



HHLA NEWSLETTER 2014 CAMPS

The mission of Horses in the Hood, Los Angeles (HHLA) is to introduce the Watts and adjoining communities to the joy of caring for and riding horses. This experience, and the participants' accomplishments, can open minds to pursue never before imagined possibilities. With your generous donations, HHLA organized and funded eight camps this year at Mill Creek Equestrian Center.

1. April 14 - April 18
WATTS LABOR COMMUNITY
ACTION COMMITTEE (WLCA)
(Watts)

3. June 16 - June 20
UNION RESCUE MISSION
(Los Angeles)

5. July 7 - July 11
SHIELDS FOR FAMILIES
(Compton)

7. July 28 - August 1
WATTS TOWERS
(Watts)

2. June 9 - June 13
NICKERSON GARDENS (Watts)

4. June 23 - June 27
A PLACE CALLED HOME
(Los Angeles)

6. July 14 - July 18
MARYVALE
(Rosemead)

8. August 4 - August 8
HOMEBOY INDUSTRIES
(Los Angeles)

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Shields Trail Ride

Shields for Families

When our students hear they have been nominated to go to horse camp - happiness happens!

Shields for Families provides supportive services and treatment to over 7,000 families each year in Los Angeles, Watts and Compton. This includes substance abuse, mental health, child welfare, and youth development.

Included are victims of violence, abandonment, incarceration of a family member, and/or a separation - the children feel loss and grief.

These children are referred to therapy due to suicidal ideation, hallucinations/delusions, sadness, poor concentration, academic decline, easily distracted, disruptive behaviors, low self-esteem, agitated, anxious mood swings, and self-injury (cutting).

When children arrive at HHLA Horse Camp, they are exposed to a safe and serene environment - they are often surprised and say, "how nice all of these people are!"

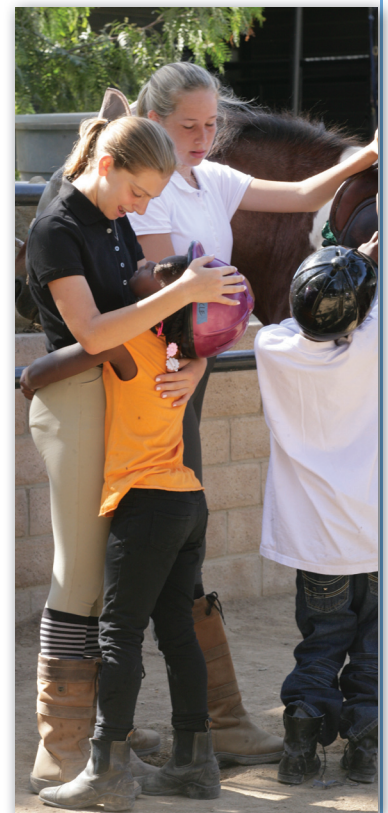
Camp poses a challenge to those who have difficulty trusting individuals! But, it allows children a chance to conquer their fears by learning to trust their helpers and their teachers -and their horse!

On the first morning of camp, a few may start with tears, because they are scared. This lasts just into the beginning of their first lesson. By the last day, they are sad because they will be leaving their horse - and the joy of horse camp! A lot of learning and happiness happens in between..

Horse camp allows them the opportunity to increase their self-esteem and acquire new skills that they would not have believed! With this success, they can think back - at first I was scared at Horse Camp, now -I can do anything!

Shields thanks Horses in the Hood and all of its donors for being such a big part in changing children's lives!

By Flavy Vazquez
Case Manager, Shields for Families, Inc.



Volunteers and Campers

HORSES IN THE HOOD is a non-profit, public benefit corporation.

<http://www.horsesinthehood.org>

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Mario Teaching



"Beauty"



"Pure Joy"



"Happiness"



Nice Rider!



Camper from Nickerson Gardens with "wonderful volunteers"!

WHEN THE IMPOSSIBLE BECAME POSSIBLE

Nickerson Gardens

Twelve children from ages 7 to 12, were invited to a Horses in the Hood "horse camp". They had an experience they will never forget! These kids were selected from the largest housing project west of the Mississippi River - Nickerson Gardens, this basically forgotten community in Watts.

At horse camp - clean air, beautiful trees, serenity and of course HORSES! The kids were greeted by their teacher, Vivian Hall and the wonderful volunteer helpers! Some, were, understandably, petrified by the size of the horses.

These kids are familiar with "their hood" - which includes "The Nickersons". A beautiful place like Mill Creek, and with horses was totally new news! And, to learn how to take care of horses and to ride horses - these children were so out of their element!! No police cars, no sirens, no helicopters - no gunshots!

