

The Ridge

Is old, was a potato farm long ago. It was a large plot of land that had been homesteaded early in the last century. It passed through several hands and finally came to it's current owners when their parents had passed on. Not what it had been but still a good sized piece, almost 40 acres, on one of the highest points in the Mat-Valley. It had been built up by Emmett and Gwen Roetman on a couple of hundred acres, a place to raise kids and cattle and horses and hay, or most anything else someone brought home. But they built a tradition of the old school that came with the land, that part be used to give back to the community. It raised cattle for 4-H, the kids would come to buy their calves; Appaloosa horses, some of the best in the state. Jobs for kids in the summer along with their other activities that provided for many children.

As a way to continue this way of life the children/owners (Kristin & Russell) wished to carry on that tradition. They want to use their horses and land as a way to help children and others in a variety of ways with a therapy that is just in it's infancy but appears to have some remarkable results. Equine Therapy in it's several forms. Kristin has worked for the last 20 years with The Infant Learning Program and Healthy Families at MSSCA, at one time MSSCA had tried to build an Equine Therapy program to help with many of the difficulties that their clientele has but didn't have the facilities to do so.

Then comes STRIDE (Southcentral Therapeutic Riding). For the last 17 years, for two months in the summer, under the guidance and care of Kathy Gliva, needed a larger place to be. The two came together and now Stride is moving to the Ridge and the Valley (along with the TRASH) to establish a larger and more diverse center of activity for all in need of Equine Assisted Therapy.

Along with STRIDE Kathy's good friend Annie Mabry (who built the Rainbow Connection and fought with Anchorage for many years trying to get a larger space and permission to enclose an arena) came along with Freedom Rein's to help Veterans regain some of what they lost in war has decided to join us all at The Ridge.

Horses are amazing animals, in helping people to regain and to learn to overcome limitations that others place upon us. They provide the gift of strength and freedom to those restricted and help us all to be just a little bit better humans.