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*Therapeutic Horsemanship*  
**Volume 4, Issue 9, Feb. 2006**

# The Mounted Eagles' **Mane Tales**

## 2005 Program Participants Celebrate Accomplishments

Family & friends gathered at St Andrews Catholic church on Friday, Jan 27<sup>th</sup>, to celebrate the annual Rider's Banquet. Trophies for accomplishments in horsemanship were awarded to participants who had participated in the program during CY2005. There were a total of 42 riders who met qualifications to receive a trophy this year. What a success! A special award was given to Grace Boetcher for "Perfect Attendance" for her therapeutic riding lessons. The food was, as usual, great. Thanks to the parents and caregivers who brought all the good food! That's always a big plus for the M. E. "staff". We don't get to taste the good stuff that you make often enough.



Grace Boetcher received a special award for "Perfect Attendance"

## Congratulations to our Rider of the Quarter!



If you stop by the barn on a Thursday night during the Mounted Eagles' therapeutic horsemanship lessons you'll more than likely find Bucky Philips there. Bucky is a resident of the Towering Pines Group Home in Brainerd and has been riding with the Mounted Eagles for about 7 years. Although small in stature, Bucky makes a big impression when you meet him. He is very outgoing and never meets a stranger. He always greets you with a smile and an extended hand. Bucky has a mild developmental delay but he's never at a loss for words – intelligent words. The volunteers generally request to work with Bucky during the riding lesson because he is so much fun. You'll hear conversations between the sidewalker and Bucky on topics ranging from baseball games to the importance of attending church and worshipping God. His kind heart and concern for others makes him a "giant" in our world. When he's riding independently and there's no human at his side, he talks to his favorite friend at the barn, his horse, Jazzmin. One might hear him conversing about the weather or asking her how good he is riding that particular evening. He mostly tells her what a great job she is doing in helping him. Jazzmin listens and nods her head in agreement most of the time. She never talks back to him, so he just keeps on smiling and bending her ear. Bucky has overcome his fear of heights and has progressed from being afraid to mount his horse to riding independently at a walk and a trot. He handles his horse with gentle hands and a confident spirit. He competes in the timed events at the annual horse show and usually comes out with several blue ribbons. Bucky spends time grooming his horse and helps with taking the saddle and tack off at the end of his lesson. He enjoys this time with Jazzmin and sometimes helps "put her to bed" since he's the last one to ride her for that day. Bucky sets a great example for his fellow residents as well as his friends. He has



A "Rider of the Quarter" will be featured in the Brainerd Dispatch and the Mane Tales each quarter. Watch to see whose next!

encouraged several of them to come and ride horses with him. Coming to ride horses is the highlight of his week! Congratulations, Bucky, on your many achievements in the arena and in your every day life! We're very proud of you!

**What's up for 2006 Riding Season? Well, Have you heard that We're Moving?**

We are extremely excited about beginning the 2006-riding season at Mounted Eagles. There are so many new things happening. We have been working really hard to improve our current programs and to develop new ones that will ensure the time spent at the barn will be even more rewarding and beneficial to the riders and their families. You'll see many changes this year, but a change you won't see is in our mission and vision. We will always give our best to make a real difference in your lives.

The biggest change that you will see is that we will be in a new location. Yes, it is true; we will no longer be operating at the Clare B Training Center. We have had 12 good years there but Toni has decided to move to a new location and we have decided to go with her. Toni and partners have purchased a facility on Hwy 25 just South of where County Rd 22 enters Hwy 25. It is 7.8 miles straight South of the intersection of County Rd 18 & 25. We don't have the exact address or what the facility will be named at this time so we will send you that information as soon as we have the specifics. It is a beautiful place and I'm sure you all will be very happy when you see the facility. Because of this move we will not be able to start our season until April. We had hoped for March but that will not be possible with everything at the barn being moved during that time. The new facility has a heated arena so we will be able to extend our riding season and eliminate the 5-month lapse that we have had in the past because of weather issues as well as canceling on days that it has been too cold.

**Volunteers Receive Recognition for '05 Accomplishments**

35 volunteers gave a combined total of 2,385 hours of their time to help the Mounted Eagles participants during the 2005 season. Without our faithful volunteers we would not be able to celebrate the successes of our riders. Thanks to all of you who gave so much.

Mary Hammer and Sandy Zugschwert received their 10-year service awards at the Volunteer Banquet. Awards for completion of the 4 Steps of Volunteer training were given to: Aggie, Beth, Susie, Mary, Kristin, Alison, Jean, Sandy, Staci, Deb, Abby, Jan, Blaine, Shirley & Toni.

Vol Hr Service Awards were given to the following:

250-499 hrs: Aggie, Mary, Susie

150-249 hrs: Sandy, Staci, Abby

75-149 hrs: Beth, Kristin, Alison, Jean, Sandy, Staci, Deb, Abby & Shirley

**Thanks to all of you for all you give! We appreciate you so much!**



Abby Knoblauch received the "Volunteer of the

Year" award. Abby donated 228.5 hrs.



Kristin Hewitt received the award for "Youth Volunteer of the Year".

Kristin donated 137 hrs.

**Looking Toward the Future**

HOP Update: We're still working to make your program a better organization. We are recruiting new board members and hope to have them joining us after the elections at the Annual Membership Meeting.

**To all riders and volunteers:**



We're available to answer any questions you might have so don't hesitate to call us at 1-888-828-9920

**Happy Birthday to:**

**Jan.** Kyle P. Jenny G.

**Feb.** Brad B. Justin F. Ben H. Bucky P. Dalton S.

**Mar.** Maddie B. Karen P. Kristin C. Staci G.

**Calendar of Events:**

**April 4<sup>th</sup> Tentative Start Date**

**April 19<sup>th</sup>, Annual Mbrship Mtg.**

**\$ New Fund Raising Ideas \$**

We still have note cards and horse treats available for sale. We have added some new items to the card selection: Book Marks & Gift Tags. They're really neat and make great birthday, wedding, or anniversary gifts. Contact Aggie at 888.828.9920 if you wish to purchase cards or treats. She'll get them to you. Horse treats can be purchased at the barn

**Keep Saving your old Cell Phones!**



We're still collecting cell phones as a fundraising item. This is an easy fund raising project for your program. Save your old cell phones, collect them from your

friends & family. Let us know if there's a business near you that would allow us to set up a "drop box" that you could maintain for us. We can send the phones in for refurbishing and they will pay us \$\$'s for them. No chargers, bag phones cases or earphones please. Give Aggie a call and let her know if you can help out. 1-888-828-9920.

**We want Your News!**

If you know of a Mounted Eagles' participant who has made a notable accomplishment, please contact me. We'd love to let everyone know!

Remember to include Mounted Eagles in your Donations and/or Advertising Budget for CY2006. Thank You! All donations are **TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

**The Mounted Eagles' Mane Tales is a Quarterly Publication of Mounted Eagles, Inc**

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