

Beauty Ablaze

The Newsletter of
 ★ **BLAZING HOPE RANCH** ★

WALKING HOME FREE ON DRY GROUND

**OUR
MISSION**

We exist to restore wholeness to female survivors of human trafficking and weaken the sex trade through the power of Christ

Some of the most beautiful and inspiring stories of the Old Testament are the ones about God performing miraculous deeds on behalf of his people. Like the story of God providing a victory for Gideon against the powerful Midianite army using only 300 men. Or, the stories of God shutting the mouths of hungry lions for Daniel and Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego being preserved in the engulfing flames of the king's furnace.

I am awestruck by the picture of God as a mighty warrior and protector of those he loves. However, I have been guilty of doubting whether that same God still moves and operates that way on our behalf today. I often live as a practicing theist; acting like God has set the world in motion, wiped his

hands and walked away.

I am so glad that he has used the work that is happening at the Ranch to prove me completely and



utterly wrong! **I have stood back and watched the hand of God provide for this ministry again and again.** It is

nothing short of supernatural. We have seen nothing but one giant after another fall to the ground.

It reminds me of the way God provided a path through the sea when the Israelites, being chased by Pharaoh's army, thought they had reached the end of the road. They cried out to the Lord and Moses answered them saying "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you

will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today...**The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.**"

God's glory was put on display when those waters parted. In the same way his glory has been shining for all to see as he provides for Blazing Hope Ranch.

We were blessed with a free property to use in February but could not see how we could afford to find a place to live in. God brought a home from Vanderbilt Mortgage into our lives. When we had no way to pay for it, he used **generous partners and friends to help raise over \$23,000 in 30 days in the Home Free Challenge!**

Today a wonderful operations home sits at the Ranch and stands as a beautiful truth that **God still fights for you, for me...and for survivors of human trafficking.**

- David Haggard

THANKS - GIVING OF HOPE

Blazing Hope Ranch is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit faith-based organization dedicated to the empowerment of female survivors of human trafficking in a safe, Christ-focused environment that promotes full restoration of mind, body and soul while weakening the sex trade through advocacy and awareness. Would you remember Blazing Hope during this season of giving:

- Volunteer the gift of your time
- Donate item(s) listed on our Current Needs list on the website
- Invite us to share at your church or organization
- Donate online through PayPal on our website or facebook page
- Donate by Check:
Blazing Hope Ranch
PO Box 164, Dayton TN 37321



LOWES HEROES BUILDING HOPE

It is true that there are a lot of good charities and worthwhile causes out there. The blessing of friends and partners like you who choose to give to us is not taken for granted. It is particularly special to have a company see our organization as a worthwhile cause.

We are amazed and grateful that our local Lowe's Home Improvement store in Dayton has selected the Ranch as it's charity partner for the year!

This partnership ensures that we have access to store goods and services for BHR at a reduced cost and places their talented team members on site to help with much



needed improvement projects. **The store has completed building a large run-in shed to protect our therapy horses from the sun and inclement weather.**

The store has donated over \$3,200 in supplies and numerous man-hours to providing this valuable improvement to our property. We are sincerely appreciative to Greg, the store manager, Tony the project foreman and John for their dedication and help in fulfilling the mission

of the Lowe's Heroes program.

We can think of few better ways to "transform lives one community at a time." than by helping us fulfill our calling of restoring wholeness to female survivors of human trafficking. **They don't simply build a shed; they build hope. Their work on the shed is done, but the difference they make will carry on for years to come.** - David Haggard

HORSING AROUND AT AUTUMN BLAZE

It is hard to believe that our first Autumn Blaze event took place one year ago. The November 2015 event was a new adventure and a step of faith. We hosted it at the church property that was not even ours yet! We were trusting that God would move in an amazing way...and he did.

Since that cold November day we have been blessed with the ranch property, fencing and a run-in shed for the horses, an operations home and the recent arrival of survivors houses to the Ranch!

Autumn Blaze 2016, hosted at the Rhea County Saddle Club, became an opportunity to simply celebrate and praise God for all he has done over one short year.

