



RCS

Rush Creek Sanctuary

390 CR 2650, Decator, Texas / 817-822- 9116

Our Mission

Fusing animal rescue, rehabbing and rehoming. Saving the equine from the kill pens and providing them with training becoming a vital part of our therapeutic, educational, and social programs, offered to veterans, first responders, their families, survivors of the fallen, children, adults and those with special needs. Through compassion and dedicated care, we restore hope and dignity to these animals while empowering participants to experience healing and growth. Our integrated approach not only benefits the horses but also fosters meaningful connections and personal development for everyone involved.



Our Inspiration

In Loving Memory of Frank Lucchesi and his community services helping children and animals



Frank Lucchesi, a professional baseball player, manager, and coach, who managed the Philadelphia Phillies (1970–1972); the Texas Rangers (1975–1977); and the Chicago Cubs (1987); and was a Coach for the Texas Rangers from 1973-1975, and 1979-1980. He also led several minor league teams, including 14 seasons as a manager in the Phillies' farm system (1956-1970), and Triple-A assignments with the Arkansas Travelers, San Diego Padres and Eugene Emeralds, winning two championships. Lucchesi also managed in the Cleveland Indians and Cincinnati Reds organizations in the 1970s and 1980s; and, after his assignment with the Cubs, he returned to the minor leagues for two final seasons, managing the Nashville Sounds - the Reds' top affiliate in the Triple-A American Association. Lucchesi started his professional baseball career as an outfielder in the minors from 1944 to 1957, batting .276 in 1, 149 games with 56 home runs.

In addition to his leadership in the clubhouse and on the field, Frank Lucchesi was devoted to his family (wife, son, and two daughters) and often spent his time off the field supporting animal rescue efforts and programs to curb child abuse. Frank's love of family, faith, fans, animals and community brought him to several Man Of The Year Awards and having April 24 official Frank Lucchesi Day. In his footsteps his daughter Karen Renee continues his community work.

We Believe In Second Chances

❑ At Rush Creek Sanctuary we believe in *second chances* - for the majestic draft horses, mini donkeys, and those who find healing in their presence.

- We offer a safe and nurturing home for draft horses, equines, and mini donkeys we rescue from urgent or neglectful situations, ensuring each animal receives the compassion, dignity and attention they deserve. The impact of these animals reaches far beyond our pastures, offering hope and connection to all who meet them.
- These gentle giants and minis play a powerful role in our equine-assisted coaching - helping veterans, first responders and their families suffering with PTSD and TBI, individuals facing terminal illness, trauma survivors, those navigating mental health, substance abuse, and emotional loss, - even executives seeking leadership or professional growth.
- At Rush Creek, healing unfolds in its own time and way. A veteran finds calm in the steady breath of a draft horse. A survivor trusting again through the soft gaze of a mini donkey. A corporate leader learns to lead with presence and empathy.
- We also recently supported the American Humane Society and National Livestock Protection Association's efforts to recover 29 equines seized from extreme abuse and neglect - providing these animals a temporary home, veterinary care, rehabilitation, training, and rehoming.
- We foster the well-being of rescue animals by offering a safe haven and inspiring a deeper connection between animals and people with special needs.



ADDRESSING THE URGENT NEED

Veterans and first responders are constantly exposed to traumatic incidents, violent crimes and fatalities. Police officers face hostility and public scrutiny, these stressors compound over time and are linked to very high rates of depression, PTSD, substance and alcohol use, and death by suicide.

Service Members Suicide Deaths in 2024

- 471 Service members; of these 471 deaths, 302 were Active Duty, 64 Reserve Component and 105 National Guard.
- Military Family Members Suicide Deaths in 2023
- 146 Family members died by suicide; of the 146, 98 were Spouses and 48 dependents

First H.E.L.P. First Responders Suicides

- <https://1sthelp.org/the-numbers/>
- Law enforcement, EMS, firefighters, corrections, dispatchers
- 2018-2025 – over 1400 first responders have died by suicide in 2025
- (First Honor, Educate, Lead, and Prevention, 2025)
- In 2025- 147 deaths
- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41264494/>

This is an urgent public safety issue, that affects everyone, Rush Creek Sanctuary offers hope through mental health and holistic wellness programs that service Veterans, First Responders, their families, those navigating mental health challenges, terminal illness, trauma, and PTSD.



