes all the difference to our small nonprofit.



Your generosity, coupled by the state and federal loan forgiveness programs that we've successfully pursued, enabled HGR to retain all five of our employees through this pandemic: four of whom are women; one of whom is a male veteran. While 84% of all PATH Intl. centers shut down last spring, 111 centers never reopened. Because of your support, HGR was among the 16% who quickly adapted their programs to include telehealth, remote services and virtual learning -- providing over 1,000 lessons to those in need. For these reasons & more, thank you for sponsoring the 0.5%, for supporting the one out of four, for remembering the people some seem to forget and choose to neglect.

You make a difference. And your support sets the tone for hope in 2021. Thank you for sticking with us as we head into the new year, and hold onto your horses because the best is yet to come!

With much appreciation,
Margaret Mary McClaren
Founder, Executive Director

Heaven's Gait Ranch, Inc.
Therapeutic Riding Center

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How You Can Help HGR

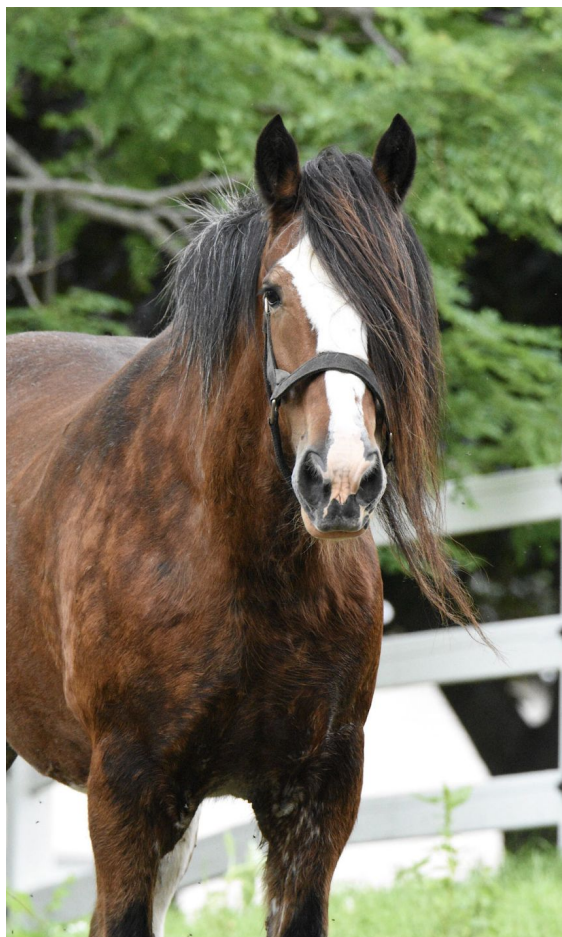
Donate — Know that every little bit helps
(including your shopping on **Amazon Smile**)!

Donations can be made to Heaven's Gait Ranch,
at 940 S. Main St., Cedar Grove, WI 53013. Our
EIN is 81-1274623. You can also text to give at
any time, using the following number & keyword:

Text to Give: (920) 315-7551
Keyword: horses



When you text "horses" to the number above, you'll receive a link to access a secure platform, GiveCentral. Here, you can make a one-time or recurring donation.



Big News Worth Sharing:

In March 2020 when the CARES Act was passed there was good news for donors in it. Here it is:

If you take the standard deduction or do not itemize: you can deduct up to \$300 for any cash, check, or credit card gift made in calendar year 2020 from the income taxes. Presently, only those who itemize their income tax deductions are able to use a charitable deduction. For the rest of 2020, an individual will be able to deduct up to \$300, irrespective of whether or not they itemize their deductions. This "above the line" deduction can be used for contributions only of cash (not stock) to qualified charitable organizations.

If you itemize your tax returns: you can deduct a much higher amount if you make larger gifts. Under current law, an individual may deduct up to 60% of their adjusted gross income (AGI) for charitable deductions of cash. The stimulus package lifts that restriction, so that an individual can make a gift only of cash (not stock) and deduct it up to 100% of their AGI for the year 2020. This is an election, so if you want to use this provision you must tell the IRS so. This is helpful, as it could allow you to make charitable gifts that eliminate a tax burden. Any contributions in excess of total AGI may be carried forward for up to five additional years, which is yet another benefit and planning tool. This may not be used to fund Donor Advised Funds or Supporting Organizations.



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Preparing for 2021 & Beyond

1. **Sponsor a Horse** — Without major fundraising events this year, we need your help! Two horses at HGR still need sponsors for 2021: Frost (left) & Ellie (right). The cost to sponsor one horse is \$1,500 which includes annual vet visits, vaccines, and regular hoof care. One program horse at HGR provides over 100 lessons each year! Help them serve people in need!



2. **Support our Emergency Equine Angel Fund** — A gift of any size to this fund will help provide the best care for our best friends when they need it most. This fund helps us prepare for emergency vet visits and end of life care.
3. **Consider a Corporate Matching Gift** — Many businesses offer matching donations. Does your employer care about health and human services, military veterans, or animals? Please ask your employer today, advocate on our behalf, or let us know if this is an option, and we'd be happy to connect. Corporations have much greater incentives to make charitable gifts. *There's also a substantial benefit for corporate charitable gifts. Usually this is limited to 10% of taxable income for the corporation. That limit has been increased to 25% of the taxable income, making charitable gifts much more attractive to many companies.*
4. **Leave a Legacy & Help HGR Build an Endowment** — Planning for the future and creating the legacy you wish to leave is one of the most effective ways to ensure a lasting impact. Making a gift to Heaven's Gait Ranch, Inc. in your will or living trust, known as a bequest, can guarantee that your legacy endures. Your gift may be a specific dollar amount, stocks, bonds, an estate, a percentage of your estate, or the remainder after all other provisions are specified. As a small nonprofit working to make a big difference, we will remember you. If you have named Heaven's Gait Ranch in your will or trust, please let us know so we can ensure your gift is used according to your wishes. Notifying us of your plans will enable us to plan for the use of your future gift. If you prefer to remain anonymous, we will keep your name and gift in strict confidence. Please contact Brian McClaren at 920-400-0628 or info@heavensgaitranch.org for more information.