We were blessed by nearly

150 partners and friends who were able to join us for an afternoon of fun, food and worship. **More than that we cannot express our appreciation for everyone who coordinated, set up, served and assisted before, during and after the event.**

There was a delicious south-



western-themed dinner, snacks and desserts. We had activities, face-painting and pony rides for kids, a horse demonstration explaining why the Ranch uses equestrian

therapy and a time of praise and worship around the fire.

This free event would not have been possible without donations from Oxford Graduate School in Dayton (food), Jeff & Darlene Bruehl (face-painting), Dr. Chris Horton (flowers), Beth Hixson, Judy Shetter, Vickie Patterson and Ally Underwood (desserts), David Smalley (sound) and The Rhea County Saddle Club for the location.

Check out all the pictures of the Autumn Blaze event on our website.

You can also find a music video on youtube (search Blazing Hope Ranch) that puts the amazing activities of the last year on display, giving glory to God for allowing us to share in his story of grace, love and justice.



The God who spoke saying, "let light shine from the darkness," is the very one who sets our hearts ablaze to shed light on the knowledge of God's glory revealed in the face of Jesus Christ.

- 2 Cor. 4:6

OPENING DOORS TO A BETTER LIFE

We serve an awesome God! Just as He will move in the lives of countless women and children who will pass through the gates of the Ranch, He has provided for Blazing Hope through a **generous donation from Vanderbilt Mortgage** and Finance. Their corporate tagline, "opening doors to a better life", is no more greatly fulfilled than in providing a place for long-term healing to victims of sexual exploitation. With coordination, and through the generous heart of VMF President, Eric Hamilton, we have been offered **2 four-bedroom homes and one open-space lodge**. Below are a few pictures of the donated buildings:



ZERO to 60 FREEDOM FAST

- \$60,000 in 60 days
- Provide FREEDOM & HOPE through these homes
- Ask God to move FAST with prayer and fasting

The ranch needs to raise approximately \$60,000 to move the three buildings to the property, prepare the land, run electrical and water, and set the buildings up at their new home.

We need your help to make it happen. Your gift of any amount would be greatly appreciated. You can give online at www.blazinghoperanch.org or mail your gift to: Blazing Hope Ranch, PO Box 164, Dayton TN 37321.

*The kind of fasting I want is this:
Remove the chains of oppression and the yoke of injustice, and let the oppressed go free.*

- Isaiah 58:6



BLAZING HOPE RANCH

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WHERE HOPE RUNS FREE

LITTLE PONIES PACKED WITH PURPOSE

Chase is a feisty, curious little fella that stands about three feet high. He is a bay mini horse with a thick, long black mane and tale. **Named by a human trafficking survivor because, "you have to chase him down to love on him," Chase was a very scared horse, quick to turn his backside to any perceived danger or fear.** He has clearly been mishandled and appeared to trust no one when he first was



adopted by the Ranch.

He and a friend came to be members of Blazing Hope's family through the generous donation of Regina Ingram who found them, apparently abandoned in a field. Both Chase and Daisy Grace seem to have been mistreated in some way as evidenced by their fearfulness and immediate fight or flight responses. Where Chase will threaten to kick, Daisy Grace freezes and stands very tensely as you try to touch her.

These two minis have flourished under the care of Karis and Stephanie Powell who have utilized Parelli Natural Horsemanship in their training. The philosophy behind natural horsemanship is that

you allow the horse room to choose their actions and do



not utilize force to make them comply. A small amount of pressure is used to encourage a proper response. **Through this gentle approach both horse and person have to listen to each other and pay attention to the many non-verbal communication cues. This deepens the relationship and nurtures deep respect.**

Chase, who was once terrified of the fly spray bottle, can now be sprayed. Daisy Grace who was once so sensitive around her middle can now wear a harness. Through time and consistency, these two little ponies are learning to trust people again. Through these two little ponies, survivors can learn to trust again, hope again and find their voice.

Together, what a beautiful gift of healing they offer to one another - Jo Haggard