



# The Mounted Eagles' Mane Tales



Therapeutic Horsemanship

Volume 7 ♦ Issue 4 ♦ October-December 2009

## Celebrating the End of a Decade and Saddling Up to Ride into a New One!

As we saddle up and get ready to ride into the new decade beginning with 2010, we would like to take time to reflect on our growth and acknowledge all who have helped us make it to this point. There have been many changes since the Mounted Eagles opened its doors in 1992. The biggest being that we have grown in numbers from the beginning three riders and one horse to ending 2009 by serving 68 riders with as many as nine horses at one time. That might not seem like a lot of growth in 17 years but when you realize that we only have 20 hours per week to provide services to our riders, that's quite a growth spurt! We have also grown in the number of faithful volunteers that help us each week to deliver therapeutic horsemanship lessons and activities to these riders. We have a staff of over 50 volunteers who work at the barn, on the Board of Directors or behind the scenes doing administrative duties. Our seven program horses work tirelessly to carry their precious cargo and do their part in helping to strengthen bodies and souls. Without these volunteers and our dedicated horses, we could not provide the services that we do to the special people of our communities. Last but not at all least, is Susie Baillif, the founder of the Mounted Eagles program. Susie has worked tirelessly with and horses over these past 17 years. She is a positive of the people who ride the volunteers who a result of her dream and it come true for those who the years. Thank you, Susie, for sharing your dream with us and making it a reality for so many!



We also want to thank those of you who have helped us financially so that we could pay expenses for our horses' care and the use of the facility. Some of you have helped by giving monetary donations for general expenses, the Ridership (Scholarship) Program, or to purchase horses or equipment. Others have been loyal sponsors of fundraising events such as the Walk N Roll So They Can Ride. Not only have we received monetary support, we have received tons of in-kind support from individuals and businesses. You have provided food for special events, paper products, prizes for silent auctions, printing services and numerous other items or services. We have volunteers who come early and stay late on riding days, those who take horses home when they become too ill to work in the program and care for them until they are ready to return. Individuals have donated the use of their special horses to us so we don't have to put out money to purchase them. We appreciate the support of those who attend fund raising events or give donations as pledges or silent auction items. There are just too many to list individually. We are grateful for all who help us in any way. You have all been, in your own way, a vital part of our success.

but not at all least, is founder of the program. Susie has the riders, volunteers past 17 years. She is influence in the lives in the program and help. This program is has made many dreams have been involved over

### 2009 Major Contributors

If we have missed anyone on this list, please know that it is not intentional but purely human error.

#### Golden Horses - \$1000 - \$4000

Brainerd Jaycees  
Crow Wing Power

#### Silver Eagles - \$500 - \$999

Brainerd Sertoma Club  
Baxter Lions Club  
Grand Casino Mille Lacs  
Crow Wing Recycling  
Brainerd Surgery Center  
CTC -Consolidated Telephone Company  
Thrivent Lutheran Social Services  
Northstar Kigers  
Grattan Healthcare

#### Silver Horses - \$100 - \$499

Ben Krueger Post 49 American Legion  
Sertoma Sunrise Club  
Central Lakes Rotary Club  
Mike & Lynn Fairbanks  
Earl & Jeannine Hemmerich  
Crosslake Lutheran Church  
Cindy Raskuskus  
Mark & Trudy Jurchen  
Dick Calkins  
Judy Kidder  
Bill & Aggie Stroot  
Brainerd Rotary Club  
Knights of Columbus-St Francis  
Pequot Lakes Physical Therapy Services  
Lakeland Agency  
Crosby Eye Clinic  
Garrison VFW  
Mathias Justin, CPA  
Landis Gyr/Hunt Technologies  
Watt Automotive  
Tim Roggenkamp, CPA  
Nisswa Tax Service  
John & Janet Moran  
Ameriprise-Scott Stroot  
Cuyuna Regional Medical Center  
Employees of LarsonAllen LLP  
Colleen & Irwin Langren  
Garrison Animal Hospital

#### Diamond Feathers - Less than \$100

Shirley & Jim Boelter  
Lanny Searcy/Searcy & Associates, P.A.  
Jeff Harrington  
June Dahlgren  
Cleone Hoplin  
Eric Schrader  
Faye Schuett  
Phyllis Gardner  
Brian Heitkotter  
Carol & Norb Husby  
Janis & Robert Redfield  
Garrison Animal Hospital Staff & Clients  
Rachel Otremba  
Karen Kersten  
VFW Post 3839  
Hope's Braids  
Dan & Amy Vleck  
Krueger Trucking of Brainerd  
Bremer Bank  
Pine River Dairy Queen  
Mary Stroot  
Lakes State Bank  
Brainerd Kiwanis Club  
Charlotte English

