

Amanda Martinez Nomination Essay

Amanda Martinez: A Life of Faith, Healing, and Horses. Amanda Martinez is the visionary founder of Right Foot Ranch, a place where broken spirits—and equine—find healing, hope, and purpose. After surviving a traumatic farming accident at age four, Amanda made a promise to God: if she ever healed on her own, she would use it to help others. That promise became her life's mission. Through Right Foot Ranch, Amanda has created a sanctuary where horses are rehabilitated and then become partners in powerful therapeutic programs. Her work, grounded in faith and compassion, touches lives of all ages and backgrounds.

Community Impact Highlights: Equine-Assisted Therapy for children overcoming trauma, veterans with PTSD, and seniors. Ranch Hand Program for youth in the juvenile justice system—offering structure, mentorship, and purpose. This innovative program has helped reduce recidivism by giving young offenders a second chance through responsibility, empathy, and meaningful work with animals. Specialized Support—evidence-based interventions, anger replacement therapy, and community-based counseling. Countless Weekly Hours—Amanda balances a full-time job while dedicating early mornings, late evenings, and nearly every weekend to horse care, therapy sessions, fundraisers, and outreach events. A Life of Service—As a mother, wife, daughter, and friend, Amanda gives more love in one day than most do in a year. Amanda doesn't just care—she lives to care. Her unwavering faith, tireless work ethic, and boundless compassion have created a ripple effect of healing that continues to grow with every life she touches.