

# MARCH 2010

We have had a lot of snow and cold this winter. I've forgotten what the warm weather feels like. Do you have to stay inside when it's snowing or raining, or do you get to play outside? All of us horses are outside all of the time. With all of the snow we've had there are some big snow piles in our corral. Sometimes when Pam comes to work with us she'll find me standing on top of one of the tall snow banks. I like get up there and look around. It's amazing how far off in the distance I can see; I also feel like 'King of the Hill'. A few nights when it was bitterly cold this winter my mom and I were taken into the barn to sleep. I'm not too old to play and climb on top of snow piles but I guess I'm too young to endure the cold when I'm sleeping.

Pam tells me that the month of March is known for its wind. But then she also says that it's windy a lot of the time in South Dakota.

As I've mentioned last month, work is progressing on Joy Ranch. The carpenters have enclosed the east side of Main Street and are now working on the west side. When both sides are done, there will be a Youth Bunkhouse containing several rooms with beds for campers and staff, a dining room and kitchen to prepare delicious meals for all who come to stay, a Retreat Center for people who come for a weekend or part of a week, and an activity room where people can create all sorts of things. Plus we'll have a Health Care Center to provide for campers medical needs. The buildings will be very nice so campers and retreaters will be quite comfortable.

But I hope people that come won't stay inside all of the time. Of course, when it's cold and snowy people will want to stay warm inside (we'll even have some fireplaces to add to the warmth). But I do hope they'll take walks outside to come and see me. In the summer we'll have all sorts of fun outdoor activities. From riding horses (that's what we're waiting for!) to fishing at the lake, bird watching, hiking, playing games, singing around the campfire and, of course, spending time on the playground we're raising money to build. Joy Ranch is all about people coming together to learn about God and experience His creation. It's also about meeting new people and experiencing love and community.

*Until next month.*

Your friend,

**Sven**