




Karen & Nevada



Karen- Volunteer of the Year 2015

All her life, Karen has loved horses. When her daughter was young she grew to love them too and they quickly became a big part of their mother daughter outings.

One weekend, when Karen's daughter was traveling home for a visit, a man in a hurry, crossed the double line and Karen's daughter went to live with her Lord and Creator. She was Karen's only child and immediately Karen and her husband's lives were changed forever.

While she grieved, Karen asked the Lord to guide and help her find a way to use her and her loss to bless others. She found a ranch in Oklahoma that helped foster children build a relationship with horses and she quickly fell in love with it! After serving at the ranch for two years tragedy entered her life again; a horrible tornado hit the ranch and several of the horses were killed. It was devastating. Once again she felt a great loss. And once again she did the only thing she knew to do, kneel at her Father's feet.

A few years after the tragedy, Karen moved to NC with her husband and she mustered the courage to again pursue a ministry with horses. Out of nowhere it seemed, a good friend called her and began telling her about Shepherd Youth Ranch. She visited the ranch one sunny afternoon and this is what she said about that day:

"After touring the ranch and meeting the staff, I knew I was home. The first thing Ashley said to me after hearing my story and history was: 'you come here and help as much or as little as you need'. What I heard was 'you come here and you heal here'. My plan was to help once a week, but that has quickly turned into at least 4 days a week and more if possible!"

Isn't it amazing how the Lord can use the most tragic circumstances of our lives to not only rebuild our faith and trust in Him but bring us the unsurpassable peace and everlasting hope in a way that only He could dream up!

SHEPHERD
YOUTH  RANCH
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