



ST. FRANCIS RANGER

A Program of the Hogan Family Foundation

April 2005

Teaching young people compassion and care through equine education



## Rangers Begin Riding Lessons at Ventura Farms

April's Spring Break from school gave young people in the the St. Francis Ranger Program at Ventura Farms the opportunity for more time to enjoy their equestrian experience. The fifteen students in the program each were given individual 1 hour lessons at least twice during the week. This allowed Meaghan Shaffer, Ranch Manager, a chance to work intensely on riding with each child.

"The kids showed remarkable improvement in their confidence and skills, as a result of the additional time," said Meaghan. "All the kids are now able to perform a posting trot and each, with the exception of our 3 youngest, are now loping their horses."

According to Shaffer, "The next step will be lessons in diagonals. Our three youngest Rangers (Sonia age 8, Vicky 7, and Ruby 6 ) are now able to ride



Hogan Family Foundation Chairman, Ed Hogan joins St. Francis Rangers Letty B. and Mari Z. for a Saturday morning ride.

their horses off the lunge line. We're very excited for them. They, of course, are thrilled to have more independence." *(con't page 3)*

## New Rescues Join the 15 Hands Sanctuary Program



Ibn, a 22 year old rescued gelding was brought to the 15 Hands Rescue in early April suffering from a hock injury.

The 15 Hands Rescue Sanctuary now includes both donated horses and horses that have been rescued. Many times these horses are physically injured or disabled and are in need of veterinary care. One such rescue who recently came to the program is "Ibn."

BRW Ibn Dulcinea is a 22 year old grey purebred Arabian gelding who was destined for Animal Control. Ibn is broke to ride and will be able to handle light work only due to a hock injury. When he was picked up Ibn could be ridden in a halter with reins attached to the side. A previous owner had obviously invested time and training into him. He is slowly putting on weight and has already bonded with Fred, the other grey who is out in the pasture. *(con't on page 2)*

## Rescues (con't from page 1)



Annie is a 21 year old rescued mare who was brought to the Sanctuary suffering from thrush on her hoofs.

Annie is a 21 year old chestnut quarter horse mare. She was brought to the ranch by the owner who had contacted Animal Control as a last resort. Annie was given to her as a child's horse, but Annie wasn't ready for children and the owner didn't have the experience or knowledge to train her. Annie had severe thrush in her hoofs. The program's veterinarian, Dr. Debbie Kemper, and farrier, Bill Boer, worked together to treat her. She was on stall rest for almost two weeks receiving daily treatment for her feet. To date she has made a full recovery, is gaining weight and is able to go out into the paddocks with the other mares.

## Rangers Get Buggy Rides

Mary Tesoro generously brought her driving buggy from Santa Ynez to the North Barn facility in Thousand Oaks for the Rangers to use with General Custer, the miniature horse who is also on loan from Mary. Custer gave short rides in the buggy to all the kids who came to the Spring Break BBQ.



## Thank You To Our Volunteers

The Rancho St. Francis Program has been blessed to have many people volunteer to help out with the horses and the program in general. Our volunteers logged a total of 51 hours in March. Great appreciation goes out to the following people who have donated their time.

Wayne Lemon  
Sebastian Bosso  
Connie Bosso

Gerardo Rosiles  
Mary Schiffer  
Deborah Dimich

## Volunteer Meeting

*Interested volunteers should attend this meeting for more information about the program.*

**May 21, 2005**

**10:00 am– 11:30 am**

**Gardens of the World**

**2001 Thousand Oaks Boulevard**

**Thousand Oaks**

*(directly across from the Civic Arts Plaza)*

**Please RSVP to 805-480-3039**

## North Barn Gets New Coat of Paint

The Rangers recently learned that there is always work to do around the barn but sometimes work can be fun! A barn painting party was held and every child showed up voluntarily to paint. They painted from 10-3, with a pizza lunch break. The kids were great and really worked hard. The best worker was Mari M. She was one of the first to arrive and was the last one left to help clean up.



Sisters Mari and Lupe work hard at barn painting.

## Program Receives Donations

The St. Francis Rangers and the 15 Hand Rescue Sanctuary have been the beneficiary of donations recently received from local vendors.

### \$2,500 Benefactor

Thank you so much to Sherry DeBoer for her generous donation of \$2,500 for the purchase of much needed equipment.

### Petsmart

A generous donation valued at \$200 from the Petsmart in Oxnard. They were able to donate several brand new helmets, muck boots, leg quilts, and splint boots among other items.

### Troxel

The St. Francis Rangers also received a tremendous discount on helmets from Troxel. All the Rangers now have their own helmet. Many have decorated and personalized their helmets with a grease pencil.

### Sheplers

Sheplers also gave a wonderful discount on boots. Each Ranger ordered a pair of roper style boots to wear while working in the barn and riding.

## Riding Lessons (con't from page 1)

On the last Saturday of Spring Break, the program held a family BBQ. All the Rangers had their group lessons, scheduled at the regular times during the day. Each Ranger invited their parents and siblings to come to the barn and join in the lunch. Mothers brought something to share, and Carne Asada was prepared by Ranch Director of Operations, Miguel Vega. Some parents were able to stay and watch their kids ride. "It is amazing to see how far these kids have come in such a short time," said Meaghan. They take such pride in what they have learned."



Ranch Manager, Meaghan Shaffer gives St. Francis Ranger Beto some added confidence during riding lessons.

## Construction Update

### **Ventura Farms**

Construction is going on in two places, at Ventura Farms in their North Barn and at Rancho St. Francis, our new facility. Miguel Viega is working to transform the North Barn from a basic mare motel to a real training barn. He has built a new tack room for the Rangers, a wash rack, new crossties, and a storage room. He is also in the process of adding an office.

### **Rancho St. Francis**

The new facility on Protrero Road in Hidden Valley is starting to get back on track after all the rain. The grading and land moving is continuing and the various levels where the different structures will stand are cleared. Chuck Melber of Peregrine, Inc., the general contractor for the project confirms that the houses will be up in June, with the barns to follow. Progress will continue on the paddocks and open areas. Occupancy of the Ranch should be possible by late fall.



Students show their new T-Shirts featuring the St, Francis Rangers logo. Participants also received helmets and boots.

## New Website Goes On Line!

Visit the new St. Francis Rangers Site

[www.stfrancisrangers.org](http://www.stfrancisrangers.org)

A Program of the  
Hogan Family  
Foundation



ST. FRANCIS RANGERS

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## Magical Creature Discovered at Ranch



A unicorn was recently discovered at the North Barn by our Rangers, Nancy V., Dania C. and Mari Z. Ed Hogan, Foundation Chairman said, "We believe in unicorns just as we believe in all the children who are part of the St. Francis Rangers. Each has their very own magic."

## Donations Needed

Any one willing to donate new or used equipment in useable condition that would help with our program, please call:

**Meaghan Shaffer at 805-480-3039**

## Horse Donations and Adoptions Update

### Donations

Two new horses have found a home with the St. Francis Rangers Program. Nabyteka was donated by Teri Reichman. She is a 15 year old grey National Show Horse who has shown in country pleasure and has been a broodmare for several years. She is working well on trail rides with the children.

### On Loan

The other horse, Balanchine is on loan from Teri Reichman for the summer for the children to enjoy. He is a bay gelding who has shown in country English pleasure, native costume, driving, show hack and walk/trot.

### Adopted

Psyladdnesque was adopted in February to the Websters.