

JULY 2013 NEWSLETTER

Howdy,

Summer has hit and temperatures are increasing but it does not compare to the *increase* Jesus And Kids Evangelistic Saddle Club (JAKES Club) experienced during our Therapeutic Saddle Club (TSC) programs this past May-June. When the weather would allow, our total attendance including all partakers reached *over* 120 per week. Thank you Jesus! ☺ We want to thank everyone who helped make our spring/early summer TSC season a huge success. We are truly thankful and know it would not have been as peaceful, orderly or nearly enjoyable without the strong efforts of JAKES Club's volunteer teams. One such team shares this month in helping give thanks:



Hi, we are the Arrocha family, Sharon (mom), Ismael (15) and Mariah (13). This is our seventh year of volunteering at JAKES Club, and I hardly know where to begin in sharing my heart about this awesome organization. Mariah has always had a passion for animals, and was interested in horses and learning to ride. As a result, I did a search on the internet and JAKES Club came up as one of the options. I remembered seeing this organization come through my e-mail in some homeschool information, so we decided to check it out by looking at the website and taking a tour. I think we were all hooked from the very beginning. I asked my kids what they like best about JAKES Club, and Ismael responded that it's a fun program and even the mucking out of horse stalls isn't too bad. Mariah, too, enjoys the entire program, but her favorite part has always been working with the horses. I also enjoy everything we do as volunteers.

We have experienced many blessings by being involved in this ministry. I have witnessed growth in my own children in being responsible and compassionate as they perform the tasks assigned to them. Their confidence has grown as they have been given more responsibility in handling the horses, in helping train other volunteers, in working with the Therapeutic Saddle Club (TSC) riders, and in doing the chores.

Not only have I seen growth in my own children, but in many of the TSC riders as well. I remember when Monte first came to ride. He was on the horse for maybe one minute, and then he was done. He improved in small steps that season. I didn't see him for a year, and then he was back on my volunteer night. The first evening he came, he rode for 15-20 minutes. He was very calm and relaxed and was enjoying himself. I was amazed that this was the same child. The last evening he rode, he was talkative (for Monte) as he played the games. His repeated question to both Jake and me was "Are you happy?" We both replied, "Yes, I am happy." But there was much more in my heart as I watched this boy. Yes, Monte, I was happy. Happy to see your smiling face. Happy to see the progress you had made. Happy to see the difference a horse can make for a very special child. Happy to see your success in riding and interacting with us. Happy that your parents continue to make the drive for you to ride. Happy that my children and I get to be a part of this. One of the big things that JAKES Club provides is a real opportunity for families to minister to other families, and that alone is priceless. And so I have to say thank you. JAKES Club wouldn't exist without a place to ride, horses, and guidance (thank you Joe, Cathie, and Jake). It wouldn't exist without TSC families (thank you for sharing your kids with us). It wouldn't exist without donors (thanks to all who have given to the program). The number of families served would be very limited without all the volunteers (thank you for your time). My family is looking forward to the next season, and the next, and the next ... thank you!

JAKES Club is excited and thankful for our ministries growth but realize for continued success we must pray for more participants *whose hearts are stirred* to help minister to children within our community like Sharon's family. Reminding me of a Bible scripture we all can agree upon and pray; **Exodus 36: 2** "And Moses called ... every wise hearted man, in whose heart the Lord had put wisdom, *even every one whose heart stirred him up to come unto the work to do it...*". So, spread the word, July's Volunteer Saddle Club's Youth program – horse training for the fall season has begun and we have one week devoted entirely for new volunteers the first week of September. Have a great summer! ☺

Blessings from,

Cathie & JAKES Club's Team



Donation Choices:

- [] **Workplace Giving** – Contact employer for matching giving – CFC #80536 Federal or MSECC #3007 State employees
- [] **Donor Choice** – Option with the **United Way** and Combined Federal Campaign #80536.
- [] **PayPal Online** – www.JAKESClub.org – Donate **OR Automatic Pay & Mailing** through your bank – Contact bank for more information
- [] **Monthly Check** – Self addressed envelope provided
- [] **"Specific" items this month:** ***Motorcycle Benefit – Riders4Riders Sponsors, Annual Vet check, Winter Hay balance & Fly Spray/Horse Fly Mask' etc.!!**