

Seeing the Transformation by Mary Zurn (reprinted from Facebook)



I've shared stories with you all from time to time about my rewarding experience at TREC. Very few people know what brought me to TREC and how the people, riders, and horses at TREC helped me through a very hard time.

I think most people are aware of the close relatives and personal loss I have had in my short life. My father passed when I was a teenage, and shortly after, I lost my older brother and sister to whom I was very close. It taught me to appreciate the loved ones left in my life and I became very tight with my niece and three nephews. In April of 2011 after winning a struggle with drugs, my nephew Michael died at the age of 22.

Around the same time I had discovered my love of horses that had been untapped for 45 years. In the next few months, something happened that changed my life. I started to volunteer with the wonderful instructors and staff at TREC. Seeing the transformation in the children and adult riders was as therapeutic for me as it was for them. When I lost my job because I attended Michael's funeral in Dallas, I decided to become one of the best volunteers TREC has ever seen. With my friend Pam coaching me from the background, I became known for dealing with the hard to handle horses like Skyy and Charmer. TREC became a part of my family and I loved going so much, I looked forward to it and missed it when I wasn't there. Teaching new people the ropes became one of my favorite jobs as a seasoned volunteer!

One day later that same year, my sister Rosa, who was Michael's mom, came to help out at the barn. I could see in her eyes as she sidewalked with Charmer and his rider that this magical place had touched her heart as well. She helps out every time she is in town, and is thinking of volunteering at her local therapeutic riding stable in Dallas.

The clincher was when my mom (80 years old and tough as nails) came to see the place, cane in hand. Now my mom can't walk to the end of her driveway without stopping in pain ... however, I have come to discover, if you put a horse at the end of the driveway, she can practically RUN there!! After working with handicapped children for most of her life, seeing them interact with the horses melted her heart, and she too is hooked.

My message here is if you have never been to TREC, what are you waiting for? It is a fabulous place, accomplishing the impossible. To bring happiness to the people you are there to help is a fantastic thing. I thank you TREC for all you do, and for all you have done for me.