

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from The Mounted Eagles' Mane Tales



Therapeutic Horsemanship

Volume 8 • Issue 4 • October - December 2008

As 2008 draws to a close we are once again thankful for the support we have received in contributing to the financial health of our organization. Sustaining financial success enables us to cover our costs, mainly the care and feeding of our horses so that they can in turn provide the most needed therapeutic services to our riders. The stability of our program depends heavily upon grant awards, organizational and business donations, individual donations of time and money, sponsors and participants in our fund raising events and in-kind donations. Thank you so much and may God bless you for all you do for others.

2008 Donors

Through their sustaining grants, the following individuals, organizations and businesses have helped Mounted Eagles carry out our mission.

Golden Horses (\$1000 - \$4000)

- ♦ Tom & Lois Johnson ♦ American National Bank
- ♦ Northern Lakes Sertoma Club ♦ St. Joseph's Foundation
- ♦ Central MN Initiative Foundation
- ♦ Brainerd Jaycees ♦ Mille Lacs Electric Community Trust

Silver Eagles (\$500 - \$999)

- ♦ Brainerd Eagles 287 ♦ Little Falls Lions Club
- ♦ Crow Wing Power Community Trust

Silver Horses (\$100 - \$499)

- ♦ Robert J. & LaVonne Danzl Foundation of the Central MN Community Foundation ♦ Brainerd Insurance/Anderson Agency
- ♦ Zachary Ahlgrim ♦ Sarah McCollister
- ♦ Central Lakes Rotary Club ♦ VFW Northern Post 3839
- ♦ Brainerd Area Sertoma Club ♦ Dale & Lise Lunde
- ♦ Nisswa Women of Today ♦ Knights of Columbus 1491 - St. Francis

Silver Horses (cont.)

- ♦ Brainerd Rotary Club ♦ Garrison Animal Hospital
- ♦ ELCA of Crosslake Lutheran Church ♦ Jenkins VFW
- ♦ Tim & Gretchen Preston

Diamond Feathers (Less than \$100)

- ♦ Will & Rose Vettleson ♦ Francis Horton
- ♦ Charlotte English ♦ Janice & Rory Fredstrom
- ♦ John & Janet Moran ♦ Kris & Norman Olson

Diamond Hooves (Anonymous Donors)

- ♦ Individual Contributions ♦ Goodsearch Users

Winds Beneath Our Wings (In-Kind Donations)

- ♦ Cascade Computers ♦ Barb Majerus ♦ Lise Lunde
- ♦ Rolfings ♦ Bill Stroot ♦ Nisswa Tax Service-Karin Nelson
- ♦ Super 8 Motel - Baxter

All those who contributed to our special events and anyone else we may have unintentionally failed to mention.

We cannot begin to pay for all the labor of love that comes our way through the dedicated service of our volunteers. Thanks go out to our **barn volunteers** who help with lessons, horse care and training; our **off-site volunteers** who help behind the scenes with birthday cards and all the logistics for special events. We cannot forget the dedication of our **board members** who work tirelessly to make sure the organization runs effectively and efficiently and donate their time and contacts to make our events successful. We are grateful to our **instructors** who really make the connection happen between rider and horse. And last, but not least we thank our faithful, equestrian friends, **the horses**. They instinctively tune into the needs of our riders and do their job with talent, patience and heart.

Rider of the Fourth Quarter



Photo by Sara Fairbanks

Justin Fairbanks has been riding with Mounted Eagles Therapeutic Horseback Riding Program for 8 years and never ceases to touch our hearts every time he comes into the room. He has a wonderful loving presence with shining eyes and an innocence that makes you want to hug him. Justin has Prader-Willi Syndrome. It is genetic and the most common characteristic of all challenged with this is issues of food. Their stomachs don't tell their brain when it is full. So therefore, they are always searching out food. When his ride is complete, his first words are "Good job? - 2 pieces?" (as in candy). They have varying levels of cognitive abilities and delays and are mostly short in stature with a low metabolism. This does not, however, stop Justin or his family from being very active and caring people.

The first thing Justin does when he gets off the bus on Thursday, even before he looks for his snack, is to go for the phone and check to see if Aggie's voice is on the answering machine at the barn saying, "See you at the barn." This lets him know that there will be riding tonight. If he does not hear this he is visibly saddened. Justin enjoys his friends at the barn and talks to them all the way out the door and up the stairs of the mounting block. We have to keep reminding him about the task at hand, which is to walk to the horse and mount. He rides Earl, who is a Belgium Horse with a nice broad back and wonderful gait for Justin to sit - they are buds. We warm up and work on the day's lesson . . . yes we have to remind him to stay focused and remind him to watch where he is going, but Justin is learning the task at hand and really enjoys riding his horse and being able to independently accomplish what is asked of him. He has earned many ribbons at our annual participant horse show and trophies for improved horsemanship at our Annual Riders' Banquet.

Justin is a much loved young man with wonderful support from family and friends. He is also very involved in 4-H with his sister and mom. (Of course, dad gets roped in too.) He participates in the bicycle, cat, flower, gardening, poultry, food and nutrition projects. He likes all kinds of music, his riding at the barn, and he loves church where he hands out bulletins, helps light the candles and assists wherever else he is able.

