Spring has Sprung!

That means lots of horse hair, new growth, and a happy horse and human herd at Halleck Creek Ranch

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Rooting Down to Rise Higher

April invites us into a season of growth, renewal, and possibility. At Halleck Creek Ranch, we are embracing this moment not by growing wider, but by rooting deeper so we can rise higher.

This season marks an important chapter for our organization as we continue to strengthen our foundation across both of our homes, RockRose Ranch and Old Rancheria. While we operate in two locations, we remain one unified mission, expanding access, deepening impact, and creating more opportunities for connection, healing, and growth.

We are also excited to be nurturing new partnerships, including our collaboration with Equusatori to support healthcare providers through equine-assisted learning experiences. At the same time, we are honoring the traditions that have long defined our community, like our annual May horse show, bringing renewed energy and intention to these meaningful gatherings.

As we look ahead, we are focused on thoughtful, sustainable growth. Growth that allows us to better serve, build stronger relationships, and continue breaking barriers for those who need it most.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us.

IN THE ARENA

Creekside Spotlight

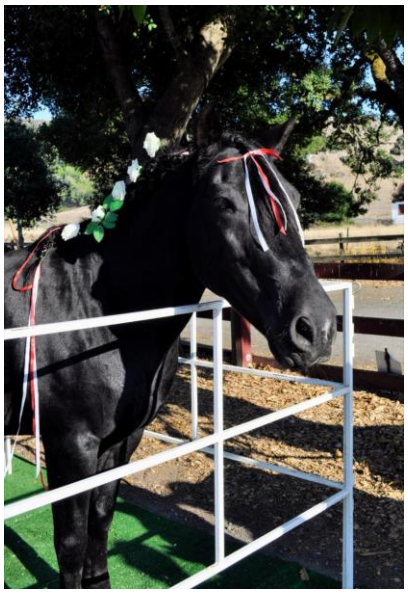
Take a moment to get to know our HCR community.

Volunteer: Meet Carlie

Name: Carlie Wilmans
HCR Started Date: March 2026
Current Roles: Sidewalker and Horse Handler

Favorite Thing About Volunteering:
Each week, I get to come to a beautiful place in Nicasio, leave the chaos of the world behind, and spend the day with horses and be of service to extraordinary kids, teens, and adults. As a result, *I leave every shift feeling that my "cup" has been filled*, and that allows me to be a better and more centered mom, daughter, sister, and friend.

A Recent Highlight:
I have always loved horses and I believe wholeheartedly in the personal benefit of working with horses. I found Halleck Creek Ranch in my search for a way to bring horses back into my life in a meaningful way. *I came to Halleck Creek for the horses, but I have fallen in love with the people* - those that work and volunteer here, but more importantly, the riders I get to work with each week.



Herd Member: Meet Beau

Age: Approximately 20
Years at HCR: 1.5 yrs
Breed: Friesian Pony Cross
Favorite Treats: Fresh green grass!
Former Role: Worked on a dude ranch in Solvang

Interesting Facts:
Beau will smile to get a cookie or if he is enjoying himself. He also grunts when he trots. He will also pick up and carry cones during lessons.

Beau is wonderful for our students and a great trail horse. If you attended Buckles & Bling last year you might have seen him greeting guests outside Rancho Nicasio!

HCR News

RSVP To Attend

Our Favorite Spring Tradition Is Back. Register Now!

Spring is here, and with it comes one of our most beloved traditions, the annual Halleck Creek Horse Show and Open House on May 16th.

This long-standing event is a true community favorite and a chance to welcome new faces into our world. It is a day to celebrate our riders, bring together friends and family, and continue growing our network of supporters.

There is something powerful about seeing our students recognized and celebrated. You can feel it in their smiles, their confidence, and their pride. For many, this is a moment to be seen for their strength and joy, and that kind of encouragement can be truly life-changing.

