

## HPHC Las Vegas Shine City and GPA Service Project at McKee Ranch

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On May 7, 2022, Shine City Project teamed up with members of Generation Peace Academy (GPA) for a service project at McKee Ranch Foundation! The McKee Ranch Foundation is a nonprofit on two-and-a-half acres of land dedicated to preserving and promoting ranch culture in Southern Nevada. They take care of abandoned and adopted animals such as horses, goats, alpacas, pigs, and other animals. It is a working ranch that has been open to the public since 2004.



On this Saturday morning, our volunteers met with Max McKee, the current owner of the ranch for more than twenty years! After a brief introduction, we divided into small groups and were assigned tasks based on the needs for that morning. While some volunteers helped to organize and sort the storage room, others helped to rake up excess hay, droppings, and other materials in several areas of the ranch. As we completed our tasks, a number of volunteers moved on to help disassemble and stack up some moveable railing for the horses. Afterwards, we took a short break, and our final task was to help unload bags of animal feed and large bales of hay from a pickup truck trailer!



Overall, though the tasks at first were simple and straightforward, as we approached the latter part of the morning, the tasks became a little more tougher and strenuous! Ultimately, in the end, we had to work together to move the bags of animal feed and large bales of hay. Being unwieldy and heavy, the bales of hay required two to three volunteers to move from one place to another. It was difficult to get a good grip around the bales of hay because of the size and shape, so we often had to stop and reset ourselves to get a better grip. In addition, we had to contend with hay digging into our skin. After moving them from one place to another, additional teamwork was required to stack them on top of one another! In the end, our fifteen volunteers helped to move all bales of hay - around 30 in total! It was hard work, but together, we got the job done!

