

The News



Willow Grove Retreats



LOOKING TOWARDS FALL

We had a very busy summer on the farm! New friends, horses, volunteers, and business relationships were forged during the (not so) lazy days of summer 2023. We've added some of the highlights to this month's newsletters. We are so very grateful and humbled by the support of our community, and we want all of you to know how important each and every one of you are to Willow Grove Retreats. Without you, we don't exist! Through your participation in programs and your donations, we are able to offer services at no or reduced costs to veterans, active duty servicemembers, first responders, and children.

Schools are back in session, fields are being harvested, and Halloween decorations are gracing front porches throughout our county. The temperatures are starting to cool and the horses are loving it. They've got an extra pep in their step as they move through the pastures of the farm. Fall is definitely right around the corner! We really are blessed to live in a part of the country that experiences the changing seasons (even if some of us do mourn the loss of those 90 degree days!)

This autumn season, Willow Grove has added two homeschooling programs, a Veteran's support group, and a monthly Yoga and Meditation class, as well as a once a month Ladies Night for besties to enjoy a unique Girls Night Out. An Open House, Christmas Family Day, and Holiday Craft Fair are planned for later in the season.

We look forward to seeing you at our fall programs!

Newsletter Highlights

A Message from the Executive Director

Looking Towards Fall

Huntsburg Grange and The Great Geauga County Fair

Meet Gabby!

Volunteer Opportunities

Current Events

Program Calendar



HUNTSBURG GRANGE

The Huntsburg Chapter of The Grange chose Willow Grove Retreats for their yearly community service project and showcased us in the Fair Booth at the Great Geauga County Fair. In addition to the booth, they also gifted us with a generous donation to be used to care for the horses we use in our programs. We want to publicly thank The Grange President and members for everything they've done this year to support WGR. Congratulations on your 2nd place ribbon at the Fair, Huntsburg Grange!

MEET GABBY!

Gabby is the newest member of the WGR family. Honoring our mission and vision to adopt horses in need whenever possible, we chose to find a horse in need when we realized decided to add another equine to our equine-assisted activities.

Gabby is an 18 year old Paso Fino. She is a sweet girl who loves people. She is settling in well with her new herd, too. She loves to be outside in the pastures and to be groomed.

She came to us on a Friday and three days later participated in her first equine-assisted activity- our Yoga in the Pasture class. She was a natural! She even joined the class to model "horse pose" for the group while our instructor led the class through the movement.

We are so very happy to be able to give Gabby the stability of a permanent home with her own herd. Gabby has a lot a wisdom to pass onto her human partners, and we're confident everyone will love her as much as we do.



A Message from the Executive Director

Summer was such a busy time for us as we rebranded from a private business into the charitable organization we had always envisioned. Programs were created, relationships were rekindled, and new friends were made. And here we are midway through September wondering where the time has gone! With barely a week to go until the Autumn Equinox and official beginning of fall, I want to take a moment to consider

everything we've accomplished in a few short months and share it with all of you in this month's newsletter. Like the farmers in our community harvesting their fields, we are also harvesting the fruits of our labors. We are so grateful for all of you who are sharing this journey with us and supporting us through your donations, volunteering, and word of mouth. Without you, we couldn't serve our community. ~Tina Layne



JOIN OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM

If you love horses and helping others, we are sure to have a position for you. From grooming and bathing horses to leading and sidewalking with our new riders, to equine facilitation and handling during on-the-ground programs, there's much to be done with the horses. Inside the barn, there are always buckets to scrub, stalls to clean, and hay to feed. Outside, pastures need picked, equipment needs set out or picked up for programs. Maintenance around the property including repairs, remodeling, fence building, etc is ongoing. Administratively, we have newsletters and social media needs, artwork for tee-shirts to design, craft fairs and open houses to plan and oversee.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR KIDS

Kids can get involved and make a difference, too! Our Barn Program is offered to kids ages 9-17 who wish to give back to their community through volunteering hours at the facility. Our youth volunteers work under the guidance of WGR staff or experienced adult volunteers performing basic barn chores such as sweeping, stall cleaning, feeding the horses, picking the pasture and riding areas for cleanliness, weed trimming (older teens only), salt and ice melt application during winter, grooming the horses, and many other daily chores. Older teens can also work programs as equine handlers and safety monitors. As a thank you, kids will have the opportunity to learn to ride or drive our ponies and horses during appropriate weather.

