

News From LoveWay, Inc.



June 2011

Therapeutic Equestrian Services

Meet Jessica Shelner— New Program Manager

1. What brought you to LoveWay?

My husband was hired as the Middle School Director



at First Baptist Church over on County Road 17 a month before we were to be married. Knowing we would be moving to Elkhart and already having my instructor certification through NARHA, I started searching for nearby NARHA accredited centers. And with divine providence, God landed me at LoveWay; the match was perfect! The hours and days that I needed were exactly where LoveWay needed help. God truly does have the perfect plan!

2. What is special about LoveWay?

"What isn't special about LoveWay?" Every aspect of this exceptional organiza-

tion is vital to our riders' (and groomers') success. From behind-the-scene maintenance work to volunteering to fundraising, it all adds up to allow for the power of the horse to change lives! My favorite thing about LoveWay is being a part of a kaleidoscope of people using their God-given gifts and talents to serve others and enrich the lives of individuals with special needs.

3. What is the job of the Program Manager?

A learning process! But primarily I am responsible for the deliverance of quality client services, which includes assessment and development of client goals, and assurance of adherence to NARHA guidelines. As lead instructor, I am also in charge of supervision and growth of the other instructors, as well as management of our horse staff.

4. What services does LoveWay provide and what is the benefit to clients?

Our therapeutic horseback riding program uses the horse as a tool to achieve various riding skills that can then be applied to daily life. This approach is so effective because most times people do not see horseback riding as a chore or another dreaded therapy appointment; it is fun and our riders look forward to coming. With this increase in motivation, goals are more frequently achieved and built upon.

In the past few years, LoveWay has been developing our Equine Facilitated Learning program using the "Cowboy Poetry" curriculum. This program targets students who are at risk of failing, display disruptive and disengaged behaviors, and are often expelled or suspended. They learn how to apply the characteristics of a cowboy (e.g. respect,

attitude, integrity, etc.) to their lives at home and at school by developing a bond with their horse and using 'the word of the day' in the equine activity.

5. What makes horses unique in providing therapeutic services?

The fact that they are horses! They are alive and unpredictable (but with unique personalities unlike machines and equipment used in traditional therapeutic environments. Riders develop a bond and friendship with their horse, who visibly respond to changes in a rider's attitude, emotional well-being and physical condition. Horses 'speak' to us on a number of levels and in a variety of ways; they are great listeners and accepting of everyone.

6. What is the role of volunteers...why are they so important?

The instructors and other staff could not do what we do without the tireless efforts of our wonderful volunteers! There would be no LoveWay without our volunteers; we rely on them to make everything run properly. They not only make our job possible, but they make it fun! Their determination to see LoveWay thrive and their love for the students is without equal!

Sawdust Donation

If you walk down the barn aisle at LoveWay you'll notice a new smell in the air—besides the familiar scent of horses. It would be the smell of wood shavings. Thanks to Fiber-by-Products, we will now be using sawdust as bedding for our horses. The com-

pany donated a large truck load of the shavings to our hay barn a couple weeks ago. The picture to the left shows just how much shavings were donated. It should be enough to keep our horse stalls clean and dry for the next few months. We are very

grateful for Fiber-by-Product's support of our horses and our program!



New Horses in our Barn

LoveWay has three new horses on staff! Honey is a 13 hands high, 15 year old palomino Halflinger mare. She arrived in May, and is trained to drive and ride. She has a loud whinny, which she uses a lot. Honey is a sweetheart and loves to be groomed and get lots of attention. Her bottom lip hangs down when she walks, so she always looks relaxed!

Wilma is a 16 hands high, 14 year old red roan Quarter Horse mare. Wilma came to LoveWay in January and she was put into the program. Wilma was a western pleasure show horse before she came to us. She loves attention, being groomed, and treats! Her favorite things to eat are wheat thins.

Eli is a 16 hands high, 10 year old bay Quarter Horse gelding. Eli



Pictured above from left to right:
Eli, Wilma, and Honey.

came to LoveWay in November and has recently started working in classes. He also was a show horse, and has been ridden English and Western. Eli has a big personality; he is the barn show off! He is goofy and sometimes thinks he is a person. Eli loves to be with other horses and people.

KeyBank Volunteers

Employees from KeyBank in Bristol spent an afternoon at LoveWay at the end of May as part of a company-wide volunteer effort. They worked on our sensory trail and helped organize items in our storage room. KeyBank has been sending out volunteers to help for quite a few years and LoveWay is always excited to host this group. Thanks again for all your help!



Dates to Remember:

June 13-August 4
Summer Semester of Classes & Camps

July 4-8
No Classes/Camps

July 22-30
Visit us at the Elkhart County Fair

October 15
Ride a Thon Fundraiser

October 29
Haunted Hilly Half Marathon/Frightening 5K

A Successful Workday

LoveWay recently got the opportunity to host a group of over 150 volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. It was one of the largest groups of volunteers the organization has ever worked with at one time but they came prepared and ready to work. The group built a new storage room in the hay barn, constructed a containment area for our wood shavings, removed wallpaper, planted flowers and pulled weeds, installed a drainage tube on the trail, and painted fences among many other things. They came armed with tractors, weed eaters, tools and lots of willing volunteers. Even young children pitched in to clean windows and pick up rocks- it was a great day of family volunteering! We are very grateful for all the work this group was able to accomplish! Thank you to everyone that helped!

2011 Board of Directors

Chris Welch-President, Joel Duthie-Vice President, Shelley Tucker-Secretary,
Deb Wilson-Treasurer, Nancy Smith, Karin Jensen, Lori Boecher, Rhonda Banta,
Anne Eisele, Ken Smith, and Deb Beehler