Continuation

❑ At Rush Creek we provide evidence-based and holistic initiatives, including:

- **Equine-Assisted Coaching:** A cornerstone of our sanctuary that facilitates deep emotional breakthroughs, through our gentle giants, (our draft horses) and our donkeys and mini donkeys. Mindfulness and Meditation with the Draft Horses, Donkey-draping.
- **The Grief Recovery Method Workshops:** An evidence-based program to help individuals navigate emotional losses, trauma, PTSD.
- **Holistic Tools:** Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT/Tapping Sessions), Neurolinguistic Programming (NLP) Sessions, Meditation and Visualization and Life Coaching. Retreats for our heroes and their partners.
- **Military Veteran Peer Network:** Peer specialized support for those who have served.
- **Art Projects:** Painting at the Pier and at the Rush Creek Patio
- **Outdoor Activities:** Water-based recreation, including fly fishing, canoeing, and pedal boating at the RCS pond, hiking.



Measurement Development and Validation for Construct Validity of the Treatment:
The Grief Recovery Method® Instrument (GRM-I)

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/19325037.2019.1571962>

Citation:

Nolan RD, Hallam JS. Measurement Development and Validation for Construct Validity of the Treatment: The Grief Recovery Method® Instrument (GRM-I). Am J Health Educ. 2019; 1:e1-14. doi:10.1080/19325037.2019.1571962.

Construct Validity of the Theory of Grief Recovery (TOGR): A New Paradigm Toward Our Understanding of Grief and Loss,

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/19325037.2019.1571964>

Citation:

Nolan RD, Hallam JS. Construct Validation of the Theory of Grief Recovery (TOGR): A new paradigm towards our understanding of grief and loss. Am J Health Educ. 2019; 1:e1-12. doi:10.1080/19325037.2019.1571964.



Dr. Brooks Trotter, Founder



- ❑ Dr. Brooks Trotter, MD, owner of Rush Creek Ranch near Decatur TX, practices Internal Medicine in Grapevine TX.
- ❑ Dr. Trotter has supported many charitable efforts and innovative therapy programs in the Dallas/Fort Worth area:
 - Provided a campground at Rush Creek Ranch for Boy and Girl Scout outings for 27 years.
 - Shared his home and life with many rescue dogs for the last 25 years.
 - Rescued, rehabbed, and provided a home at Rush Creek Ranch for several unwanted mini-donkeys and other equines over the last several years.
 - Co-Founded Rush Creek Sanctuary in 2024, and has become a leader in the development of equine and bovine therapy programs that capture the synergies and mutual benefits of integrating rescued animals with developmental and educational programs for those with special needs.
- ❑ Dr. Trotter also strongly promotes the education of all ages on the prevention of animal abuse and neglect.

Karen Renee, Cofounder

- Leader in the local charitable community and animal rescue efforts for over 35 years.
- Actively helped raise awareness and assisted those facing life challenges through no fault of their own, including breast cancer and child cancer victims, disabled veterans and those with ALS.
- Supported over 40 local, non-profit organizations, including children's hospitals, shelters for abused women, food banks, and 5K charity runs.
- Karen started rescuing animals at the age of 13. Over the past seven years, she has rescued and worked with both domestic, farm and wildlife.
- Karen was diagnosed with a terminal illness in her 20's and discovered the benefits of animal therapy by working with mini donkeys she has rescued.
- Her love of community and animals has brought her to Rush Creek Sanctuary Project. - Prioritizing rescue, healing, education, and prevention of animal abuse and neglect.



Before



Our Impact Report

After



- We have impacted the lives of many people, including veterans from: Denton County Military Veterans Peer Network, Mental Health and Mental Retardation Tarrant County, The Liberty House, Tarrant County Veterans Court, The Lighthouse Project, The Gallant Few, and local VFW Posts.
- We have helped over 1000 people through counseling and our creative programs such as equine therapy, donkey draping, mental health retreats, fishing, hiking, and other activities that capture the tranquility and peace at Rush Creek Sanctuary.
- We have helped 22 children with terminal illnesses and special needs.
- In 2025 we rescued and rehabilitated 31 equine from being slaughtered at the kill pens.
- We saved 6 Draft horses from the kill pens who have become permanent sanctuary horses, and seven mini-donkeys; they're trained to assist as part of the equine coaching programs that help veterans, first responders and their families suffering from PTSD, TBI and adults and children with disabilities.

Impact Report Continuation

- We are currently supporting the American Humane Society in the rescue, rehabilitation, and rehoming of twenty-nine of eighty-nine horses seized from an extreme situation of abuse and neglectful care; and will be included in a documentary about this effort, the rehabilitation and recovery of these animals to educate the public on the process.
- We created a fourteen-week national radio show for the purpose of educating the public *about the equine kill pen pipeline and slaughterhouse; animal abuse and neglect.*
- We educate children and adults and bring awareness within the community; teaching how to detect and prevent animal cruelty, mistreatment and neglect.
- We collaborate with David Fuentes, the founder of The Texas Livestock Protection Association (TLPA) a Texas-based 501(c)(3) animal protection organization that works with local law enforcement and animal control agencies for the investigation and rescue response of any equine and livestock under cruelty and neglected circumstances. Assisting TLPA when providing education and awareness to the community about how animals, despite their circumstances, deserve to live a life free of cruelty and neglect; helping to rehabilitate and rehome equine and livestock in our Sanctuary.
- We are collaborating with Joshua Burnside, the founder of Hiatus K9- a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, who develops and places purpose-bred service dogs for veterans and first responders, being focused on real-world function, stability, and long-term success. We collaborate on the Rescue-to-Work Pathways (case-by-case), joint grant opportunities, community demonstrations and education.

