



79,000 youth are being sex trafficked in Texas today.

- 86% of trafficked youth come out of the foster care system.
- The cost to the State of Texas is estimated to be \$6.6 Billion annually.
- There are more people in slavery today than at any time in our history.

Sex Trafficking is a form of modern day slavery. It is the fastest growing crime in America, expected to surpass drug trafficking in 2018. This is happening across all socio-economic, racial, educational and family backgrounds. There are few-to-no FREE therapeutic resources available to help survivors heal.

The Wild Hope Equine Center for Healing is developing a mustang horse ranch to prevent, reach, and restore all those affected by sexual abuse, exploitation, and trafficking through compassionate community engagement and relationships with horses.

How We'll Change Lives:

- Grace and healing for survivors through equine-assisted psychotherapy
- Equine programs to empower youth to prevent them from becoming victims
- Equine prevention and recovery programs for individuals struggling with pornography and sex addiction
- Equine support programs for caregivers / professionals experiencing burnout, secondary trauma, and compassion fatigue
- Compassionate community and connection through events, shared meals, mentoring, education, and friendship



"I trusted a horse before I was ever able to trust a person." - Survivor

The Wild Hope is in the business of holding onto hope for others until they are able to grab ahold of hope for themselves

A sex trafficking survivor once shared with me that "if you do that horse ranch thing, it's going to help a lot of survivors". It caught me off guard as I didn't think we were doing anything special in that moment. Little did I know the impact simply walking with a horse would have on this courageous girl. She went on to tell me more about a horribly demeaning rule the pimps held her to while she was being trafficked; she was never allowed to make eye contact with another human being, ever. She had to constantly walk with her head down and was "treated like a dog". By having to hold her head up to convey confidence to her horse partner she said she started to "feel human again". That day solidified my decision to move forward with The Wild Hope.

Vanessa Schmidt, Founder

Trauma Focused Equine Assisted Therapy

Just being in the presence of horses has proven to lower blood pressure, increase dopamine levels, and improve our general well-being. Horses provide opportunities to practice assertive communication, set boundaries, make requests, learn emotional regulation skills, and build trust and confidence in a mutually beneficial partnership. All of the skills used to build an authentic relationship with the horse are transferable outside the ranch to human relationships.



Phase 1

Our Pilot Program is Phase 1 in developing the vision for The Wild Hope Ranch. It came from a desire to help survivors NOW instead of waiting on us to literally "buy the ranch". We will provide Trauma Informed, Equine Assisted Psychotherapy to five survivors of sex trafficking at NO cost to them. They will work weekly with a Trauma Informed, Licensed Therapist, a Trauma Informed Equine Professional, and a horse of their choosing at a local barn over the course of 7 consecutive months. We will gather anonymous data to communicate the efficacy of EAP to future donors.

Cost: \$35,000

Phase 2

Once our Phase 1 Pilot Program has launched we are committed to providing continuous EAP services to survivors throughout the ranch development process. Phase 2 involves seeking funding to offer additional therapy hours to Phase 1 clients, if needed, and offering new clients EAP services.

Cost: \$200,000

Phase 3

Phase 3 is literally "buying the ranch". During this phase we'll seek property and a forever home for The Wild Hope Ranch. Our vision is 50 acres close enough to Austin for clients to access our services. We'll require a barn, round pens, covered arena, and housing on the property.

Est. Cost: \$4 Million