



Happy Mother's Day May 13



Why I give: A Donor's Story

This is a regular feature on a vital part of the HwH "family":



our donors. Here, Mike Olsen, president of Olsen's Grain, Inc., explains why his family and company have been one of HwH's strongest supporters since we began in 1993.

Mike Olsen grooming the arena he donated for last year's Barrel Race. Photo by Karen Richert

The people and programs — that's what keeps Olsen's Grain involved with Horses with Heart. Going all the way back to Founder Vicki Stuart and Trudy Chapman-Radley, the first executive director, and Pam Berry, current executive director... these are great people whose programs help the special needs community.

As a company and as a family, we've always supported activities that we believe are vital to our community. The nature of HwH really fits who we are and what we do, because of the horse connection.

A few years ago, we started donating the use of our arena (next to our Chino Valley location) to a select number of groups whose work we support. That's how we came to host the first HwH "Have a Heart" Barrel *(continued on next page)*

**Horses with Heart, P. O. Box 2427
Chino Valley, AZ 86323
(928) 533-9178
www.hwonline.org**

Calendar of Events

April 30-June 8 ~ Session 2, Therapeutic Riding Lessons. No classes May 28; make-up June 11. No classes May 17; make-up June 14.

May 12 ~ Western Extravaganza Horse Show, Santori Ranch, Chino Valley. Show begins at 8 am. HwH SO Team competes in Trail 9 - Noon; Rail class (equitation) after 1:30. Food vendors on site, bring your own chairs.

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

June 28 ~ Happy Hearts Rodeo, Prescott Rodeo Grounds.

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

Volunteer of the Month: MARY SMITH

Reasons selected: In the words of one HwH leader,



"Mary always gives from the heart to every animal, rider, project and other volunteer." She serves as president of the HwH Board of Directors, coordinates the Marvelous Minis program, helps with class setups, side walking, coaching and leading, serves as the Education Instructor for the Happy Trails program, oversees

and coordinates supplements for the horses, and is also a mentor to new volunteers. Occasionally, she also finds time to sleep.

Q&A with Mary:

Q: How long have you been with HwH?

A: This is my 12th year.

Q: Why do you volunteer at HwH?

A: I am constantly learning: learning about horses, about the special needs community, and about relationships — e.g., how a wide variety of personalities work together in this place for the success of the riders. *(continued on next page)*



(Volunteer of the Month, continued)

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

A: In 12 years there have been too many to choose just one. That is a gift we get from volunteering here.

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

A: Two things: 1. Your participation, whether big or small, WILL have an impact on someone's life. 2. Don't hesitate to ask questions or to ask for help. We've all been there and we want you to be successful!

("Why I give", continued)

Race last year, and we'll do so again this year (Sept. 29).

But week in and week out, it's the everyday horseback riding experience that matters most. I see the kids get such a thrill out of being on top of a horse and making that connection with an animal that helps their whole demeanor and the problems they're dealing with. To any business or individual considering getting involved with Horses with Heart, I offer our own philosophy: to select and support organizations that are truly worthwhile; this make us a better community. Horses with Heart, for us, is certainly one of those.

Olsen's Grain is a family-owned retailer of pet, livestock and wild bird feeds, with stores in Chino Valley, Prescott, Dewey, Verde Valley and Flagstaff. Join HwH supporters like Mike-- Give to HwH, serving the Quad Cities for over 25 years.

Safety Tip of the Month

If during a lesson you need to adjust tack or check a helmet, don't stop the horse near the arena rails. Instead, bring horse and rider to the center, out of the way of others.

Smile: your Amazon buy supports HwH

In this season of graduations, wedding and other special events, remember: you can give twice when you buy gifts from Amazon.

Just visit **smile.amazon.com** and sign up today. Then designate Horses with Heart as your charitable organization. Every time you buy through AmazonSmile, Amazon will contribute a portion of your purchase amounts to HwH.

Open Arena & Tack Sale!

Third Sunday of each month, 1-4 pm., HwH. Just \$20 per horse & rider pair; reserve now – 928/533-9178.

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Help us saddle up for the rodeo



Sign up now to help with our Happy Hearts Rodeo on **Thursday, June 28.**

Horses with Heart has the privilege of opening the "World's Oldest Rodeo" 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.

It takes at least 30 volunteers to be SST (Safety Support Team) members and activity directors in the rodeo arena. **Please sign up in the Volunteer Trailer or email Jan Grise: ridingdir@hwonline.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.

The donation that saves you money

Did you know that helping HwH may help you cut your state tax bill? Because Horses with Heart is a qualifying charity in the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit Program, you could cut your state tax bill by up to \$800 (married couple filing jointly).

To give, email or call Pam Berry: execdir@hwonline.org; 928-899-4759. Or, mail your check, payable to Horses with Heart, to P.O. Box 2427, Chino Valley, AZ 86323.

Hit the "Happy Trails" in July

During a break in HwH riding sessions in July, the special needs community has a chance to enjoy "Happy Trails," a riding and crafts program at the ranch.

The three-hour 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 to join the SST (Safety Support Team) as well as help with crafts. Our special need? Someone to be the Crafts Coordinator. Please sign up the next time you are at the ranch or contact Jan Grise: 928-308-1353; ridingdir@hwonline.org.