The trainers at Mill Creek took control in a compassionate way - it was quite something to see one who was so scared in the morning, riding with confidence in the afternoon. Horses in the Hood allowed these children to escape their daily "not totally easy lives" - for 5 days. To see these kids brush, tack up and ride - amazing. Most all of the "great ground work" is taught by "Mario", who is head of the Mill Creek school horses! To learn from their wonderful teachers, including the "3rd level volunteers" who are basically the same age as our kids - yet they are very experienced with horses and very good riders - this assured them that they too could learn about working with and riding horses!

Thank you to Horses in the Hood and it's donors, so underserved children can go to horse camp! And to beautiful Mill Creek, and the fantastic volunteers and teachers - where it all happens!

In Watts, they won't be forgotten! They made what once seemed impossible... possible..

By Kartoon (From Watts)

HHLA campers are given a disposable camera and the book *Happy Horsemanship* on their first day of camp and a blue ribbon and Graduation Certificate on the last day of camp.

HORSES IN THE HOOD PHOTO GALLERY, 2014



McKenzie Teaching



Mario and Students



"Friends"



Brushing Lesson



Homeboy's Rider



Watering



Learning to "Post"



Homeboy's Family

Horses in the Hood, Los Angeles Thanks Our Generous Donors:

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 in the names of Jill Hamilton & Nancy Thomas
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WE NEED YOUR DONATION SO INNER CITY CHILDREN CAN GO TO HORSE CAMP!

- \$3984 Sponsors a complete five-day horse camp, including books and cameras, for 12 participants.
- \$332 Sponsors one horse camp participant for five days, buys a disposable camera & the book *Happy Horsemanship*.
- \$20 Buys a disposable camera and pays film developing costs for one horse camp participant.
- \$12 Buys the book *Happy Horsemanship* for one horse camp participant.
- \$ _____ Choose your own donation toward sending children to horse camps.
- \$ _____ Here is my gift in honor of/in memory of (circle one) _____
- \$ _____ Wear your support for HHLA. *Please specify quantity of each size.*

Visor (\$15) Black: _____ Baseball Cap (\$15) Black: _____
T-Shirts - Black (\$25): Youth Medium (10-12): _____ Youth Large (14-16): _____
Adult Medium: _____ Adult Large: _____ Adult X-Large: _____ Adult XX-Large: _____



Enclosed is my tax deductible donation of: \$ _____

Make checks payable to Horses in the Hood and mail to:
Horses in the Hood, P.O. Box 573249, Tarzana, CA 91357-3249

Donations may also be made by credit card by going to our website: www.hhla.org and clicking on the "To Give Donations" link

P.O. Box 573249
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Visit us on the Web at www.hhla.org or www.horsesinthehood.org



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HHLA FOUNDER'S MESSAGE:

Horses in the Hood (HHLA) had eight camps this year!

All of the programs that come to Horses in the Hood are chosen because of their contribution to humanity!

We are so very grateful to the young riders at Mill Creek who volunteer to help during the camps. They are terrific, and they are approximately the same age as the campers. How good is that! Other than the horse camp charges, all else is done by professionals, who do what they do — pro bono — because of how they feel about Horses in the Hood.

Horses in the Hood doesn't pay for fundraisers — we do not have them. All support comes from our donors. All money goes to having horse camps.

Horse camp provides an opportunity for at-risk youth to learn through doing. The experience brings a new awareness and curiosity to the participants.

Everyone is invited to visit horse camp, any time, any day! See the list of camps and directions to Mill Creek on www.horsesinthehood.org

To our generous donors: thank you so much for supporting HHLA horse camps!

Kathy Kuaner

Horses in the Hood Financial Information 2014

\$32,000 for 8 camps @ \$4000 per camp at Mill Creek. (Beautiful place, great school horses, and wonderful teachers.)

On the first day, HHLA gives each camper a disposable camera and a book, "Happy Horsemanship."

\$6700 Insurance: Annual cost for maximum coverage and major umbrella.

\$3900 to produce and mail the annual newsletter.

\$2000 (in 2014) for needed transportation to Horse Camp.

\$15,600 a year for HHLA's only paid person, our administrative director.

Total \$60,200.

"Thank you to our donors who care about the people we serve."



Boy Reading 'Happy Horsemanship'

WHO?

Horses in the Hood, Los Angeles (HHLA) is a nonprofit public benefit corporation that has been working with organizations and institutions in the low-income, largely African-American and Latino, community of Watts and adjacent areas since 1999. As of the October 2014, HHLA has sent 928 at-risk youths to 91 horse camps.

WHAT?

Our primary goal is to continue to provide five-day horse day camps, which are made possible by our donors. HHLA believes that children learn by doing and that education should be rewarding and fun. Working with horses is conducive to forming emotional bonds. Shared experience promotes personal growth. HHLA hopes to teach the students new skills, which will help build their self-esteem and confidence.