

# HORSE TALES

NEWS FROM

NOV ★ REIGNING GRACE YOUTH RANCH ★ 2014

## A Full Heart

by: Kim Zener-Masinelli – Volunteer

It's Saturday morning and the alarm goes off. I can tell it's still a little dark out. I don't mind. Today is a Ranch morning. I get dressed, secure my ponytail into my Reigning Grace hat, pack water and make my way out of the house. I stop in the garage and slip into my boots and my heart leaps just a bit. The normally busy streets are quiet but filled with a crispness and bright anticipation of future events yet to unfold. As I move past the landscaped desert naturalness of the Troon streets, I look forward to reaching the crest of the hill. At the top of the hill I breathe deeply and smile. My heart begins to stir with anticipation like the way it did as a kid when we turned into the entrance of Disneyland.

A small tear drops from my eye as my heart begins to sing with pure joy. It's only 10 more minutes until I am turning into Reigning Grace Ranch. When I pass the main gate, I officially enter my version of Church.

I was never raised with an official religious affiliation. My mother opened my eyes to the wonder and power of the natural flow of life, as well as a force beyond ourselves. We used many different names for this flow of energy, but I never landed on any official or consistent names. While living an extremely spiritual life, I never joined an official church or synagogue. That is, until I got to know Reigning Grace Ranch. While I'm there, I learn to absorb the energy of life around me in a way I've never experienced before. I watch a horse take off into a full gallop, toss his head and mane, then end in a burst of kicks, all to release some natural energy. I watch as a horse whinnies and calls out because her best friend is separated from her. I watch a child work with her mentor and then go out of her way to give the mentor a big hug, while never saying a word. I watch life unfold before my eyes. I learn to slow down. I learn the natural world doesn't operate with the same measure of productivity as the rest of the world does. While I am there, I am at a spiritual place. My church.

It's Saturday afternoon and I leave with a full heart. It's overflowing with love and an energy of pure joy. It's not uncommon for another tear of joy to roll down my face at some point on my drive home.



Eventually, I reach my daily surroundings again. But unlike the times I return from work, I am filled up and ready to be fully present with my husband and kids. I am a better wife and mom because of the Ranch. At the Ranch I have the title of "Volunteer" and Amanda thanks me every time I leave. But anyone close to me knows, I only give about 25% of what I get in return. Someday, I'll find a way to fully express the true meaning of my experience. Perhaps this is the first step. Reigning Grace Ranch, Amanda and Chris, thank you for being my sacred place. Thank you for showing me pure, long lasting joy. Thank you for helping me be the best wife, mom, daughter and person I can be.



# Where Redemption Runs Free

## Horse of the Month - Mr. Bam Bam Rubble

by: Mr. Bam Bam Rubble



My name is Mr. Bam Bam Rubble and I am an American Paint Horse. It is hard to see paint in me, but if you look closely I have one spot of white on my belly.

I came to the ranch as a much loved retired Dressage horse. My previous owner recognized that she was pushing me a little too hard and my body wasn't designed to do the very strenuous discipline known as dressage, or what you folks around here sometimes call horse ballet.

Torn between the thought of selling her beloved horse or continuing me in the discipline, she contacted Reigning Grace Ranch to see if I could work with children in their therapeutic environment. She wanted the best for me and believed I would flourish in an environment where I would continue to be loved by many and work with children. She had no idea how right she was!

I am probably one of the most popular horses at the ranch because of my willing heart and disposition. I am about 13 years old and as sweet as they come. I love to be involved at the ranch whether it is being groomed, trail riding, being painted, obstacle work or groundwork. I found what makes my heart beat!

In our busy season, I work with over 30 children a month. I am responsible for teaching our children many character building qualities such as trust, love, leadership, acceptance, communication, follow-thru, work ethic, teamwork, confidence, goal setting, learning the importance of taking care of something and good old fashion hard work.

But did you know that to take care of me each month costs the ranch about \$100? In a month's time, I will eat 400 lbs. of hay, 60 lbs. of grain and drink about 360 gallons of water.

*Sincerely, Mr. Bam Bam Rubble (and Reigning Grace Ranch)*

## Other Ways you help Reigning Grace Ranch

Fry's Community Rewards Partner - Hey ya'll did you know that we are now a Fry's Community Rewards Partner? If you do not have an online account click on the link <http://www.frysfood.com/> and register and then follow the directions to add Reigning Grace Ranch. Every time you shop at Fry's a percentage of your purchase will go directly to the ranch!

iGive! - Did you know by shopping online at your favorite stores using iGive, those stores will donate a percentage of your purchase to Reigning Grace Ranch without any additional charge to you? <http://www.igive.com/oLgSHUA>

Callin' all Wranglers! - We are in dire need of some devoted folks willin' to "Be Our 100!" We need just 100 supportive "Angels" to pledge to donate a minimum of just \$10 a month! This'll help us wrangle up some good grub for them horses! (That's only \$10 - the cost of 2 Starbucks drinks!) You can send a check or visit us online at [www.azrgr.org](http://www.azrgr.org) - "How You Can Help"

Amazon! -We can't keep this wonderful program running without your support too! Will you support Reigning Grace Youth Ranch? It takes 20 seconds to sign up and doesn't cost you a thing. A small percentage of what you spend will be donated to the ranch. Check out the link and learn more about Amazon's giving program. <https://smile.amazon.com/>