Interested? You can contact us at info@willowgroveretreats.com or call Tina at 440-231-0212 for more information on our adult and youth volunteer programs.

Willow Grove Retreats is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, and all donations are tax exempt. We operate primarily on donations and grants with a small portion of our income generated from programs such as our Yoga in the Pasture and Girls Night Out. Proceeds from these programs are used to offer no or lost cost programming to our veterans, military, and underserved youth.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can support Willow Grove Retreats programs by:

- Mailing a check to Willow Grove Retreats, 11361 Clay St., Huntsburg, OH 44046
- Donating through our secure website portal
- Choosing us when using Walmart’s Spark Good Program
- Purchasing horse feed, hay and supplements
- Donating used tack or horse blankets for our use or yearly tack sale
- Telling everyone about us, “liking” and following us on Facebook and Instagram, and sharing our posts to your feed

SUPPORT YOUR FAVORITE WGR HORSE

Our horse friends deserve the best nutrition and care we can provide them, and that doesn’t come cheap. Marada is a senior horse and is treated for mild arthritis with aspirin and joint supplements. Piper and Jasmine are still young, but they both have past histories that have left them with less-than-ideal hooves, and they are treated with supplements to strengthen them. Jasmine wears boots when she is driven and when the hard ground dries in the summer to protect her sensitive feet. Gabby has Cushings Disease and needs to be treated with medication, a low-sugar diet, and she must wear boots on her front feet as they are easily prone to bruising and abscesses. In the winter, our warmer weather breeds - Piper, Marada, and Gabby- get cold easily which can affect their digestion and cause colic. They must be blanketed from late fall to spring.

Your donations help us keep our herd healthy, happy and partnering with our guests during programming.

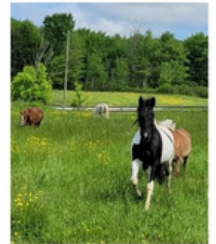


A month of care for one horse

- Feed \$40
- Hay \$100
- Supplements \$50
- Salt blocks \$7
- Farrier \$30
- Fly Spray \$15

Seasonal and yearly expenses per horse

- Blankets \$60 - \$150 each
- Therapy boots \$100
- Teeth Float \$100
- Vaccines/checkup \$100



WHAT'S HAPPENING?



YOGA IN THE PASTURE

Our first Yoga in the Pasture class happened on September 11. We had a nice turnout for the hour long class. The weather was beautiful with the sounds of birds and crickets and the horses munching on the grass surrounding the class. The horses were curious and quietly watched as their human partners moved from one pose to another. Gabby joined the class at one point, while they worked into their own horse pose.

We will be offering this class once a month as weather allows and then taking it inside the barn once the weather turns wintery. Our next class is Oct 1 at 12noon. The class is beginner friendly with a slow progression through moves and clear instruction from our certified Yoga Instructor.

The cost of the class is \$30 per person and proceeds fund our programs and rescue efforts.

All Yoga equipment is provided, but guests can bring their own if they choose.



Contacts

You can reach us at:

- call or text 440-231-0212
- facebook and messenger - Willow Grove Retreats
- email- info@willowgroveretreats.com
- website - www.willowgroveretreats.com



PONY TALES

We have collaborated with the Middlefield Branch of the Geauga Public Library to offer two literacy programs for children. Pre-schoolers and their parents or caregivers are invited to join Story Time with Horses, a reading circle hosted by Middlefield Librarians inside our barn. Kids are surrounded by the horses in their stalls as they are read a story about horses or farms. Our Read to Horses Program is for school-aged children who would like to practice their reading skills and/or public speaking skills by reading aloud to our horses. This program with the Library begins with their winter calendar.

