

## MEET JEFF KNELLER, HARTH'S FEATURED VOLUNTEER OF SEPTEMBER!



Meet Jeff! Former police officer, now cherished volunteer at HARTH Foundation. Jeff moved to Burnet in September of 2019 after retiring from serving in Joliet, Illinois for 30 years. Jeff is now excited to spend his retired life here in the beautiful hills of Burnet alongside his wonderful wife and fellow volunteer, Elizabeth. Jeff's passion for giving back to the community truly stands out, and propels him to be an extraordinary volunteer here at HARTH. Sherry Atherton, President and Founder of HARTH says that Jeff **"shows up with a smile on his face, happy to be here!"** Sherry is very thankful for Jeff, as he will do whatever needs to be done around the farm, including unclogging the barn drains with a great attitude and smile on his face!

After moving to Burnet and watching *Heartland*, a Canadian TV Series about horses and family life, Jeff and his wife Elizabeth were inspired. It was then that they decided they wanted to spend their time around horses while also helping the community.

Jeff enjoys snow skiing in the winter, so in this warmer Texas weather he is grateful to be able to come out to HARTH and lend a helping hand wherever he can. Seeing Jeff around the barn is always a delight, and the horses love him too! So far, his favorite horses are Spartacus, Giggles, and Harpo.

When asked what motivated him to become a volunteer at HARTH, Jeff responded by explaining how important it is to him to **"give back to your community."** He expressed how coming to HARTH gives him a great feeling he described as knowing that he **"did something to help today."** It was inspiring and heartwarming to see and hear how passionate Jeff is about giving back to the community.

When I asked Jeff what one thing he would like to share with others about HARTH, he smiled and said: **"You need to come out!"** His advice to others who are thinking about volunteering at HARTH is to **"Just do it! Don't be afraid!"** He explained how you will get into a routine and learn a lot from the staff and other volunteers at HARTH.

If you see Jeff around the farm, you will definitely want to spend a few minutes getting to know him and his great sense of humor!

Jeff's passion for giving back to the community and willingness to do whatever job needs to be done around the farm, all while smiling from ear to ear, make him a one of a kind volunteer here at HARTH!

We are so grateful for you, Jeff. Thank you; everyone at HARTH appreciates you more than you know!