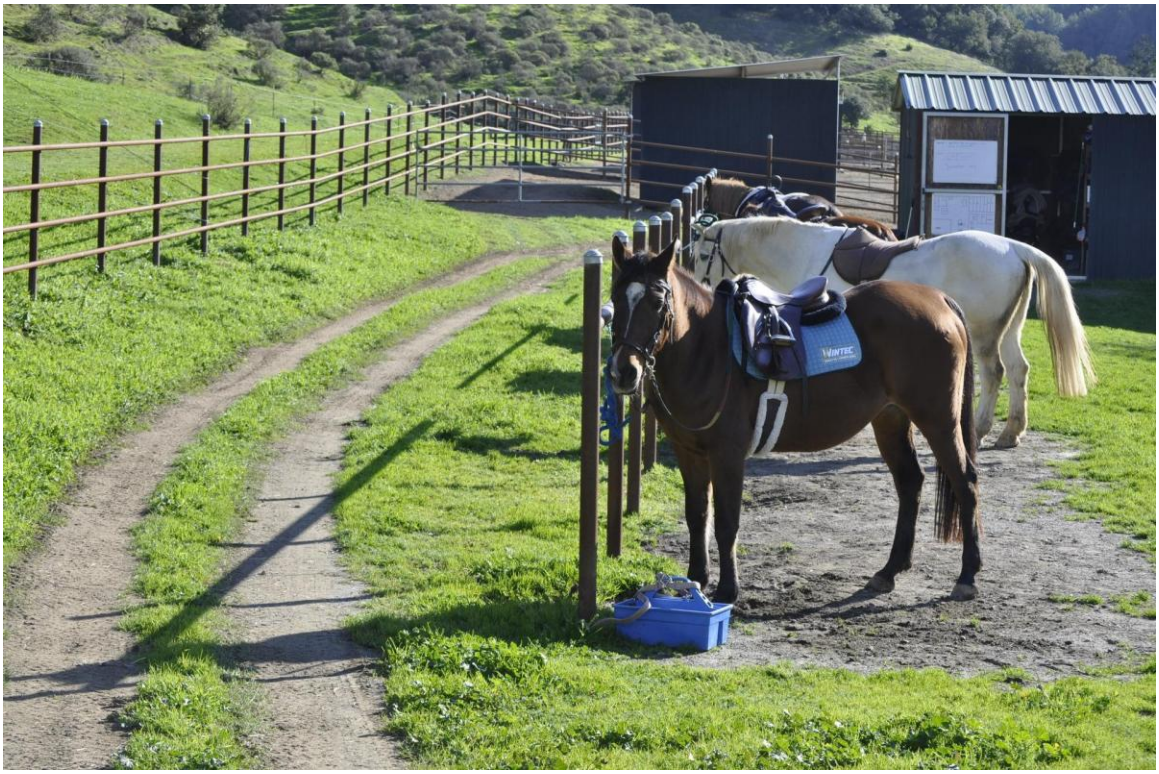
Join us for a feel-good day filled with BBQ, music, riding demos, tours for new visitors, and plenty of fun. Registration is open, and we would love to have you there. Bring a friend and help us spread the word.

Come celebrate with us and be part of something special.

Summer Camp: Apply Now!

We still have a few spaces left for summer camp!

From riding and horse care to crafts, connection, and time in nature, our camps are designed to be inclusive, confidence-building, and full of joy. Spots are limited and filling fast—secure yours today: Explore Summer Camp



We're Hiring: Join Our Team!

If you or someone you know is passionate about horses and helping people of all abilities thrive, we'd love to connect. We're expanding our team to support our riders, volunteers, and equine partners.

Open positions include:

Event Manager

Executive Assistant

Part-time Therapeutic Riding Instructor

Learn more and apply **here**.

Thank you for helping us share this opportunity and strengthen our community.

Did You Know?

April is **Autism Awareness Month**, and we're proud to support many individuals on the spectrum through our programs. Here are a few research-backed insights into how equine-assisted services can benefit our participants with autism:

- Studies show participants can experience reduced irritability, hyperactivity, and improved communication after equine-assisted programs. (Source)
- Equine-assisted activities can improve social skills, language development, and overall behavioral functioning. (Source)
- The movement of a horse provides rhythmic sensory input that supports balance, coordination, and body awareness, helping with regulation and focus. (Source)
- Horses can help riders feel calmer, more focused, and more open to learning due to their sensitivity to human emotion. (Source)
- The bond formed with a horse can help individuals build trust, confidence, and social connection. (Source)

Have you experienced some of these benefits with your loved one? Let us know!

We always want to hear about how our programs are helping your child or adult.

Share Your Wins

Community News

Meet Adult Transitions

A Community Partner Offering Support for Families with Disabilities

Betty Lituanio, former co-chair of Dedication to Special Education, started the Adult Transitions meetings when her daughter Alessandra began transitioning out of her school years.

This group is designed for families with children with special needs as they approach age 18 and beyond. It is a Marin County–wide parent group focused on the transition into adulthood. Meetings provide a supportive space to learn from other parents and share information on key topics such as day programs, conservatorships, housing options, Regional Center services, ABLE accounts, adult benefits, Self-Determination, and long-term planning.

The group is informal, informative, and designed to help families navigate this important stage together. We invite you to join an upcoming meeting.

Upcoming Adult Transitions Meeting Dates:
Third Thursday of the month
6:30pm-8:00 pm via zoom (Link to Join)
May 21 · June 18

Questions? Email Betty Lituanio

Our Mission is
Life Without Barriers

Support Our Herd