



ZEPHANIAH'S PROMISE RANCH

# BACK AT THE RANCH...

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December 2015

**\*\* SPECIAL EDITION \*\***

No. 11, Volume 4

Yes, we are a little behind in our newsletter writing. Truth be told, this has been one of the hardest ones we have had to write since the Ranch's inception. We have written and re-written, and finally decided to just make a special edition newsletter in honor of a treasured and well-loved member of Zephaniah's Promise. We hope you enjoy this abbreviated, late edition of our newsletter. We hope to publish another newsletter before the end of 2015 because we have so many people to thank and to recognize.

ZP<sub>2</sub>

*And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. Genesis 1:25*

ZP<sub>2</sub>

Winter is not officially here but the seasons seem to be changing fast. A month ago it was the mild days of an Indian summer. November 19<sup>th</sup> we had our first snow with mid-twenty temperatures at night and high thirty temperatures during the days! What happened to autumn? With the turn of the seasons, change happens. Sometimes change happens fast. November 20<sup>th</sup> started out as any other Friday, up by 6:00 AM, have a quick breakfast, clean and feed the horses, and off to work. At 2:30 p.m. Robin went to check on the animals and all seemed well. At 3:30 p.m. Steve came home from work and noticed Shana lying on the ground. At 4:30 p.m. we called our Vet to have a look. At 7:11 PM Shana died of a severe case of colic. It is a blow to us, losing our first horse. We knew it would happen eventually; it is a part of life. But it still comes as a shock when it does.

The LORD your God is with you, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing." Zephaniah 3:17

Shana was born in the spring of 1990. When she was three, she was the first horse of a 10-year old girl named Cheri. She lived in Lynden, Washington and was an active 4-H horse with Cheri. At the age of eight, Shana had a foal; a filly named DC and was a really good mom. At age 11 Shana moved to Bellingham, Washington and became the first horse of another young girl named Allison. Allison and Shana were also involved with 4-H and went to many shows together. In addition, they both had fun together enjoying an active fun Kelly Park Stables life with Halloween costume parties, Easter egg hunts and all kinds of riding and fun activities for a girl and her smart, beautiful, chestnut mare. The two of them did a bit of show jumping before Allison moved on to jumping with DC. Shana then became the first horse of another young girl named Julie. Shana and Julie quickly bonded and had a fun year together before Shana found Rachel and again became the first horse of another young girl. Rachel was in love with horses from the first time she went to an



Easter Break camp at Kelly Park Stables and the partnership between Shana and Rachel seemed to be a match made in heaven. Shana listened endlessly and patiently to the stories and musings of a young girl that never seems to run out of words. Shana helped Rachel through her years of growing up providing her with a confidant, an escape from the trials of school and pesky parent rules, and giving her freedom and an outlet like nothing else could. Around the property and surrounding neighborhood they would fly, usually with a bridle, never with a saddle, and the abandon with which they rode was

wonderful to behold. Shana was never what you would call a “school horse,” just a patient and wise teacher for a few very lucky young kids.

But little girls grow up and horses grow older and Rachel had a desire to find a place where Shana could remain active but reduce the rigors of daily riding. In May 2014, Shana came to Zephaniah’s Promise Ranch where she enjoyed open pastures and being pampered. During the summer, a couple of times a week, she would participate in sessions where kids from the surrounding area would come to brush her, untangle the knots in her mane, and we used her as an example for how to care for, saddle, and ride a horse. After putting some of these words down on paper, it is really no surprise at the gentleness and kindness Shana showed to kids like Emma and Alyssa. After all, that’s who she was. We will miss her and are comforted in knowing God cares for animals as well as all of us and we envision her running through green pastures and watching over the young girls she helped to raise.



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ZP

*If ever there is tomorrow when we're not together. There is something you must always remember. You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think. But the most important thing is, even if we're apart... I'll always be with you.*  
~ Winnie the Pooh

ZP

**FINANCIAL UPDATE:** We have had a couple of wonderful donations to help cover the veterinarian costs and burial fees for Shana. We still have many other needs on the ranch with upcoming farrier expenses, feed purchases, and general upkeep of the horses. **If you would like to help, \$20, \$30 or \$50 will make a big difference! Donations can be sent to ZP Ranch, 11 Stirrup Lane, Goldendale, WA 98620. ZP Ranch is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible. You can also donate through GuideStar—just click on the link below.**



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