2026 Goals

- Hosting 3 (1) week healing retreats for veterans and their partners (to address PTSD and TBI). These programs will include individual and group therapy sessions, equine therapy, fishing, hiking, art, and other therapeutic activities at the Sanctuary. To host 6_2 Day Moving Forward From Emotional Losses, Trauma, PTSD Workshops. Host 12 Emotional Freedom Technique (Tapping) and Neurolinguistic Programming (NLP) Sessions for children and adults.
- Annual Fall Festival – an Open House for veterans, first responders, those with special needs - feeding the buffalo, hayrides, food, awards. The goal is to bring awareness to the free services we have at RCS. Anticipated participation is 500 people. also invited military non-profits to promote their programs during the festival.
- Serving over 200 new children that are terminally ill, autistic or have other special needs.
- Build a 30x70 barn. (Completed) Barn will serve multiple needs such as animal recovery, equine therapy. shelter for ill animals , and an educations center to teach children and adults on how to care for animals and prevent abuse .We believe education is where this treatment of animals can be taught and prevented. Complete outdoor kitchens, restrooms, showers, and handicap facilities for the Scouts and the veterans., and safety fencing. Rebuild the pier to make it handicapped accessible.
- Continue collaborating with other non-profits such as the Gallant Few, Denton Military Peer Network and the Lighthouse Project for housing homeless veterans. Collaborating with the American Humane Society, and TLPA on the rescue, rehab, and rehoming of seized equines, and their program that unites service dogs with their handlers providing free veterinary care for life after dogs are retired.
- We will be applying for grants to supplement operating costs, sustain our mental health and educational programs, and build additional housing for overnight stays and treatments.

2026 Goals Continuation

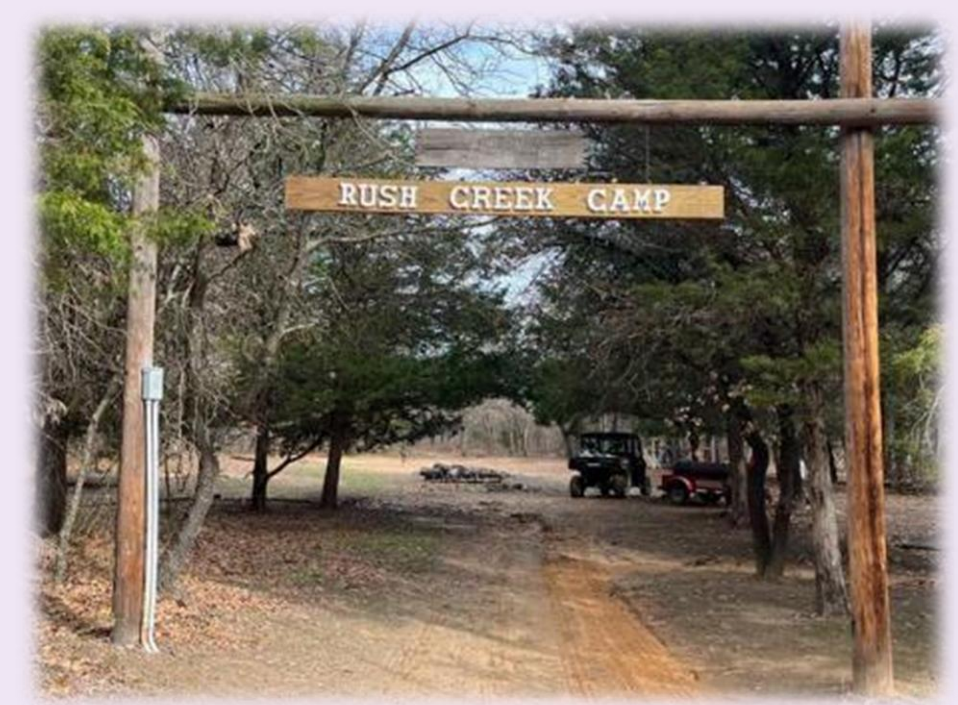
- Rescuing, rehabbing, and rehoming thirty-five horses from the slaughterhouses and kill pens.
- Keep assisting the Court System with eight more seizure cases, to allow these animals to have a soft landing, rehabilitate them so we can find them a loving forever home.
- Taking in twenty self-surrender cases from individuals that are no longer able to take care of their animals.



