



Hello from LoveWay!

I am asked weekly, “How has COVID affected LoveWay?” My answer is always the same, we have not taken COVID lightly; we also will not allow it to keep us from our mission. This time of uncertainty has stretched us to create new ways to serve our participants. That is what we do! As 2020 became more challenging, we realized that our focus would not change, our arena would.

First off, our emphasis became how to reach our participants when the schools are closed. After many strategic staff meetings, creating a new virtual program named “Barn Buddies” would be our answer. “Barn Buddies” brought a sense of familiarity and normalcy to our students where they were, in the safety of their own home. This new programming allowed us to include the entire family in the LoveWay experience. An opportunity for families to come together, to learn together and to have fun together.

As the new school year approached, our staff focus became how we could best implement the most effective sanitization protocol possible for resuming services. Our volunteers were pivotal in this implementation. They have been “rock stars” as always, never complaining about all the added safety measures, instead jumping into help with both hands. Thankfully, our schools saw the efforts and felt safe to return.

Gratefully, we are now in week 9 of fall classes....our arena is full of masked smiling eyes, our barn is full of happy horses, many loyal volunteers have safely returned and our staff can rest at night knowing that the fruit of their hard work is seen in the children each day who enter our arena. We are staying diligent in our new procedures and are thankful for every moment we have been given. We are thankful for our supporters who have continued to provide for our needs and for the many prayer warriors we have out there. Lastly, we are grateful to our founder Sandy Weatherwax, without whom we would not be a part of this incredible mission.

With much gratefulness, Shelley Becker, Executive Director





Equine NEWS!

We are enjoying our current trial horse Winston. He is the second horse donation we have received from Culver Academies and we are grateful for their support of LoveWay. Winston is very quiet-natured and a joy to be around. Just like our sweet Toby from Culver, Winston has served in a presidential inaugural parade! Thank you again to Culver Academies for your support of our program.

Elvis is moving!

Elvis is moving to Massachusetts! This sweet haflinger has served on staff for roughly 1½ years and is retiring from our program to trail ride and do some light driving. Thank you Elvis for keeping our kiddos safe; enjoy retirement with your amazing new family!

Overall, our amazing equine teammates are doing well and ready for winter. As for our needs, we are currently looking to add a couple 14 to 15 hand quarter horses or breeds of similar size with a quiet, gentle disposition. Ideal candidates can walk, trot, canter, and would be approximately 7-17 years old. Contact Ryan via email at ryan@lovewayinc.org with any possibilities.

*"In riding a horse,
we borrow freedom."*

Helen Thompson

Resuming Services Safely & Strategically

And we're off! Even in a season where it seems most everything was being cancelled, LoveWay was able to open our doors and resume our services starting in late August. We hit the ground running with 9 schools returning and have been able to serve 85 participants so far this semester! And now that the community and families have been able to see how effective our protocols are and that our program continues to run smoothly, our waiting list is busting at the seams. Thanks to our amazing staff and volunteers and the way they all continue to go above and beyond to ensure everyone's safety, we have it as our goal to welcome more classes in the spring so we can get back to serving as many individuals with special needs as possible!

"I have felt so safe with all of the precautions Loveway has put in place. I was nervous stepping into volunteering during this pandemic, but quickly my fears dissipated. From temp checks, to washing hands, to separate grooming utensils for volunteers and participants, Loveway has gone above and beyond. Thankful to be serving with this incredible organization." - Jess (volunteer)

We are thankful to all who have made this fall possible and for partnering with us to make miracles happen! Our barn was way too quiet during the shutdown, and it has been a joy to have our students and volunteers back!



Transforming lives



Creating miracles



One ride at a time



“If you want to touch the past, touch a rock.

If you want to touch the present, touch a flower.

If you want to touch the future, touch a life.”

- Author Unknown

Volunteer blessings

Our incredible volunteers are the cornerstone of what we do. We saw a 90% return on those who have served prior to COVID. What an incredible blessing! On top of that, we have seen many new volunteers come to join the LoveWay team. As with many organizations, COVID has forced LoveWay to make some changes and implement new cleaning procedures.

Our class volunteers have been more than willing to assist staff in doing these new tasks in order to ensure our kiddos remain healthy and safe. As always, we could not do this without our volunteers!

We do want to make a shout out to those who have not been able to return to LoveWay.

First...WE UNDERSTAND!!!
And Second, ...WE MISS YOU!!! We know that it is a very tough decision to step away from volunteering in order to keep yourself and family safe. Stay in touch! We pray you return when you can, but we support you all the way and trust you are staying safe.





"Barn Buddies" Virtual Programing

Have you checked out our "Barn Buddies" virtual programming? It's a MUST watch if you are missing your time at LoveWay. This new way of bringing LoveWay into your home or classroom and can be accessed from our website at www.lovewayinc.org or our YouTube Channel.

Other ways you can help support LoveWay!

