



Happy Birthday, USA!

Happy hearts, happy kids at the 20th "Happy Hearts" Prescott Rodeo



Opening the Prescott Frontier Days Rodeo has been a tradition for HwH for 20 years, and this summer's event was a star-spangled smash.

Some 14 special needs participants, ages five to 12, were excited to ride our horses:

Sunshine, Scoop, Rosie and Rennie. Also on the "card": stick horse barrel racing, riding our hand-powered "bull", roping a steer head and the sheer joy of playing cowboys and cowgirls.



*Horses with Heart, P. O. Box 2427
Chino Valley, AZ 86323
(928) 533-9178
www.hwhonline.org*

Calendar of Events

July 10, 11, 12 & 17, 18, 19 ~ Happy Trails Horse Experience, HwH. (see article on p. 2)
Aug. 31 ~ Sequins & Saddles comes back to HwH! Save the date; details to come.
Sept. 30 ~ Have a Heart benefit Barrel Race/Pole Bending, Olsen's Arena, Chino Valley. (For latest details, check our Facebook page and hwhonline.org).

**Volunteer of the Month:
SUSANNE STOCK**



Reasons selected: Susanne's positive attitude and "can-do" approach have helped bolster the Special Olympic team for years. Her supportive coaching skills have enabled several riders to thrive, and she can always be counted on to

pitch in where there's a need. Susanne's commitment to her riders and horses (Zee, we're talking especially about you), is evident and inspiring to all around her.

Q&A with Susanne:

Q: How long have you been with HwH?

A: About six years.

Q: Why do you volunteer at HwH?

A: For selfish reasons, really: to be around our riders, other awesome volunteers and our very special horses. I'm also proud to work at our well-maintained ranch, where the staff keeps the horses well trained and keeps us well trained, too. The best part: watching our Special Olympians become skilled at riding and taking care of their horses. I think their growing confidence trickles over into their everyday lives.

Q: What is your favorite memory or moment at HwH?

A: My favorite times are when our riders encourage and cheer each other on during lessons and shows. No matter how well someone does (or doesn't do), the group is behind every rider.

Q: If you could share one thing with new volunteers,
(continued next page)



what would that be?

A: You will learn a lot about horses and yourself. The horses will be gentle with you and so will our riders. Come on out – there is no other volunteer opportunity like this.

Why I give: a donor's story

This is a regular feature on a vital part of the HwH family: our donors. Here, Sculptor Brad Williams (pictured), creator of several fine art pieces donated as benefit raffle items, talks about his support for our work.

My wife Susan and I have been friends with Pam Berry (HwH Executive Director) for several years, and that's how we were first introduced to Horses with Heart.

There are two reasons I give: first, to be a good citizen, but mostly because I have a granddaughter who has autism. When she was just starting to walk we got her on a horse, and now, she's driven by her love of horses.



She's doing great: now she's seven years old, taking lessons, mucking stalls, winning awards at horse shows...it's all made an enormous difference in her progress. She hopes to work with horses when she's older. She just loves

every part of it. I can see in my own family what a difference horses make for people who have challenges.

To anyone considering supporting Horses with Heart – whether through a donation of merchandise, or services or funds – I say this:

If you really want to make an impact on a child's life, I don't see how you could put your resources behind any better cause.

Brad Williams is an award-winning sculptor based in Chino Valley. To see his work, or to commission a special sculpture, visit www.bradfordjwilliams.com; 928-899-8270. Join HwH supporters like Brad – Give to HwH, serving the Quad Cities for over 25 years.

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Help them ride "Happy Trails"

In July, the special needs community can enjoy "Happy Trails," a popular riding and crafts program at the ranch.



A rider at last year's event gets introduced to Scoop.

The event will run from 9 a.m.-noon on **July 10, 11, 12** and **July 17, 18, 19**. We need many volunteers to support this great program. There are sign-up sheets in the Volunteer Trailer.

Our special need? Safety Support Team volunteers. Contact Jan Grise: ridingdir@hwhonline.org, or call 928-308-1353.

Take a "vacation" from state taxes

This summer, give your finances a break and donate to Horses with Heart. Under the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit Program, you could enjoy a dollar-for-dollar tax credit – up to \$800 for a married couple – for helping us continue our important programs. To give, email or call Pam Berry: execdir@hwhonline.org; 928-899-4759. Or, mail your check, payable to Horses with Heart, to P.O. Box 2427, Chino Valley, AZ 86323.

Safety Tip of the Month

We love the folks who come out to support our riders, and they have a role in keeping us all safe. Children (and those of any age) shouldn't run or make loud noises around the horses. If you see visitor behavior that might be a risk, alert an Instructor or Staff Member.