

Held at The Oxford Ranch - God, Family & Purpose

The D.O.V.E.S. Guidance Program

Discovering Our Visions Through Equestrian Services - A Family & Youth Horsemanship Program

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2 NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: GAYLE OXFORD - SEPT/OCT2008

“Our Mission is to give a special child, a special experience, a time and place to remember”
With the use of equine & ranch activities along with family participation & support,
It is our goal to help children of all ages & backgrounds to build trust, confidence & character.
Encouraging each child to challenge themselves in ways that will develop them into caring & responsible adults.

A Rose is a Rose is a Rosie story told by Gayle

I wrote in our first Newsletter how we got back into horses and how the DOVES Program came about. But, before we even thought of the youth program, our horses were being enjoyed by our grand children. They loved riding and grooming and feeding the horses.

My one grand daughter, Emma Rose, who was only about four years old at the time we were acquiring our horses, was especially “horse crazy!” So much in fact, that she basically had no fear at all of the horses. Her mother, Christy and I had to be diligent in watching Emma around the horses because she would just go right up to them without warning. The horses were always careful with her, but Emma wanted to lead the horse by herself, groom and ride all by herself.

So I got to thinking, maybe we should try to find a little horse or pony for Emma and her little sister, Olivia. A pony they could brush and lead and ride, without the worry of them getting stepped on or falling off. I began a



“MY ROSIE PONY!”

search for that “right” pony.

While visiting a friend’s tack shop in Valley Springs, I mentioned to Linda, the owner, that we were looking for a nice gentle pony for my grand daughter. She told me that she had a pony for sale and told me a bit about the pony. She said she was a little bay mare, named Rosie. I told her I would talk it over with Shannon and get back to her. We decided that we just could not afford the pony at the time, and she did have some health issues. Reluctantly I called Linda and told her we just couldn’t purchase the pony right now, but we would still keep her in mind.

Not too much time had passed since my visit to Valley Springs, when Linda called and said that they were getting close to selling their ranch and that they would be moving to Montana (maybe it was Wyoming?). And that she wanted to give Rosie to us! She said that



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A Rose is a Rose is a Rosie! continued.....

she knew she would have a wonderful home and get a lot of attention with us. Wow! I thought, how wonderful and generous was this! I told Linda I would come up and meet Rosie the next day. So this is how Rosie came to be our little pony. It was meant to be, Emma Rose and her Rosie Pony!

Rosie came to us with laminitis, a hoof condition. Something happened to her before Linda rescued her from a "pony petting zoo". The condition is usually brought on by over eating, hard riding (causing concussion to the hoofs) and many other things can cause it. It is a condition that will never go away, but is manageable with constant hoof trimming and strict diet.

My farrier, John Kiefer, has done a terrific job on re-shaping and getting Rosie's hoofs to heal. Most of the time you wouldn't even know Rosie has a hoof problem!

Rosie is ridden and can drive! She and Emma were in three parades last Christmas season. Emma dressed as a snow princess with Rosie pulling her in a brightly decorated cart.

All the young program kids love Rosie, they get to learn to groom and lead a horse with Rosie being the ever patient volunteer.

This year Emma has grown so much that she can't ride Rosie any more, but she can still drive her, and she really likes to do that. Now, Emma's little sister, Olivia, calls Rosie "My Rosie Pony!"



Rosie is the most gentle and loving pony I have ever known. She is so careful with the little ones, always aware of where they are around her, and always patient. She loves when the kids give her "horse cookies", and will politely ask for one by nuzzling little faces and hands.

We want to thank Linda Belli of Valley Springs and owner of the Hoof N Boots tack store for the gift of Rosie. What a blessing our Rosie Pony is!

Fall & Winter Schedule

As we go into fall and winter the weather will be becoming milder, that is good news. We will be able to do lessons almost anytime of the day. It also means that our daylight hours will be getting shorter and shorter. We may have to schedule most of our lessons from mid day to 5:00 PM to avoid the fading light. Even though we have lights on the round pen we would rather do our lessons in the light of the day. We will also offer morning lessons for those that can come in the morning

We will continue to have every other Saturday set aside for lessons also.

November 24th through January 10, 2009 there will be no lessons, except for a couple of practice days for the Lodi Parade of Lights which is held on December 4th this year. We will keep you posted on those dates.

