



Dear Family & Friends,

We hope summer is off to a lovely start! We are looking forward to seeing you at HGR for this year's Hayburner Fundraiser & Silent Auction on Saturday, September 13, 2025 from 1-4 pm! As we prepare for year ten, you have given us much to appreciate, including feedback on our fundraising events to maximize the benefit to our mission and equine assisted programs. Thank you for always having our best interests at heart!



Because we recognize the cost of family outings has increased considerably in recent years, we're working hard to make our fundraising events more accessible and family-friendly to expand our network of support. That said, we are asking for free-will donations upon entry instead of charging fixed ticket prices for the Hayburner this year. By doing this, we hope more people can attend and show their support for HGR in any way they can. Whether you donate to our silent auction in advance, purchase an item the day of the event, or pledge an amount before the end of the year, every little bit helps our nonprofit. The love of horses is timeless, and it's a gift to share it with multiple generations in our greater community.

How You Can Help

If you can't make it to our annual fundraiser but still want to support, please consider helping HGR in any of the following ways:

1. Donate a silent auction item: experiences, stays, tickets, gift certificates, or baskets are all welcome! Please email info@heavensgaitranch.org in advance so we can create bid sheets.
2. Advocate and solicit support on HGR's behalf. Do you have a friend or know a business who might be willing to help sustain our mission? Operational support and event sponsors are annual needs.
3. Text-to-Give: 920-315-7551 keyword: horses
4. Donate directly to Heaven's Gait Ranch, Inc., and we will allocate funds to where it's needed most.
5. Remember Heaven's Gait Ranch, Inc. in your will or trust. EIN: 81-1274623. As a small nonprofit, we will remember you!



Heaven's Gait Ranch, Inc.

Summer 2025



Finally, please help us by calling or texting 920-400-0628 to RSVP so that we can prepare food, drinks, seating, and activities for all to enjoy! Closed-toed shoes are highly recommended, and for the safety of all humans and horses on site, please no dogs.

All open sponsorships are posted on our website and will be included in our Silent Auction at the Hayburner Fundraiser. If you are a current horse or stall sponsor and would like to renew through 2026, please kindly let us know prior to the Hayburner, and we will include your pledge! Many thanks for your continued dedication and support!

Please follow us on Facebook or email info@heavensgaitranch.org for more information.

Herd & Program Update:

Thank you for asking about the status of our program horses: last year's additions are not only earning their keep, but the herd is collectively providing therapeutic services to 60 individuals enrolled every week. Half way through the year, we have already provided over 700 lessons to individuals with special needs and veterans with disabilities – excluding special group outings – so at this rate, we will exceed expectations for the number of lessons provided to our greater community in 2025! With two instructors in-training and multiple PATH Instructors on site every day, we are pleased to report programming is in solid hands, with reliable people who care. Thank you for making that possible by recruiting and retaining top talent in our industry – two and four-legged!



Heaven's Gait Ranch, Inc.
Therapeutic Riding Center

940 S. Main St.
Cedar Grove, WI 53013

P: 920-400-0628
www.heavensgaitranch.org



With a healthy herd and more evenly distributed workloads, this is the time to make hay while the sun shines. That said, we were approached with the opportunity to free lease another delightful mare this spring! As a 20-year-old American Quarter Horse known for her kind heart and gentle spirit, Lola has a solid foundation of handling and training. For the last seven years, she was lovingly cared for by her owner, Taylor, who now works for HGR as a Program Assistant. Enrolled in the Youth Apprenticeship Program through her local high school, Taylor has learned what it takes for program horses to thrive at HGR; therefore, after recognizing Lola's potential to have a fulfilling job in her senior years, Taylor offered her mare up for free lease.

While Lola is providing therapeutic riding lessons at HGR, the cost of her routine veterinary & hoof care has been graciously pledged by an anonymous sponsor. Thank you for anticipating this need!

Volunteers

Nearly 50% of our weekly riders with special needs and disabilities require physical support from volunteers; therefore, we are grateful for the retirees and students who show up week after week to assist in lessons. Many hands make light[er] work, and we appreciate those traveling quite a distance to make a meaningful difference!

Eager to help with our big spring clean up this year, we were fortunate to have volunteers come from Oostburg State Bank during National Volunteer Week. Despite wind and rain, their team of professionals worked together, clearing brush from our trail and water retention ponds. Spring clean up is always a bear, but this year's "Day of Caring" – led by David Foerster – was very much appreciated!

After adults from the bank stacked branches and hauled heavy debris, a group of children from St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Plymouth finished the job under the direction of Monica Schaefer and volunteer, Pat Marek. With final touches aligned with youthful skillsets and energy, spring clean up was a beautiful reminder of how many people in the community come together to show that they care.



Events

National Volunteer Week was full of smiles, leading directly into our Meat Raffle Fundraiser at Kyote's in Belgium. Together, we generated over \$2,000 to sponsor a stall in our pony barn!



Events (Continued)

Typically held in March, we were navigating benefits for other local charities, so we appreciate Kyote's for having us in April and for keeping us on their short list of nonprofits to support in the community! Like you, small businesses get solicited often for donations, and it means the world when one recognizes the value of our mission and chooses to support us year after year. In addition to family and friends, the restaurant was filled with members from the American Legion Melvin Wester Post 412 and Belgium Lions Club, which means the world to us to have their continued blessing.

Taking the lead on Rounds for the Ranch this year was PATH Intl. Instructor Monica Schaefer, who did a fantastic job organizing our second annual charity clay sporting trap shooting event. Co-hosted by SoLu Winery and The Highlands Sportsmen's Club of Cascade, WI, the first Saturday in June was another gorgeous day to gather for fun in the sun with food, drinks, music, raffles – and puppies! Many thanks to our station sponsors, Great Outdoors Supper Club, West Bend Elevator, and Fleet Farm, as well as H.Knox Development who sponsored "the flurry station" for the second year in a row.

Teams competed for best individual score, best team score, and best flurry score. Winners included Ben Propson (49/50) and Team Bigelow (180/200) for best individual score and best team score respectively. The winner of the flurry ultimately went to Team Bigelow, after an exciting tie of 44/50 between Team Bigelow and Team Schaefer.



At the end of the day, all hearts were giddy when black lab puppies graced us with their presence at SoLu. Donnybrook Kennels coordinated a meaningful donation from the Mitchell family to HGR, when one lucky pup sold during our fundraiser. The event generated over \$4,000, more than double from last year, so we are grateful for our generous sponsors, local businesses, and dedicated staff for showing their growing support!

With proceeds from all events sustaining our equine assisted services at HGR, we can't thank you enough for your continued commitment to our mission! We hope you enjoy the rest of summer, and we look forward to seeing you and your family at our 9th Annual Hayburner Fundraiser & Silent Auction on September 13, 2025!

Sincerely,

Margaret Mary McClaren

Margaret Mary McClaren
Executive Director