

# Newsletter

3rd Quarter \* 2022



Restoring hope. Transforming lives.



*"Small Seeds of Gratitude will produce a Harvest of Hope."*

-Unknown

Military/EMS:

## *A Veteran's Why*



by Cortney Moguel

"A common question many Veterans are asked is "Why did you decide to join the military?" The answers vary as much as the Veterans you ask. A common response after someone discovers I served in the Military Police is, "Oh really! You don't look like someone who would serve as that." The first few times I cringed at the response but now I choose to see the humor in their assumption. How often do I assume something about a certain people-group, person, or idea?

I didn't grow up with a personal awareness of the Military but in High School, I listened to a few recruiters. It wasn't until my sophomore year of college that the thought of joining the Military became a real possibility in my mind. In 2003, I called an Army National Guard Recruiter and told him I wanted to join! I suspect I was his easiest recruit.

When I met the Recruiter, I signed up for the MOS of 31B- Military Police. I chose MP for two reasons. First, it had the biggest sign-on bonus (more money for school). Second, due to the circumstances of my life, I grew up desiring to know how to protect myself, and others. That next February, I was on a bus to Fort Lost in the Woods (Fort Leonard Wood, MO) for One Station Unit Training (OSUT). I spent my 21st birthday, a Sunday, doing various cleaning details.....every Veteran has a Why. -Alan Greenman, Vietnam Veteran

## *Bringing in the Harvest* by Jackie Kaschel

*I guess I'm an old farmer at heart. I remember when our kids were young, bringing in bushels of fruit and vegetables for freezing and canning to preserve them for the coming winter.*

**Harvest is work**, the result of good seed sown plus watering and tending to promote healthy growth toward maturity.

This process is at work in our clients, our lives as a team, and in Peace Ranch as an organization. So much harvesting is happening in the garden of lives.

*Raising six children on one salary was challenging but, by the grace of God we never lacked for anything.*

*Our needs were met as we diligently preserved what we had. **Harvest is Hope**, the assurance that we will have what we need to get us through the dark, cold, winter.*

This also we observe in all who serve and are served at Peace Ranch. We are transformed by experiencing a deep sense of safety, exploring development of healthy relationships, and we grow in confidence and competence. All three are needed for us to have hope for the future, no matter how long the winter. Hope empowers us to remember that morning comes after night and spring will come again, no matter how long the winter.

# Review of the Harvest

by Jan Stump

As I write it is a cold, rainy Fall Day perfect for a warm bowl of soup! Fall is naturally a good time to review all we've done and our harvest- to begin to plan for next year...what seeds will we plant?

It's been a very busy year. We began working with Traverse Bay Children's Advocacy Center. As a result, Peace Ranch services are now part of the therapeutic options available to address the impact of crimes against children and families in six counties. Working together, we are reducing waiting times and addressing the multi-layered impact of complex trauma.

The Leadership & Resilience program @ Peace Ranch ran for 4 Saturdays in July and reached over 20 children and their



Our Mission is to provide Equine Assisted Psychotherapy and Learning to all in need.

Our Vision is to create a PEACE-ful experiential center, a therapeutic community dedicated to cultivate growth and learning to rehabilitate those who are ill or suffering that they may turn or return to productive living.



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families through experiential activities including team building, yoga and horsemanship skills. Parent reports were overwhelmingly positive – children demonstrated increased confidence, responsibility and calmness.

We held three veteran retreats at the ranch; one for women, one for men and one for couples. The peace of the ranch and presence of the horses provided a balm for veterans and their partners living with post-traumatic stress. Stress symptoms were reduced, relationships were repaired and tools were provided. One hundred percent of participants said they would highly recommend the retreat to other veterans.

Peace Ranch also hosted equine and mental health professionals from the Michigan EAGALA Network for continuing education, a requirement of certification. Peace Ranch strives to be a leader in developing a strong Michigan network of equine psychotherapy professionals.

Of course, the greatest harvest at the ranch belongs to our clients. The human spirit is resilient; we were privileged to witness this over and over as people faced their fears, risked vulnerability and learned to trust again. Our harvest is made up of renewed hopes, restored relationships and lives lived without fear.

For more information go to [www.peaceranchtc.com](http://www.peaceranchtc.com), email [jan@peaceranchtc.org](mailto:jan@peaceranchtc.org), call 231.499.4736



## Volunteer News

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Gal 6:9 Everything that we put our hands and minds to makes an impact. From mucking the dry lot to measuring hay, from pulling weeds to mowing, replacing fence posts to trimming pine branches in preparation for winter. Peace Ranch is able to provide a place of refuge and peace because of the time and effort our volunteers pour into it!

Here we stand together at harvest time bringing in crops that were planted by a 4H group this spring. We delight in the changing colors and crisp morning knowing the days will grow shorter and colder.

Remember that our work together has not been in vain. Not only have we accomplished the work of our hands but we have supported an environment where many hurting people have found healing and peace.

Thank you Volunteers for all the ways you love the animals and the Ranch. It is a better place because of your care and the work of your hands. It takes a community and we are continually amazed by your selflessness in serving. Thank you for welcoming my family and me with open arms and I look forward to all the adventures we will have together at Peace Ranch. Contact me at [cortney@peaceranchtc.org](mailto:cortney@peaceranchtc.org)