REMEMBER THAT ALL LESSONS THROUGH THE FALL & WINTER ARE WEATHER PERMITTING

Even though we will have days and maybe weeks that we will not be able to ride, because of wet & muddy conditions, this will be a good time for all of our tack to be cleaned and oiled. And for cleaning the barn, cob webs, dust etc.

The horses still love to be groomed and winter time is a perfect time to spend grooming horses and just spend time with them.

Perhaps we can have a "Christmas Cheer" day in the barn with hot cocoa and cookies!

Your Program. Your Horses!

I have had several folks ask how they can contribute or help with expenses. Here are some suggestions:

Costco - The Modesto & Manteca Costco carry John Lyons Horse grain, while at Costco and if your budget can handle it, purchase a bag of grain for the horses, it's good for them and goes a long way.

A case of bottled water to contribute to the program for the kids and parents. We go through about a case of bottled water every week!

A bag of carrots or a bag of horse cookies for the horses. With all the kids enjoying giving the horses a treat, we go through a lot of carrots and cookies, much to the horses delight!

Who Can Benefit?

Anyone! Children and families who have not had the opportunity to experience the country and ranch life. School & Church Groups for field trips. Parents that are considering a horse for their child, and want to know what the responsibility is in owning a horse. And, especially children or youths at risk, abused or troubled kids. A positive experience with a horse can build a child's confidence and trust. **Again, there is no charge or fees.** The time a child and family spend with a horse in a quite ranch atmosphere is priceless.

Our horses benefit also, some came from situations of neglect and they love the

We still have a couple of horses that need sponsors. If know of anyone or business that would like to sponsor a horse for a year, please ask us for the Horse Sponsorship forms.

How to Help

Because we are a non profit program and do not charge a fee for the program lessons, all monies to support the horses maintenance & care, and to maintain a clean and safe facility, must come from donations or sponsors.

Ways to Help:

- ✦ Donate money
- ✦ Donate tack or supplies
- ✦ Donate Feed and or services
- ✦ Help with fund raising
- ✦ Ask about sponsoring a horse
- ✦ Volunteer or Mentor

Most donations are tax deductible and donated money goes into the general fund, unless otherwise specified.

I know we are all in "tight times" right now, so getting donations can be difficult, the cost of everything is going up, especially the cost of feeding a horse!. But, you or someone you know may be able to "donate" time and or services. Also, taking our brochure and donation forms to local businesses to ask for donations or items of use is another way to contribute. Pass the word about our program and what it has done for your family!

Spring 2009

Instead of a fall "kick off" event for the DOVES Program we will have a celebration in April 2009 for our one year anniversary. This will give us time to get all our "paper work" finished for the non-profit status and have more time working on our promotional items.

We will have a "Ranch Day" with a bar-b-q and riding demonstrations from the program kids. We hope to have all the kids involved with this and hopefully get some of the local business owner to come and of course all of the wonderful people who have contributed to the program.

We are looking at the first weekend in April.

Some very special Thank You's!

Recent Donations

Thelma Hieb - Donation

Denise Buethe's father - donated horse books and boots!

Kieth & Chris Patterson - donated walls for tack room and bathroom!

Nancy Hill & Phyllis Neese - park bench, glider, canopy and mucking paddocks & Keeping Toby in shape!

Janis Tucker, Chris Patterson & Dyanne Vargas - Donated Boots

Veronica & Kaeli

Pendleton - Grooming brush & grooming tool tote



What's in a Name?

As our idea for The Family and Youth Horsemanship Program was forming, we realized that we really needed a shorter more attention catching name.

The D.O.V.E.S - Discovering Our Visions through Equestrian Services was a acronym we came up with, as we wanted to call our volunteer helpers -Doves, reflecting a doves gentle and kind nature. And, the dove is a symbol for the Holy Spirit, which we believe is leading this vision.

When the two doves appeared in my yard, we had already been using The Family & Youth Horsemanship Program at The Oxford Ranch, but were still searching for just the right name for the program, so after the "dove" sighting we realized we had to use the word "doves" somehow in the name, hence: The D.O.V.E.S. Guidance Program at Oxford Ranch.

While this program is a separate entity from the Oxford Ranch, the ranch will be considered the home and address of the program.

