



Kevin and Shirley spend hours on the trail together. Through their involvement with the Oregon Paint Horse Club, they have formed many lasting friendships.

challenges associated with approaching, touching and caring for her horses helped her build confidence. Finally, learning to ride, and then riding well, allowed Shirley to experience personal triumphs.

Shirley says that sexual assault victims often feel they lost control of their body when their attacker physically took control.

"In order to ride well, you must learn to be in tune with your body and aware of movement," she says. "I re-established control of my body and reconfirmed that my body is mine, to use as I want. That, alone, was a big accomplishment."

Shirley and her husband, Kevin, met while doing volunteer work on a community service project. Kevin, an insurance agent and hay farmer, was serving on a local youth commission when their paths crossed. They have been

married for 10 years and share a deep love for Paints, breeding them on a farm just outside St. Helens, Oregon.

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*"In the process of moving on and being happy with my life, I never prepared for the day Rodriguez would be released from prison."*

—Shirley Iverson

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Today, Kevin and Shirley spend hours on the trail together. A welcome benefit of riding horses has been their involvement with the Oregon Paint Horse Club and competing in regional horse shows. The friendships Shirley has forged with club members and other Paint en-

thusiasts have helped further the healing process.

#### **Shadows from the past**

While victims of sexual assault may eventually heal, they rarely experience closure. One night, Shirley's cell phone rang while she was driving home from work. Answering the call, she was thrown back into her past.

As required by law, the Crookston chief of police called to tell Shirley that Rodriguez was being released from prison the next day and would be returning to live in Crookston. Shirley immediately began crying. Somehow, she suppressed the resurfacing fear and hurt long enough to make it home.

"In the process of moving on and being happy with my life," says Shirley, "I never prepared for the day