



Greetings from River's Edge! What a beautiful month of May we could all enjoy. The month started off on the cool side, but we sure did enjoy some hot days! I welcome you to read on about the goings on here at River's Edge.

Program Growth

One of the major benefits from our family tours last month is that the message of River's Edge is getting out there. This is evidence in the uptick in applications of children into our program. Last week we signed up number 60 to our program. What a blessing that these children have been placed on our path. We pray that we can support them in their journey of life! May we all echo the words of Paul to the young church in Thessalonica "We love you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us" 1 Thess 2:8. Is this not truly what we as Christians are called to do? Show love to each other by sharing the gospel and sharing our lives!



How Horses Facilitate



Working with horses therapeutically is known to help build confidence as well as intrapersonal skills such as communication, self-awareness, leadership, and emotional regulation. Horses respond to our emotions because they are prey animals and therefore have a higher awareness of the senses and environment around them. The horse can read a person and respond accordingly, making them incredible teachers.

The most important lesson we learn as God's people is to follow Him, to have a relationship with Him. The Holy Spirit works that in our hearts. For children these concepts may be hard to understand especially during a struggle that seemingly has no end. Having tangible examples for children is powerful. One example that can illustrate this to a child is learning with the horse to trust and respect. Trust is something that takes time to build and is something that is earned. In time, the horse learns to trust the participant and gives the participant a feeling of worth and belongingness. Horses like to be led, to be taken care of; if they sense the trust and respect, they will allow themselves to be led. Similarly, as the horse trusts in the participant, we learn to trust in the LORD completely and unlike others in our life, He never disappoints. This relationship that the child builds with the animals can be a talking point for the Mentor to connect to our relationship with the LORD.

Volunteers

We are thankful for the growth in mentor applications. Recently, we have had 4 new volunteers start! This will swell our numbers up to 8 volunteer mentors. I hope to introduce some of the new volunteers in the June newsletter. Part of the work being done here week to week is some of the chores that need to be completed. We are so thankful to have some very dedicated volunteers who show up here with a great attitude eager to help. Vivian Jans, Kaelyn Lof, and Hannah Vermeulen have been supporting River's Edge for a number of months now. They are very dedicated to their work and it is very much appreciated! More recently, Kent Gabel, Arielle Vis and Lilia Kingma have also been lending a hand regularly. I get many remarks about how this facility looks so clean and orderly. This is because of the amazing attention to detail in its initial building process and careful planning, but also due to the hard work of these volunteers maintaining such a well-built facility!



River's Edge Farm

Some of you who you have been by to visit perhaps have noticed the strawberry farm that has been built at River's Edge! *River's Edge Farm* was started to help support *River's Edge Haven of Hope* today and in the years to come! Things are really coming together over there as as evidenced by some of the first strawberries showing themselves! *Stay tuned*



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. The LORD has indeed blessed our work for which we are thankful. 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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