

## GOLDEN AGE RANCH

Golden Age Ranch is a nonprofit 501 (C) 3 horse sanctuary that at present is caring for 20 horses....17 came directly from the race track.

The ranch was founded years ago with the purchase of three acres of land. Subsequently we have added a barn, arena, bleachers and tack room and deck. Total cost of land 300,000, barn 95,000, fencing 70,000. , deck 25,000, arena, 15,000. All these expenses I have incurred personally with no reimbursement.

In 2013 I learned that 50,000 had been allocated for horse retirement with funding through the VI Lottery. I subsequently applied to be included in this allotment. My request was granted by amendment to Bill 29-0127.

Our expenses bi monthly include:

Water: 4 loads, 800.00

Feed and Hay: 4,830.00, Freight: 2950.00, trucking and offload: 700.00

Our expenses are supplemented by the quarterly payment from the Lottery and from horseback rides to Lindqvist Beach. These rides are highly acclaimed, our reviews on Trip Advisor are five star. We are the only horseback riding facility in St. Thomas. Additionally we host an annual horse show fundraiser.

We welcome local children's groups as well as hosting birthday parties and providing lessons.

The VI Olympic committee has seen our facility and are eager to set up an equine program to train future Olympic equestrians.

We offer the Seaview Adolescent Program free riding programs in the summer. This provides much needed equine therapy and has been very successful.

We are fortunate to be able to raise enough money to cover expenses. However, I am hoping to receive more funding to enable the debts owed in improvements to the land to be paid off. I am specifically referring to the constructions costs which exceed 200,000.

Although the Lottery funding refers to retired racehorses, we do accept and care for abandoned horses in need which usually are former racehorses or pony horses off the track.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Shoemaker, President Golden Age Ranch

