

# THE GRESS MOUNTAIN RANCH

by Kathryn Gress



*September 2011*

## INSIDE

### Viewpoint

..... pg. 2

### Church Council

..... pg. 3

### UMW News

..... pg. 6

### Asbury Mailbox

..... pg. 6

### Family Album

..... pg. 8

THE GRESS Mountain Ranch is a safe haven and a place of recovery for the animals, and also provides therapy to adults and children. We are presently a forever home to 43 animals. The ranch is a host to at-risk, inner city, special needs children, as well as adults and adolescents on parole. Both children and adults with psychiatric disorders are helped in healing through our "therapeutic ranch." Our unique treatment philosophy rehabilitates the animals and connects their stories of survival and healing to the personal experiences of the people mentioned above who all have suffered physical, mental, or emotional trauma. Through creative expressive therapy, i.e. Animal-Assisted Therapy, the interaction with our animals; people of all ages learn trust, empathy, and kindness. The healing that takes place at The Gress Mountain Ranch is truly miraculous. It is God's "heaven on earth."

### MISSION STATEMENT OF THE GRESS MOUNTAIN RANCH, INC.

The Gress Mountain Ranch is a sanctuary for large/small and exotic animals. It is located in

Orefield, PA. We are dedicated to educating and helping both people and animals who have been victims of abuse, neglect, and the unwanted aftereffects. The animals are given special training. They are part of a therapeutic ranch that works with troubled youths, depressed and anxious adults, people on probation, as well as children and adolescents with mental challenges.

The Gress Mountain Ranch embodies the interdependence of the human and animal communities. At The Gress Mountain Ranch, our mission is Animals Helping People & People Helping Animals.

My husband, Ben Gress, and I are the founders of a non-profit animal sanctuary. It is a therapeutic ranch, helping both People & Animals. We are 100% volunteers and rely on donations of in-kind and monetary, to keep the ranch going. We have operated in the red and now are in need for more volunteers and monetary funding. We are asking if the congregation at Asbury can help us make a difference in the lives of all living things.

Our website is [www.gress-mountainranch.com](http://www.gress-mountainranch.com). Please feel free to visit us.