Our Needs List

- * Building materials for restroom & office or portable office unit
- * Concrete foundation & labor for the donated barn (when completed, we will be able to take in 5 more horses for the program
- * Tractor & Implements
- * Arena Panels, Sand fill for rd/pen
- * Hay
- * Helmets * Kids size cowboy boots

Our Wish List

- * Manure spreader
- * A older gentle gelding
- * A older gentle pony or mini
- * Kid's saddles
- * grooming tools
- * volunteers & mentors
- * Web site and web site master
- * Feeders, hanging or standing hay feeders.

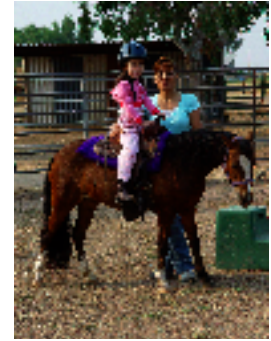
Our Special Families



Thelma Hieb



Rachele Horn



Estrela & Samatha Contreras



The Jamison Family
Sue, Hudson & Windsor



Tyler Dempewolf



Veronica & Kaeli Pendleton



Kaeli on Tony



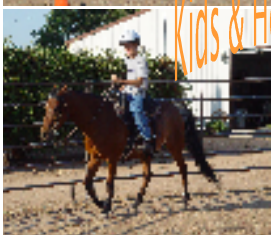
We have some great families and some amazing kids participating in our program. If you don't see your photos this time I will get them in the next newsletter, just don't have photos of all the kids yet! If you have a special photo you took here at the ranch and would like to share it in the newsletter, please e-mail the photo to me at: doves@clearwire.net



Nyna Horn



Tyler & Toby



Jacob & Toby

Kids & Horses Having Fun!



Jenna & Rosie



Even the littlest likes to pitch in and help! Jacob teaching Olivia how to clean up the paddock. And of course for little people we have little tools!

What's Coming Up?

October 4 & 5 - Oxford Ranch is hosting a ASCA Stock Dog trial at the ranch. Stock Dogs of all breeds will compete for awards herding sheep, cattle and ducks! There will be a pancake breakfast on Sat. & Sun. mornings at 6:30 am. We would like volunteers from the DOVES program to help with serving and flipping pancakes! If you would like to help, let Miss Gayle know.

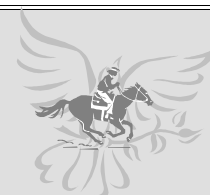
We also need volunteers to help with duck wrangling! This is a messy smelly job, but it's fun. The job requires helping with putting the ducks out in the trial arena for each competitor. If you think you're up for this job, talk with Papa Shannon.

We also will need help with running score sheets from the judge to the secretary and other ranch chores.

Hope you all can at least come to watch the event it's really interesting and fun!

December 4th - Lodi Christmas Parade of Lights. We will participate in this years parade as The DOVES Guidance Program. We are hoping all our kids can join us in the parade. We will have the ponies and maybe a horse or two with us in the parade taking turns riding and walking. I am going to have a banner made for the program.

We're just waiting to hear from the City of Lodi what the theme is for the parade. This parade is a wonderful kick off for the Christmas season. Every one has to wear lights and the more lights you have the better! We will have a practice day before the parade to get everyone ready. So let me know if you can participate.



Tips for a fun session at the ranch:

- * *Be on time.*
- * *Come prepared, sunscreen, insect repellent, bottled water and a snack.*
- * *Bring a camera, take photos of your child to share with them & family.*
- * *Help out where you can, sweeping raking and poop scooping!*

