

WRWF 2017-18 Swiftsure NP Final Report

The impact of the generous Wood River Womens' Foundation \$25,000 grant has been significant. Since horses are the literal backbone of our program, facilitating the unique therapy to carry out our mission, they are essential to our success. They support the physical weight of our riders and provide a pure connection that is humbling and impossible to replicate via other means. Our objective was to purchase 4-5 new horses to maintain our herd at a level healthy for the horses and sufficient to meet the needs of the program. As well as implementing a specific, consistent training routine that has not only made us more efficient in preparing our horses for their roles but also keeps them happier and healthier. Here are few of the outcomes:

- With the addition of 4 new horses (Drifter, Hoppy, Lucy and Romeo) we were able to reduce our participant waiting list by more than 50%.
- These 4 horses have provided close to 1100 impactful, joyful therapy hours.
- 45 participants have been touched by these wonderful creatures since their addition to the Ranch.
- The new training has provided the instructors a baseline that they can all use to support the consistency needed to have our horses meet their full potential.

Here is a little tidbit on one of our new horses and the impact that he has had - Romeo, a flashy 11-year-old paint gelding whose nature is true to his namesake, has given close to 176 lessons to 11 different students since his arrival at Swiftsure. One of our teenage riders says: "Romeo is the sweetest boy. He loves cuddling during grooming and is a total goofball. He's always happy to greet me when I go get him from his stall, it makes me feel like someone important."

This powerful statement testifies to one among many goals we seek to achieve every day through equine-assisted activities and therapies. We deeply appreciate your confidence and support and hope to earn your consideration again in the years to come. The results have quantifiably improved the lives of people in this valley.