



TRIPLE H EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GINGER EWAYS AND THERAPY HORSE



Horses That Heal: Who Knew?

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SOME HORSES ARE BRED FOR RUNNING. SOME JUST STAND AND look majestic behind an old wood fence. Then there are those, like the ones at the Triple H Equitherapy Center, that are called upon for a much more important role.

Triple H is a 200-acre ranch located in Pipe Creek. The group behind the ranch uses horses to help those with physical, mental and cognitive disabilities. A myriad of conditions are treated through the program that range from autism to post-traumatic stress disorder. At the center, a horse isn't just a horse. Here, he is a friend, teacher and, most of all, a healer.

Ginger Eways is the executive director at the Triple H Equitherapy Center. When asked what brought her to the center, a smile as big as Texas crossed her face as she replied.

"The horses. When I saw the miraculous benefit those with special needs received from the programs we offer, that's when I became a true believer. Here the horse picks his rider," Eways says. "The rider then learns how to care for the horse, till eventually a relationship starts to develop. The horse starts sensing what his rider needs. Over time, what you see is if a client comes in lacking self-confidence, for instance, that's what they will gain through that relationship. It's amazing to see and that's how all of this works," Eways said.

Triple H Operations Director Keisha Laughly has ridden horses most of her life. What keeps her at Triple H is being able to help others by doing what she loves.

"If you saw my paycheck, you know I ain't in this for the money," Laughly says jokingly. "Seriously though, I love these animals and we learn to love each new group that we receive. I get to see miracles happen every day. People that came to us being told they couldn't do something, leave here with the confidence that comes from knowing that they can. You can't put a price on that."

The commitment of these ladies is reflected in the results. The program also caters to U.S. servicemen and women who returned home with newfound challenges of their own. Many of the wounded warriors who graduate from the program return as volunteers after their eight weeks are over. Whether they return as volunteers or move on with life, those who enter the program never forget Triple H.

Laughly couldn't hold back tears as she read a letter written by one of the at-risk youth who graduated from the program.

Dear Equine Center Staff and Daisy (the name of her horse); I just wanted to say thank you for the great eight weeks we spent together. I wanted you to know I learned a lot, and I now know that I am worth something and that I am someone.

Thank you.

Lessons aren't reserved for those in the program, though. These valuable lessons can be learned from visiting Triple H:

First: It takes a special person to work with those who face challenges. But those who do reap a benefit far greater than any of us could fathom.

Second: There are few bonds stronger than that of a horse and his rider. Trust and loyalty can move mountains and change lives.

Third: Horses are healers. Who knew?

To learn more about the center or how you can help, please visit Triple-H.org.

BEC will always show a strong concern for its community. BEC is proud to show its support for the Triple H Equitherapy Center and other nonprofits throughout our service area.