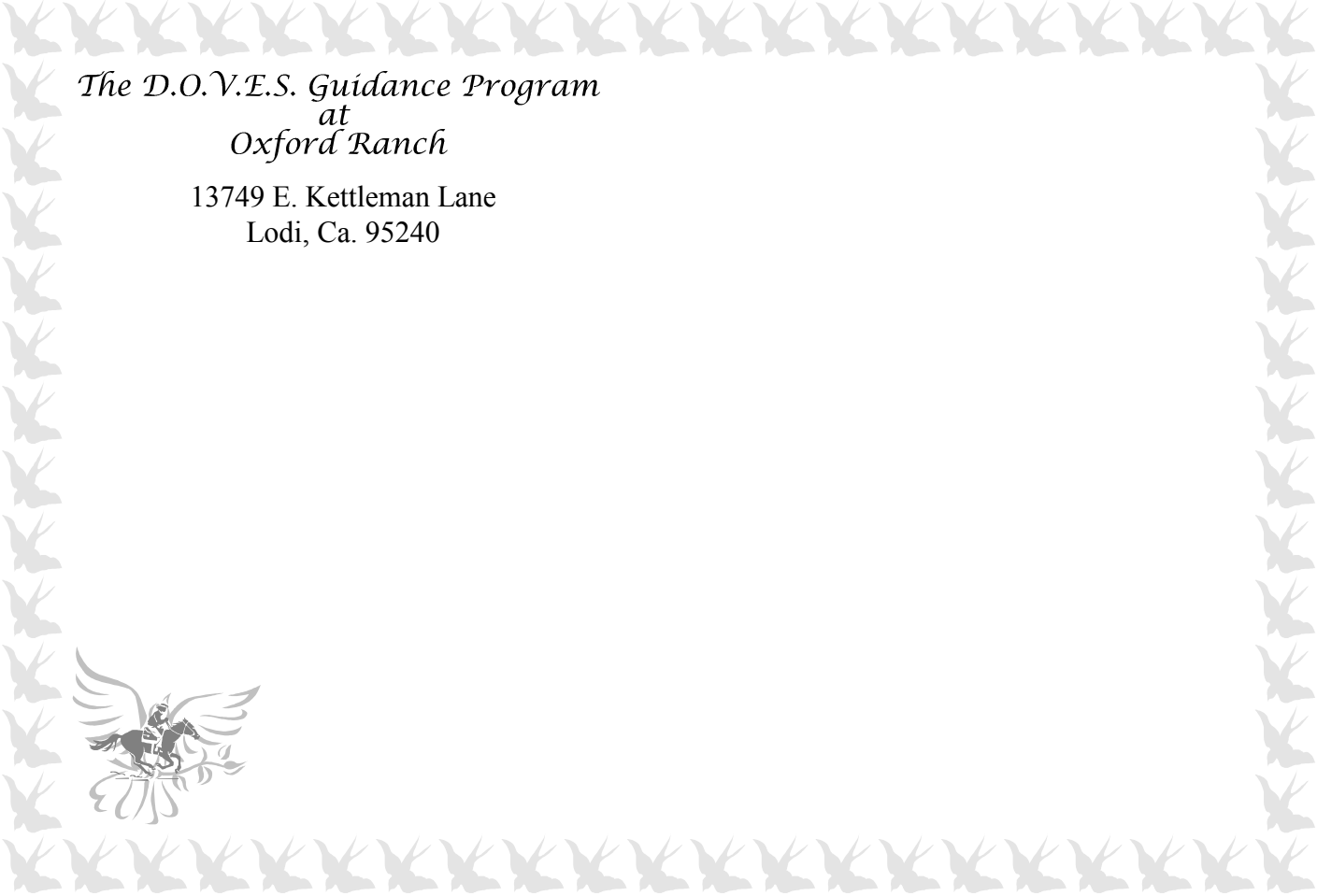
A Special Thanks to Our Donors, Volunteers & Contributors!

Bob Ewing - Horse Sponsor For one year!
Virginia Lewis - Horse Sponsor for a year!
Judith Buethe Communication - Horse Sponsor for one year!
Anna Charlesworth - Donation & Horse sponsor for a year!
Steve Law - Donation
Monica Law - Cookies & fruit!
Kris Martinson - English Saddle
Chris Patterson - Volunteer
Dyanne Vargas - Volunteer
Kerry Gee - Donation
Denise Nelson - Pony use for home school day
Christy Dempewolf - Volunteer and co-ordinator for Home School Field Trips & "Proof reader".
Lockeford Hay Station - Discount on riding helmets.
 When making a donation by check, please make payable to: **The DOVES Program**

Our biggest expense for the DOVES Program is feeding the horses that are used in the program. Hay & grain prices have sky rocketed! If you know of any organization or individual who would like to donate feed or money or sponsor a horse please let us know!

4/1/08 to 9/6/08 Expenses & Income

Income	
<i>Donations & Horse Sponsors</i>	2,410.00
Total Income	
	2,410.00
Expenses	
<i>Horse Health & Care</i>	450.00
<i>Insurance</i>	226.00
<i>Feed - Hay & grain</i>	856.00
<i>Riding Equipment</i>	207.00
<i>Veterinary</i>	376.00
Total Expenses	
	2115.93
Overall Total	
<i>(Acct. Balance)</i>	294.07



*The D.O.V.E.S. Guidance Program
at
Oxford Ranch*

13749 E. Kettleman Lane
Lodi, Ca. 95240



THE D.O.V.E.S.