Memorial Gifts
In Loving Memory of
Mary Lou Mayse
Contributed by
Russ & Vera Coats

In Loving Memory of
Bentley Wright
Contributed by
Victor & Muriel Bach
Greg Rennier

In Loving Memory of
Philip Wyatt
Contributed by
IrmaLee Westrell

Honor Gifts
In Honor of
Sue Binney
Contributed by
Edie Brennan

In Honor of
Ray Crabtree
Contributed by
Blade Finney

In Honor of
Jim & Mary Foutz
Contributed by
Mark & Norma Brewer

At Coyote Hill, we love to use horses in our work with abused and neglected children. There are several reasons why using horses in our ministry just makes good “horse sense.”

The benefits of using Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP) are many. Horses are very attentive and can carry out commands effectively. They have a natural healing power, proven effective in physical, mental and emotional therapy. They are also very responsive to their surroundings, causing our children to recognize the effect their emotions have on others.

One thing we do to help evaluate the progress of a child in our horse program is to have them journal after a session. Most entries are highly individual and private, but this month we’d like to share a select few, anonymous entries that show the effectiveness of using horses with kids.

After one recent ride, a child wrote, “Today I rode Eli on a trail ride. I faced my fear of going down a steep hill.”

On another day an older child wrote, “Today I rode Zeek. Zeek is my favorite horse. We learned how to canter.”

As you can see from these journal entries, learning to trust again, building self-confidence and overcoming fears are huge benefits.

Erica Alexander, therapist, states, “In EAP we often talk about how horses are similar to people in their reactions. Using horses can help the child realize how their own actions impact others. Journaling helps them process what they experience, getting out emotions they may have experienced or expressing their perception of the experience. Sometimes we might be able to interpret things from the entries and then pay more attention to how we plan specific activities to encourage growth and better coping skills with the child.”

Thank you, donors! Your continued support helps create a Safe Place to Be a Child in many different ways.
The Jeremy Maclin Charity Weekend

It all began Friday evening, April 6th. Our kids were invited to the Mizzou Athletic Training Complex to meet about 15 former Mizzou and current NFL greats. The players happily signed poster after poster, as well as t-shirts, footballs, and helmets for all of our kids. One of the cutest moments during that time was when one of the four-year-olds was handed a poster and pen so he could get autographs - and he said, “I’ll need help writing my name.”

Next – we were all in for a treat, as we found out first hand that boys never really grow up. It was great fun seeing all of the big, tough football guys laughing, teasing and playing kickball with our kids…sometimes even picking them up and running with them so they could get to a base faster. Apparently, competitiveness means you always want to win, even when playing kickball with preschoolers.

Saturday held just as many fun opportunities, beginning with a football camp in the morning that our boys were invited to attend. The camp included lots of running, tackling, foot-work, push-ups and inspiration from these talented football players. The day ended by watching the guys get a little out of their element to play softball. During the Home Run Derby, our kids and Home Parents were invited to help catch the hit balls. The big Mizzou Legends Softball Game provided an entertaining grand finale. Lots of laughs and friendly competition ensued as defensive players took on offensive players for six innings, with Sean Weatherspoon providing a humorous commentary throughout the game. The offensive team won soundly 12-2.

It’s true - the Jeremy Maclin Charity Weekend did provide some greatly appreciated fundraising support for our ministry. More than anything, however, it provided a tremendous amount of fun and new experiences for our children. Where else could a child in our care get the chance to play kickball with famous football players? Or attend a football camp coached by college and NFL greats? Nowhere else but the Jeremy Maclin Charity Weekend!

We can't thank The Jeremy Maclin Foundation enough, not only for the financial support, but also for the fantastic opportunities you gave our children. We loved every moment of it!