



THE RIVER'S EDGE REVIEW

Vol 1.3 April 2021

Greetings, again, from River's Edge! We continue to see the LORD's blessing each week as we carry out our tasks here. What a blessing to have this environment for children and youth to experience the wonders of God's creation. How humbling it is to be able to facilitate this experience.

Family Tours

With thanksgiving, I can say that we had a successful Family Tour Week. Each family group enjoyed their time doing



anything from snuggling bunnies to being close and personal with horses. If time and weather allowed, a walk in the forest was enjoyed as well. Overall, it was wonderful to be able to show them what we do and explain how the ministry functions in a tangible way. Thank you to all who came, showed interest and asked questions.

If you know someone who would benefit from our work, please encourage them to call our office to set up a tour. We are more than willing to

facilitate tours throughout the week as needed.



Session Information

In the last newsletter, I wrote about what a typical session looks like.

Over the next few months, I will focus on the benefit that horses, in particular, play in our mentoring work. Horses are very empathic and compassionate animals. In mammals and humans, there is a centre in our brain called the amygdala. This is where emotions are given meaning, remembered and where one responds to these emotions. The horse's



amygdala is one of the largest in land mammals.

Therefore, because of how God created horses, they are *by nature* very empathic. Secondly, Horses are herd animals meaning they often function similar to a family or other social units. Horses want to be with their herd because they feel protected and safe. Horses communicate non-verbally in the herd, especially with body language. So because God made horses this way, they have the ability to sense when we are sad, happy, anxious, depressed, angry etc. Mentors who know their horse can read from them how the participant is feeling. To illustrate

the point, one of our participants was very down one day and the horse that the child was working with gave this participant all kinds of love and attention more so than usual. Obviously, bonding between the horse and the participant began and, simultaneously, the participant and the mentor began bonding as well. With this, we understand how

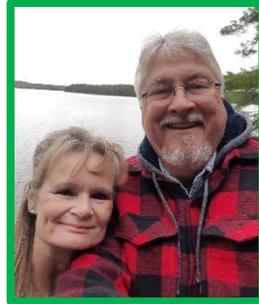
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horses could facilitate growth in leadership, compassion, love, respect, problem solving, teamwork, critical thinking and overcoming obstacles. In this interpersonal growth, the mentor can point the participant to the love of God in Christ and His daily protection and care. Perhaps this notion has got you intrigued?! As mentioned in the introduction, I hope to go more into detail in the coming months. Stay tuned! If you have been following our Instagram account you might have gotten a sneak peak.

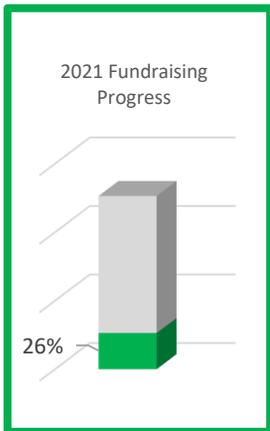
Volunteer Mentors

As promised in the last newsletter, I would give an introduction to some of our volunteer mentors. Currently, we have three active volunteer mentors. These volunteers come at least once per week to mentor their specific participant(s). Monica Gable has been involved



in the organization since its inception. We are thankful her consistent and dedicated involvement. Monica has a calm, likeable demeanour which really puts the kids at ease. She is pictured here with her husband Kent, who is a regular volunteer as well. Kent has done mentoring here previously and now he helps out with the barn chores. His help keeps this place looking great! Jackie Noordeman joined our team in the last few months. Her enthusiasm and charisma is infectious and she is well loved by the participants she works with. Last, but not least, is Fred Vandenbos. Fred and I come from similar roots, that is, the nursing field. Fred is great with the kids and has a passion for mentoring the youth! He has many interests and hobbies that make him an asset to our team. Fred is also managing the River's Edge Farm next door which will be growing strawberries this summer! Again stay tuned for details! Our programming is ramping up and we are getting more and more participants each week (up to 45!). If you are interested in volunteering please apply on our website. We are in particular need of male mentors!

Support



We are thankful for the support we receive. Thank you to those who have come for a tour of our ministry supporting us by your interest and questions! Thank you also for your prayers for this ministry. Please continue to pray that the LORD may bless the organization. We are thankful to those who support us in a variety of ways. To date we have raised about 26% of our financial needs for 2021! For this we are very thankful to our heavenly Father for His blessings! Consider volunteering, come for a tour, tell your family and friends! Our programming is a free service to families in need. We run completely on generous donations. Consider supporting us financially.

1. e-Transfer to treasurer@riversedge.ca
2. Through CanadaHelps
3. Send support to 1 Haldimand Road 17, Dunnville ON N1A 2W4



Until Next Time, Chris DeBoer, Director

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