LIBERTY CALL

Liberty Call is our veterans and active duty support group. The group meets Mondays at 6PM and is hosted by a retired Marine Corps Master Sergeant. Participants are able to meet other like minded service members and veterans, build community and friendships, get encouragement and support while sharing stories, and they have the opportunity to work with our horses in equine-assisted learning exercises. Equine-assisted learning is an evidence based approach to help those suffering with anxiety or PTSD.

The military is near and dear to us - our founders are a military family. We offer these services at no cost to our veterans and active duty. If you are a veteran or active duty servicemember, please join us on Monday evenings. If you know veterans or service members, please share the program with them.

LIBERTY CALL
 Join our herd of rescue horses and explore their relaxing, healing power during our horse-centered wellness program. Our evidence based approach partners Veterans with horses in a unique method of self-growth. Benefits include lowered stress, improved fitness, better communication, and healthier relationships.

Open to all Veterans and active duty servicemembers at no cost through generous donations..

- Meet other Vets
- Share stories
- Make friends
- Build community

440-231-0212
 tina@willowgroveretreats.com
 www.willowgroveretreats.com
 Halfway Oak Farm, Huntsburg

SCAN ME





HOMESCHOOL WITH HORSES

We are so excited for our first Homeschool With Horses class of 2023! Classes begin in September and run through May. Each semester is eight weeks long, and we meet for two hours once a week. Students learn horsemanship, riding and cart driving, positive social and life skills, are introduced to careers in the equine and agriculture fields, and they learn and practice how math, science, reading, and fitness are used daily on a farm. Our classes rely on experiential, hands-on activities with the horses with no books or worksheets needed.

GIRLS NIGHT OUT

Once a month we offer a unique girls night out event for women. We decorate the barn, turn on the music, bring in a professional mixologist, and let out hair down for the evening.

Along with the drinks, food, and music, we will take a few minutes to partner with the horses in a couple fun horse-centered activities that focus on an aspect of personal wellness.

Girls Night Out is 2 hours long, and everything is included.

We still have spaces available for September's event. Contact us by phone or email or you can find the event on facebook and our website. Tickets can be bought ahead of time through the website.

 A pink promotional flyer for a 'girls night out' event. The text on the flyer includes:

- girls night out** (in a cursive font)
- SEPT 22, 2023**
- 6 PM**
- JOIN US FOR A UNIQUE LADIES NIGHT!**
- HANDS-ON HORSE INTERACTIONS
- MOCKTAILS & CHARCUTERIE
- MUSIC
- 2 HOURS OF FUN
- SEPTEMBER THEME: SELF REFLECTION**
- GROUP MINIMUM 2 GUESTS
- \$75 EACH GUEST
- WWW.WILLOWGROVERETREATS.COM
- 440-231-0212

 Below the flyer are two small images: one showing two women smiling next to a light-colored horse, and another showing a black and white horse in a field.


UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

11

3:00pm

YOGA IN THE PASTURE



11

6:00pm

LIBERTY CALL

Veterans and Active Duty
Servicemembers.
Meets every Monday
1-2 hours



22

6:00pm

GIRLS NIGHT OUT

Bring your besties and celebrate
a unique Girls Night Out with
mocktails, hors d-oeuvres, music,
horses, and laughter.

2hours



UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

23
5:00pm

AUTUMN EQUINOX CELEBRATION

Celebrate the beginning of fall with a 3 hour evening full of horses, drumming, Yoga, nature, and good food.



26
10:00am

HOMESCHOOLING WITH HORSES

Beginning of the Semester. Runs 8 weeks.
2 hour classes every Tuesday



01
12:00pm

OCTOBER 1 YOGA IN THE PASTURE

Beginner friendly Yoga class in nature.
1 hour class with guided meditation following

