



Good Job! Bobbie: A Rider's Story

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

Bobbie doesn't hear or speak, and she walks with crutches – but that didn't hold her back when she began riding at Horses with Heart six years ago.

Terrified of horses in her former Illinois home, at first Bobbie didn't really connect with or trust her HwH horse. She interacted

well with her Instructor and Safety Support Team, however – especially her coach, who helps with pre-ride stretching and helping her relax her legs once she's in the saddle.

Bobbie has changed horses a few times; getting matched with Sunshine made all the difference. She has learned to take charge of her horse, walk, trot and back up. The connection she has with Sunshine is evident, and Bobbie's confidence has soared. Very observant and alert to her surroundings, Bobbie is a joy to work with.

While she doesn't speak the words, she is able to make a kissing sound to let beautiful Sunshine know to "walk on." Ride on, Bobbie!

Help change the lives of people like Bobbie. Give today to HwH, serving the Quad Cities' special needs community for over 25 years.

It's Volunteer Week April 30-May 5

Since the "official" **National Volunteer Week** is April 15-21, and that falls during our break in Therapeutic Riding classes, we're recognizing our great crew from April 30-May 5.

Please stop at the Volunteer Trailer any time during that week for some special treats and gifts of appreciation.

All year 'round, HwH values you and the important work you do, whether it's helping out with riding lessons, serving on a committee, pitching in for fundraisers, cleaning stalls or working in the office.

By volunteering with HwH, you're helping make life better for those who need a hand. In big and small ways, you're making a difference, and all we can say is...

THANK YOU!

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

Calendar of Events

Through May 26 ~ Special Olympics Spring Season.

Through April 13 ~ Session 1, Therapeutic Riding Lessons.
April 11 ~ "No host" volunteer luncheon, 11:30 am, Gabby's Grill, Prescott Valley.

April 15 ~ Volunteer Orientation, 11 am; Safety Support Team training, 1:30 pm.

April 15 ~ Tack Sale and Open Arena, 1-4 pm.

April 22-28 ~ CHA IRD Clinic, HwH. Volunteers needed for support for horses and classes; sign-up sheet in volunteer trailer. For more information, to audit or to volunteer, contact Jan Grise: 928-308-1353; ridingdir@hwhonline.org.

April 30-June 8 ~ Session 2, Therapeutic Riding Lessons.

May 12 ~ HwH Special Olympics Team will be competing at the Western Dressage Assn. Show, Santori Ranch, Chino Valley. Details to be announced.

June 9 ~ Fun Bucks Auction and Special Olympics Team Beach Party, HwH.

June 28 ~ **Happy Hearts Rodeo**, Prescott Rodeo Grounds.

Volunteer of the Month: KRIS DOCKUM



Reasons selected: Kris gives her all – and then some – to HwH each week. Serving as coach, leader and sidewalker on multiple days, she's also a Safety Support Team coordinator, water tank cleaner, mucker as needed, tack maintenance pro, and is getting to be an expert in saddle fitting, too.

Also: Supplement administrator? Check. Horse health inspector? Check. Invaluable asset to our horses and riders? Oh, check!
Q&A with Kris:

Q: How long have you been with HwH?

A: This is my sixth year.

Q: Why do you volunteer at HwH?

A: I can't think of anything as rewarding as seeing riders gain skills and confidence and knowing that I'm part of the team that's helping them progress.

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

A: Among so many, one is really special: watching one of our
(continued next page)



riders ride to the end of the arena and back for the first time, off lead, and with no Safety Support Team. I was nervous, but the look on his face on the way back is with me forever.

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

A: No matter what experience you offer – whether it’s horse “smarts” or office skills or just the willingness to pitch in around the ranch – you are valued and needed.

Safety Tip of the Month

When tying a horse up at the hitching rails, make sure you use a safety release knot. Leave the tail of the rope “unlocked” so you can pull the knot loose in one movement, if needed.

“Light It Up Blue” on April 2

World Autism Awareness Day, observed on April 2, was adopted by the United Nations in 2007 to shine a bright light on autism as a growing global health priority.

Every year on World Autism Awareness Day, Autism Speaks celebrates its international “Light It Up Blue” campaign. (Autism Speaks is a leading research and advocacy organization for autism; find it at www.autismspeaks.org.)

Thousands of iconic buildings and homes across the globe unite by shining bright blue lights in honor of the millions of individuals and families affected by autism. And individuals everywhere wear blue in honor of the campaign. As an organization working with many riders who have autism, HwH joins in observing this important day.

“Homewrecker” has a new home



HwH’s own Eva Damiano (left) was the raffle winner of the “Homewrecker” limited edition sculpture at the March 24 Benefit Concert in Prescott. With her is HwH Executive Director Pam Berry.

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

On Facebook? Horses with Heart is



Just look for Horses with Heart, and “Like us” to stay in the know.

Rocky stars at Autism Fair

Rocky, our “Marvelous Mini,” will be a knockout attraction at the Autism Awareness Fair Saturday, April 7, at the ASCEND School (Autism Spectrum Center for Educational & Neurological Development), 1027 Spire Dr., Prescott.



As our HwH ambassador to schools, senior living facilities and events for the special needs population, Rocky will be on hand to be groomed, adored and adorned with black bow ties. From 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Mary Smith and other members of the mini team will be on hand to answer questions.

Horses with Heart is one of several organizations that will be present to promote services designed to benefit people on the autism spectrum.

Tax time: get TWO HwH deductions

Did you know that helping HwH may help you enjoy a reduction in your tax bill? Here are two ways:

Driving miles: The distances you drive to volunteer for activities at the ranch may bring you a tax deduction.

According to the IRS, you can deduct 14 cents per mile driving to and from the place you volunteer. Figure out your mileage (try Google Maps), add up all your round trips, and see how much benefit you might gain.

Donations benefit: 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). And, you can donate up until the time you file your taxes (or April 17, whichever is earlier.)

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.