



**Happy Father's Day June 17**

**Ready to rodeo? Sign up now to help**

You can be part of the "World's Oldest Rodeo" –just sign up now to help with our Happy Hearts Rodeo on **Thursday, June 28**. Horses with Heart has the privilege of opening this famous event with our own version of a rodeo. Special needs youngsters ages 5-12 get to be cowpokes –riding our horses, barrel racing stick horses, roping and riding our "woolly-bully" (hand-rocked "mechanical" bull) and more.

While the contestant roster is full, volunteers are still needed to be Safety Support Team members and activity directors in the rodeo arena. **Please sign up in the Volunteer Trailer or email Jan Grise: [ridingdir@hwhonline.org](mailto:ridingdir@hwhonline.org)**. Also, complete a Frontier Days Rodeo Waiver (next to the sign-up sheet) and put it in Jan's folder on the Instructors' office door.

Please plan to arrive at the Rodeo Grounds on Fair St. in Prescott by 3:45 pm. The event runs from 5-6 pm.

**Safety Tip of the Month**

As the weather warms, it's important to stay hydrated. However, please properly dispose of plastic water bottles you may keep beside the arena during your session. More than just litter, these bottles could cause mishaps if they blow around and frighten the horses.

**Calendar of Events**

**June 2** ~ Spring Miniature Horse & Pony Fun Show, 9 am, HwH. Open to anyone showing minis, ponies and donkeys. Spectators welcome; no admission fee. Info: [www.minipony.org](http://www.minipony.org).

**Through June 8** ~ Session 2, Therapeutic Riding Lessons. Make-ups June 11, June 14 & June 15.

**June 9** ~ Fun Bucks Auction and Special Olympics Team Beach Party, HwH, beginning at 10 am.

**June 13** ~ "No Host" Volunteer Lunch. Casa Grande Restaurant, Chino Valley, 11 am.

**June 20** ~ **Happy Trails Day** for Yavapai Indian Tribe youth. If you can help with SST or crafts, contact Jan Grise: [ridingdir@hwhonline.org](mailto:ridingdir@hwhonline.org).

**June 23** ~ Volunteer Orientation 9-11 am; Safety Support Team Training 12-2 pm, HwH.

**June 28** ~ **Happy Hearts Rodeo**, Prescott Rodeo Grounds, 3:45 pm (see article at left).

**July 10, 11, 12 & 17, 18, 19** ~ **Happy Trails Horse Experience**, HwH. (see article on p. 2)

**Volunteer of the Month:**

**KAY LYONS**

**Reasons selected:** Always smiling and happy to help with a Safety Support Team, Kay has great coaching skills for working with riders who are almost ready for more independence, as well as those who need lots of support. In a short time, Kay has shown that she's long on commitment and a positive attitude.



**Q&A with Kay:**

**Q: How long have you been with HwH?**

**A:** Three and one-half years.

**Q: Why do you volunteer at HwH?**

**A:** I have loved horses since I was a little girl. I know how special they are, and how they love and accept you unconditionally; I want to share these gifts with others. (continued on next page)



**Q: What is your favorite memory or moment at HwH?**

**A:** The spontaneous smiles and laughter we all see and hear from the riders.

**Q: If you could share one thing with new volunteers, what would that be?**

**A:** Ask lots of questions, because everyone at HwH is willing to help you learn how best to handle the horses and interact with our riders. Enjoy!

### **Good job! The story of two riders**

*A continuing feature on the powerful impact that horses can have on the lives of our riders.*

Therapy can sometimes be a struggle for those with special needs – but when the healer stands on four hooves, progress can bring joy, instead. That’s what the daughters (pictured below) of Diane and Mike have learned since starting with Horses with Heart just a few



months ago. “We noticed developmental challenges with both girls from very early on, and over the years they’ve experienced a number of therapies,” says Diane. “But nothing else has brought improvement as

fast as riding at Horses with Heart.”

A bit nervous at first, the girls, ages nine and 11, loved the whole experience of riding, grooming, and working with HwH staff and volunteers. Within mere months, their (human) therapists reported “marked improvements” in the girls’ coordination, musculature, muscle tone, concentration and confidence.

“The biggest compliment for Horses with Heart is that the kids don’t even realize it’s therapy,” says Diane. “Every time they ride, they want to do more.” She and her husband are especially grateful for the rider scholarships made possible by donors to HwH. To the donors, staff and volunteers, Diane and her family have a simple message: “We’re really grateful.”

*Help change the lives of riders like these. Give today to HwH, serving the Quad Cities’ special needs community for over 25 years.*

**Horses with Heart, P. O. Box 2427  
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www.hwonline.org**



On the right PATH: At a regional conference in New Mexico last month for the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship Intl. were (from left): HwH PATH instructors Jan Grise, Sherry Hoover and Trudy Chapman-Radley. Networking with other centers helps HwH stay current on developments benefitting special needs riders.

### **“Happy Trails” to you: join us**

In July, the special needs community can enjoy “Happy Trails,” a riding and crafts program at the ranch.

The event will run from 9 a.m.-noon on **July 10, 11, 12** and **July 17, 18, 19**. We need many volunteers to support this great program. There are sign-up sheets in the Volunteer Trailer. Our special need? Someone to be the Crafts Coordinator. Contact Jan Grise: 928-308-1353; ridingdir@hwonline.org.



Riders and volunteers enjoyed a great day of competition and spectating at the Western Extravaganza Horse Show at Santori Ranch, Chino Valley, last month. Special thanks to the Western Dressage Association of AZ for making us a part of their show. *Photo by Jesse Senita*