

August 24, 2021



# STIRRUP COURAGE

## Equestrian Learning Center

[www.stirrupcourage.org](http://www.stirrupcourage.org)

I can't believe we've already completed our first 4-week intro session of lessons in basic horse care and groundwork, introducing 12 children and teens to our 3 horses with the help of 20 volunteers to make it all happen over the past 6 weeks! Thank you for being a part of seeing this dream become reality!



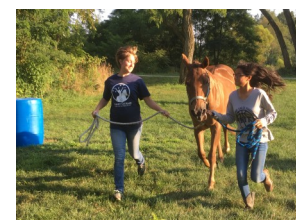
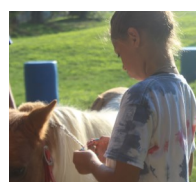
### Our FIRST Summer Session of Lessons!!!



I didn't want to miss the opportunity to begin offering our program to children just because we are waiting for a barn and arena to be built, so while we had summer weather on our side for being outdoors I made plans with our new team of volunteers to hold beginning lessons in my front yard! I made contacts with families I already knew, and had others referred by other families or volunteers, and soon had one morning and one evening class scheduled with six

participants ready to start in each! They ranged in age from 6-15 years old, and were an amazing first group to help us try out the curriculum and schedules, test out craft and game ideas, and give our volunteers a great starting experience!

Over the course of four one-hour lessons, the students learned about safety around horses, proper grooming and handling while on the ground, hoof care, how to lead their horses and maneuver through patterns and obstacles, how to observe horse body language and emotions, identifying horse colors and other important horse vocabulary. They completed learning sheets and reflections in their Horse Learning Journals and crafts that they got to take home after their last session along with pictures with their favorite horse. We are so proud to have these kids as our first group of intro level graduates ready to start off the next level of riding classes!



Visit and follow our Facebook Page for more pictures! [www.facebook.com/stirrupcourage](https://www.facebook.com/stirrupcourage).

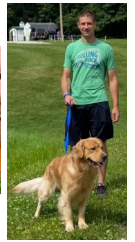
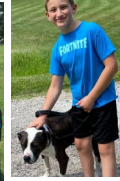


## A Family Full of Fundraising Volunteers!



The Perdicas family has been eager to share their love of horses with our program from the first time I shared the idea! The three children in the family, Alayna, Laurel, and Grady all jumped right in as volunteers for our summer sessions, and

parents Marlo and Paul made sure the kids got here each week, and helped out with whatever extra things I needed as well. Then in July they went above and beyond by organizing a raffle fundraiser on Facebook, offering chances to win a children's Pony Party at their home with all proceeds donated to Stirrup Courage. THEN the family added to the total by spending a day walking dogs together at a large boarding facility to earn another large donation! In all, the family's efforts raised \$785! We love you Perdicas family!



## A Star Volunteer and a Golf Scramble Surprise!

I had never even met Paula Schmid before she showed up early to our volunteer training event in June. She came with high recommendations from other members of Dayspring Christian Fellowship, where she first heard about Stirrup Courage, but I was in for an even bigger surprise as to just how awesome she is! When Paula arrived on my porch, she said she had something to give me and held out a beautiful gift box, and proceeded to explain that she holds a yearly golf



scramble benefit in memory of her father, and this year she asked the participants to make donations to Stirrup Courage. She came to our training day with \$515 to hand me from her event the day before! Since I didn't even know a fundraiser was being held for us, it was a VERY happy surprise, and as the summer went on the gift continued as we found out what a joy it is to have Paula on our team! We love you Paula!



Below: The front design of the scorecards for her benefit golf scramble.



## Things are MOVING forward—Like big piles of DIRT!



Big trucks and heavy machinery were first spotted August 6th removing the topsoil and leveling the building site to prepare for the building!!! If you drive past on Kohler Road you can see the cleared ground and mountains of topsoil (part of which will be taken to be sifted and returned as part of our indoor arena footing), the first steps towards a barn!

## Parent Quotes from the Summer Sessions!

*"My GIRL!!!! FINALLY had such a cool opportunity to work first hand with an animal she has loved for some time. A horse. She has watched horse movies since a young age...and has DREAMED of the day she could work with a REAL ONE. Today was that day."*



*"Thank YOU!!!! C. had an absolute blast!! She has learned so much! And can't wait for more "horse camp" as she calls it 😊"*

Tara Steiner

Executive Director

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*"Our kids had an awesome opportunity this week to work with horses. This is something that they have been wanting to do for some time. They all had such a connection with their animals after their first lesson."*

*"M. has always had a heart for horses. If she would've had it her way all these years, she would have had a horse since she was a little girl, but space just hasn't been there for us. Today was her first class of learning what it means to love a horse, care for a horse, and eventually, riding a horse. She obviously enjoyed it, and is looking forward to the other knowledge she will gain in the next several weeks of being a part of this class."*

