

Author Biography for **KIM MEEDER**



Photo by Benjamin Edwards

Kim Meeder



One of Kim Meeder's first riding experiences came at the age of nine, on the day of her parents' funeral. Riding quickly became a healing refuge for her after the shock of their murder-suicide. By the love of a little mare and a merciful God, the young girl's life was saved from pain and despair.

This saving grace was a symbol of what was to come, years later, when Kim and her husband, Troy, made the decision to purchase property and start a small ranch. The only land they could afford was a nine-acre rock quarry, used to mine cinders for winter use on the roads of central Oregon. The property was so devastated—with no trees, no grass, not even soil—that no one else wanted it.

Transforming the gaping pit into an environment suitable for horses and children became the Meeders' next goal. This involved planting unwanted trees in the wasteland and filling it with abused horses who would love troubled kids...it was a perfect match. In 1995 Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch was born. Now the ranch

celebrates its involvement in the rescue and healing of more than 300 horses and 35,000 children which it has loved and served.

In 2003, while balancing her many duties as cofounder and director of the ranch, Kim began work on her literary debut, *Hope Rising*. The critically acclaimed book, filled with powerful, true tales of hope and healing at Crystal Peaks, served to inspire thousands of readers. An emotionally-charged appearance in the fall of 2004 on *Focus on the Family* went on to become Focus' number one broadcast of the year, leading the dynamic ranch toward nationwide recognition. A follow up appearance in 2011 once again became one of Focus' top broadcasts.

Kim has since accepted many awards and accolades on behalf of the ranch, including the prestigious national Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Award for public and community service—and a Red Cross Local Heroes Award, which was awarded to her before Congress. As a highly sought-after inspirational speaker, Kim's extensive schedule draws her to engagements across the United States. Her second book, *Bridge Called Hope*, shares the ranch's ongoing legacy of hope and healing through new inspirational stories that will inspire and motivate every reader to believe that they can



make a difference in the world they live in. She continues writing, with new books including *Blind Hope* (2010) and *Fierce Beauty* (2011).

An avid sportswoman who enjoys skiing on snow and water, snowshoeing, running marathons, strength training, equine endurance racing, mountaineering, and surfing, Kim has competed, on a national level, in Nordic ski racing and has participated in the US Olympic biathlon trials. She has also set two world records in power lifting. Kim and her husband Troy have been married for more than twenty-five years and live in Central Oregon. The size of their “family” fluctuates each year with the number of horses and kids they rescue.