☆☆☆ Congratulations, Justin! We are so proud of you. ☆☆☆

We've Moved

On Saturday, November 22 Mounted Eagles officially moved our program to a brand new stable called **Spirit Horse Center**, 8683 50th Ave., Brainerd. Everyone is encouraged to come and visit the center. We'll be publishing another article on the facility and all the interesting things going on out there in the next newsletter. The 2009 riding season will begin with Volunteer Training on Jan. 6th & 8th and the first riding class will be Jan. 13th. Immediately following the training on January 6 we will be having our Volunteer Awards Banquet. Awards will be presented to both the youth and adult recipients of the year.



Hoofin' It For Mounted Eagles

Our first ever benefit trail ride on the weekend of October 4 was definitely an event that we plan to repeat. Bill and Aggie's property in Motley proved to be a wonderful venue for this type of event. There were grassy meadows next to the woods where the campers parked, with the campfire, food and stage area close by. The riders and the horse-drawn wagon (provided by the Benneville Equestrian Ctr. of Pequot Lakes) found the trails easy to navigate. Back at the base camp, Lynn & Sarah Fairbanks had a bunch of fun activities set up in the Kid's Korral. The roasted pig dinner donated by Fiducia Benefits and Schwiky Meats was fabulous, especially when accompanied by the fine music of Tim & Cindy Roggencamp as we sat around the campfire. We have already set the date for next year's trailride on October 2, 3 & 4, 2009. Mark your calendars and look for further details in future newsletters.



Farewell to Terry

Terry Prettyman and his two oldest daughters began volunteering with the Mounted Eagles in 1992. They continued to be a vital part of the volunteer team for 10 years. Terry's tough appearance with his 'pony tail' didn't deter the clients at all. He was their "Big Teddy Bear" and they knew Terry would be there to help them when they arrived for their riding lessons. When his girls graduated and went off to college, Terry stopped volunteering actively at the barn due to health issues. That didn't stop him completely; he continued to serve the program with the same commitment by serving on the board of directors for another 6 years. Terry's volunteer commitment doesn't stop with Mounted Eagles. He and his family continue to be a vital part of the community in many other areas including church work and most recently the Restorative Justice Program. Terry has resigned his position on the ME board. His presence will be missed greatly but we know that if we ever need our "Big Teddy Bear" for any reason, he will be there for us. **Good Luck Terry and God Bless!**

2009 Calendar of Events

Jan. 6, 8	Volunteer Training, Spirit Horse Center
Jan. 6	Volunteer Awards Banquet, Spirit Horse Center
Jan. 13	Therapeutic Riding begins, Spirit Horse Center
Jan. 16	Riders' Awards Banquet, St. Andrews Catholic Church
Feb. 15	Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast, St. Francis' Catholic Church - All 3 masses
Mar. 20, 21, 22	NARHA Region VI Conference, Brainerd
May 5	Volunteer Training, Spirit Horse Center
August 27	Volunteer Training, Spirit Horse Center
Oct. 20	Volunteer Training, Spirit Horse Center

Thank You to Our New Volunteer Directors

Katie Velardi and Shirley Adolpson have accepted co-positions as Volunteer Directors. Shirley has been volunteering with ME for 10 years with a lot of experience in the arena with clients. Katie joined ME at the beginning of 2008 with a wealth of volunteer and horse experience. Together they will be offering volunteer orientations, mentoring assignments and trainings.

Meet Tacoma.

the newest addition to our equine family.

Tacoma is a brown and white paint gelding who is being leased by the program from a long time friend of Mounted Eagles. He has moved into the family quite easily and is loving what he's doing. His brightly painted body and his big blue eyes attract the attention of all of the riders and they all wish they could ride that 'pretty horse'. As you can tell, Rachel really loves riding Tacoma and he doesn't seem to mind her being on board – he's proud that he can help all of his riders and bring a little joy into their lives.



Bill Needs a Great Home

Bill, our 16 year old Morgan/Belgian gelding, needs a new home. Bill has served the Mounted Eagles for over three years and has done a fantastic job for his riders. He has indicated that he's tired of the weekly routine, and would be very happy in a loving home where he could have some one-on-one attention and give his new parent lots of great trail rides. Bill was part of a driving team before we bought him so he could be tuned up to do that again as well. He is a great riding horse and we want our 'gentle giant' to be happy in what he can do. We would love to donate him but we'll need a replacement, therefore, we will consider all reasonable offers. If you are interested in finding out more about Bill, Call Aggie (218.568.5883) or Toni (218.825.4944)

2009 NARHA Region 6 Conference

This year Mounted Eagles will be hosting the NARHA Regional Conference in Brainerd. It is scheduled to take place at the Lodge at Brainerd Lakes in Baxter, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 20 - 22. There will be many great classes and related events. One highlight will be a benefit Dinner/Dance at Spirit Horse Center. If interested call Aggie for details and brochure.

Happy Birthday

October		November		December	
Pat H	Cody V	Erica B	Alicea P	Rocky H	
Zachary E	Jessica L	Judy B	Emily G	Alexa K	
Erin S	Sharon L	Tanya K	Jo Ann S	Marcia M	
Jean C	Kari J	Rosemary V	Tanja T	Cody L	
Sandy Z	Kelsey W	Angie D	Debra S	Kris O	
	Bill S	Aggie S	Jennifer H	Noah K	
	Abbie S				

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