

White Horse Youth Ranch

“Educate minds, inspire creativity, encourage integrity for the youth of our community through positive interaction with our America living legend, the horse.”



Our Program

The foundation program of the White Horse Youth Ranch (WHY Ranch) is unique in that it pairs one child, one horse and one leader for each session. Our "one on one" learning environment is dedicated to restoring the heart, soul, mind, and strength of our kids. Our specialized environment is tailored for each child's specific needs. WHY Ranch gives disadvantaged youth the opportunity to experience the Wild West heritage of Las Vegas through our free *Diamonds in the Rough* after school program.



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WHY Ranch will serve all children between the ages of 8 and 18. Roughly 80% of the kids we will serve are considered disadvantaged. To WHY Ranch, the word "disadvantaged" child takes on many shapes and forms: socio-economic; deprived of some basic necessity in life; experienced grief or loss; has suffered from a traumatic event or has no access to safe structured recreation. The remaining 20% of kids we will work with are simply kids who don't have access to horses through any other means. It has been our experience that as "healthy" kids play and grow beside "broken" kids, they are both encouraged to have a greater appreciation and understanding of others. It also brings joy to the spirit of wounded kids to believe they too can have hope for the future.

Our goal is to allow each child the opportunity to come to the Ranch twice a month. Each 90 minute session will consist of a chore being done and an optional riding lesson; the main goal of WHY Ranch is to offer mentorship, ranch-style activities, healthy friendships and horse rehabilitation involvement. Therefore, according to the staff member's discretion or the child's wishes, they may take part in any number of alternate activities during their session, including ranch chores, crafts, games, etc.

Part of the focus of our program is to teach about our Nevada Wild West heritage. WHY Ranch is committed to supporting the history and culture of our community as well as keeping it alive by passing it down to future generations.



The Cost

Our program is absolutely free of charge. The only requirement for children is that they have an open heart and *want* to attend.

The Importance of Family

Part of the focus of WHY Ranch is to bring families together. Because of this principle we ask that a parent accompany their child. A parent's presence is quite often central to a child's healing process and the impact of a parent's support is timeless. Allowing fathers, mothers and guardians a chance to rest in the shade and enjoy the beauty God has provided is also a part of what we do.

Our Definition of Disadvantaged

“ Any youth or child who is deprived of some basic necessity in life, experienced grief or loss, or has suffered from a traumatic event. ”

A Day in the Ranch



A volunteer heart is such an integral part of who we are. Therefore, a majority of our workers will be volunteers; they are the driving force to the success of the ranch.

WHY Ranch will also have paid staff consisting of a barn manager, executive assistant, assistant, fund developer and program director. Our program director during their riding instruction.

In recognizing the healing and community that can be developed through selflessly giving, we have incorporated a “task” into our riding program. The “task” will be 10-15 minutes of various ranch projects followed by preparing the horse for the optional lesson. The purpose of the task is to help build a “give back” mentality where the children can be part of improving the life of someone else. Oftentimes, having this feeling of value and giving to others is an essential part of a child’s healing. Our goal is to help build self-esteem, confidence and integrity in the heart of a child.

Quick Facts

- WHY Ranch is not associated with any particular religious segregation, but it is a faith based organization.
- We are unable to host overnight guests, families, volunteer groups or participants due to the limited size of our facility. Our insurance and special use permit will not cover this type of ranch activity.
- Everyone who comes on the property is required to sign a release form.
- Each child must wear closed toe/heeled shoes and helmets.
- All our Volunteers, Board Members and Staff are certified in horsemanship, fingerprinted and background checked.

▶▶▶ *Contact Information*

3315 E. Russell Rd., #205
Las Vegas, NV 89120
(702) 644-9177 : office
(702) 644-9178 : fax
www.WHYRanch.com
whyranch@whyranch.com

Does the Ranch Ever Close?

WHY Ranch maintains normal business hours through the year. However the daily riding program is not offered during the months of June to September due to safety issues during summer weather.

Our Target Group

Part of the heart of WHY Ranch is not only to be a safe haven for children to come, but as well be a support to the community as a whole. In this, WHY Ranch has and will continue to support local organizations that deal specifically with youth and family by offering a place for their child to come. As well, part of our prescreening process will be through the relationship with our partner organizations. Our only true prerequisite for children visiting the ranch is that they WANT to be here. A desire to come is an indication of a heart willing to try. It is from this willingness that broken hearts and lives can be healed.

Our Horses

Currently we have two horses, Decker and Delilah. Both have been rescued from difficult situations and have been an example of how healing can take place in the midst of brokenness.

All horses that we will acquire in the future must go through a selection and screening process. Most will be unwanted or retired horses acquired through donation.

Appointment Process

Each child must go through our application process before they are able to make an appointment. Also, each child is required to make an appointment in order to come on the ranch.

Their parent or guardian will need to contact the ranch office at 702-644-9177 to schedule an appointment.

Please be aware that WHY Ranch will offer a day program only, and sessions must be scheduled ahead of time.

How You Can Help

Please visit our website for more information on ways that you can help with prayer, donations and volunteer opportunities. Please note that we are 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Therefore, all donations are tax-deductible

Please contact us for more information