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Valley Center



Peyden Chronister visits Hope in the Valley Equine Rescue in Valley Center. The 4-year-old Andover boy raised \$240 for the rescue, asking his friends to bring donations to his birthday party this summer instead of gifts.

Help for Hope

By Chris Strunk
Last Updated: October 16, 2009

Boy's party raises money for shelter

An Andover boy's love of animals has benefited a local horse rescue.

At Peyden Chronister's fourth birthday party this summer, his guests were encouraged to bring cash donations for Hope in the Valley Equine Rescue in Valley Center. The party raised \$240.

"Peyden started showing an interest in animals awhile back," said the boy's mother, RaNee Chronister. "So from then on at all his previous birthday parties, we've encouraged his guests to make donations to animal rescues or a charity of their choice."

Peyden's party was at his family's home in rural Andover. About 15 of his friends attended.

They rode horses and had a "blast," Chronister said.

They also learned about Hope in the Valley.

"I explained to him the mission of Hope in the Valley, how they take care of horses that have been neglected or abused," Chronister said. "We visited Hope in the Valley shortly after his party so he could meet some of the horses at the rescue."

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The family has donated to Hope in the Valley in the past.

Horse rescue receives largest gift ever in the form of a matching pledge

Hope in the Valley got some good news and some marching orders recently.

The Valley Center horse rescue received an anonymous donation of \$10,000 with the stipulation that the non-profit raise another \$10,000 by Jan. 1.

"This is the biggest donation we've ever had," said Ande Miller, the rescue's founder and president. "It's pretty cool."

Miller said the donation could be used to construct new shelter buildings and install additional fencing at the farm on North Broadway.

In late September, the shelter had 30 horses.

"We have all this acreage, but not enough sheds," Miller said. "Our most urgent need is buildings."

Hope in the Valley provides care for horses that have been abused, neglected or abandoned. Its goal is to place the horses in permanent homes.

For more information, call Miller at 519-4129 or visit www.hopeinthevalleyequinerescue.org.

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