Our Legacy



- We've proudly sponsored Scout's at Rush Creek Ranch for over 25 years!
- Scouts have earned badges by engaging in activities with animal interactions, flag ceremonies, learning to live in nature without electronics that distract them.
- Scouts also interact with Veterans learning about their experiences.
- Dr Trotter also provides animal interaction and teaches Scouts about animal care, rescue, and the prevention of animal abuse and neglect.



Where Everyone is a Friend!

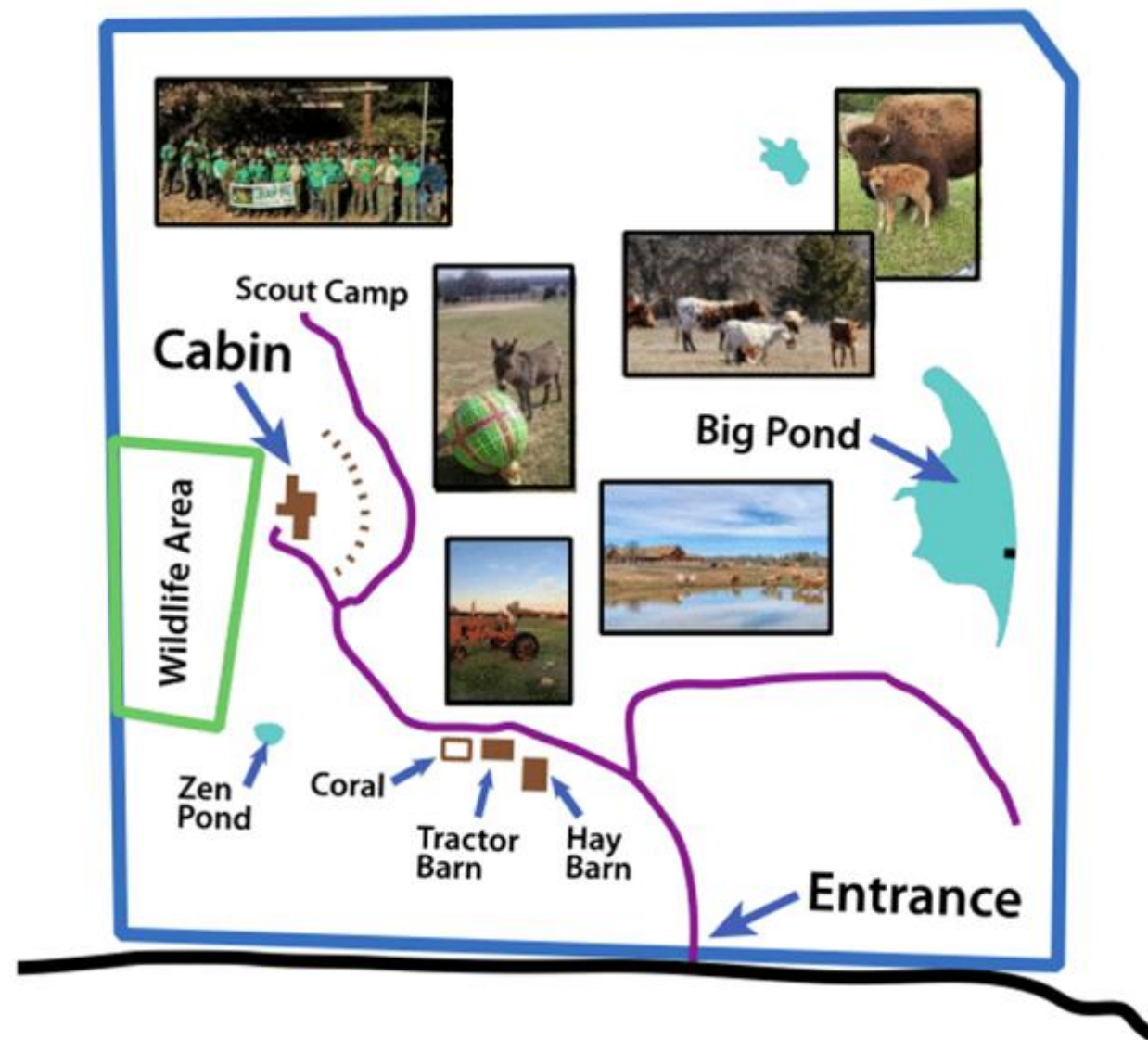


- Rush Creek Sanctuary will continue to rescue, rehab and rehome equines and other animals in need.
- We will continue serving veterans, first responders, their families and service dogs, and children who are terminally ill, autistic, or with other special needs.
- We will continue to sponsor Scouts and other local groups through our education programs.





Rush Creek Sanctuary



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Texas based and Serving the entire US!
<https://btlkeducationanimalrescue.org>

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to help us to help others!**

***Together, we can truly
make a difference!***