#### Winds Beneath our Wings - In-Kind Donations

Ann-Co Veterinary Services  
James Johnson, Equine Dentist  
Dave & Chris Bergin  
Blue Goose Inn  
Rohlfing of Brainerd  
Janet Moran  
Mary & Dave Keppers  
Spirit Horse Center/Staci & Brion Fornshell  
Lance & Robyn Bragstad  
Randy Blackorbay  
Lise Lunde  
Dahl Graphics, Linda Dahl  
Don & Toni Wasilenski  
Cordia Pearson  
Carol Meredith  
Debra Knoblauch  
Debbie Bernie  
Scott Meyer  
Wolf Creek 4-H Club  
Susie Baillif

Without any of you we would not be able to see the smiles that light up the arena at Spirit Horse Center every Tuesday and Thursday.  
*We salute you all!*

## Rider of the Fourth Quarter - Cody Vleck

Cody Vleck is a 10-year old energetic young man who doesn't let the fact that he has Spina Bifida slow him down one bit, especially at the barn. Cody is riding into his 4th year with the Mounted Eagles Therapeutic Horsemanship program. For years he has faced several gross motor challenges, including walking and maintaining general body balance. Since Cody has been riding horses, he has been able to stand on one leg and skip. Yea Cody! Cody has improved steadily in his riding skills and with this improvement his confidence has taken a huge leap as well. He is one of our smallest (in stature) riders but it does not stop him from riding our largest horse. He took riding Tamarack on as a challenge when she came to be part of our horse family. Cody has helped her learn to work in the way that we need her to handle our special equestrians and he reminds her that she needs to listen to more subtle cues than she was used to. While teaching Tamarack to listen to his cues, Cody has strengthened his arm, torso and leg muscles as well as increased his ability to focus intently for a long period of time. He has also taken on the challenge of another new arrival, this time a much smaller model. Butter is a pony and is about 1/2 the size of Tamarack. While Cody walks beside Butter holding her with a lead rope, she has to pay special attention to his pace and her

position in relation to him so as not to bump him. With the volunteers very close at hand, he is doing a good job of showing Butter the ropes on how to become a successful Mounted Eagles horse. Cody worked hard to get ready for this fall's horse show and did himself proud earning ribbons in each of the three events in which he participated. Beyond riding, Cody loves the outdoors. His favorites are hunting and fishing with his dad and their annual family camping trip to the Boundary Waters Area of Minnesota. Cody is always a joy to be around. He is serious about his "horse training" duties and practices his riding skills with great tenacity. He walks in ready for work and walks out with a "hi five" for all and ready to face his next challenge.



Congratulations, Cody! We are very proud of you for all you have accomplished and for being selected as the Rider of the 4th Quarter of 2009.

## A Note from the Executive Director, Aggie Stroot

I would like to take this opportunity to say a public "THANK YOU" to our wonderful Board of Directors. Mary Hammer, Lynn Fairbanks, Theresa Grow, Marcia Mehr, Kris Olson, Janet Moran, Cheryl Triplett and Colleen Langren have been outstanding in their involvement with the program this year. As Executive Director, I depend on this group to guide me as I work to keep the program running in the most efficient and effective manner. They have all been instrumental in making the Fund Raising events successful, developing new ideas and brainstorming ways to make Mounted Eagles a better program than it already is. Without them I would be a total failure! THANK YOU, ladies, for your dedication, your commitment, your tenacity and your loyalty. Mounted Eagles is blessed to have each one of you as a part of our family.

## Highlights of the Annual Participant Horse Show October 23-24



Photos by  
Sarah Fairbanks

## Year-End Financial Report

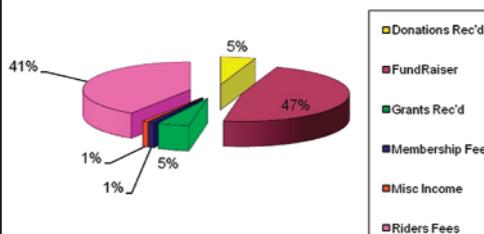
2009 was a tough year financially for a lot of individuals, businesses and, especially, for the non-profit sector. Funding from grantors was cut back and the criteria for receiving funding were streamlined drastically. These cutbacks and changes affected Mounted Eagles quite severely. Because we are a small program and serve a smaller population we did not meet the new 'number of people' served for some of our former grantors' guidelines. We serve individuals from five counties and are almost maxed out on our 20 hours of available facility time that we now have. At this time, we cannot afford to pay for more barn time. If we could get more funding, we could lease more time--without more time we can't serve many more people--without more people we can't meet the guidelines. It's a Catch 22 situation. We ended the year in a big deficit and are going in to 2010 with a smaller reserve than we have had in a number of years. We, however, know that what we are doing is important and it is in God's hands that we will succeed. We are blessed with donors who care and give as they can. We will succeed and we will continue to be here because of those of you who care and who continue to help those who are less fortunate. God Bless You All!



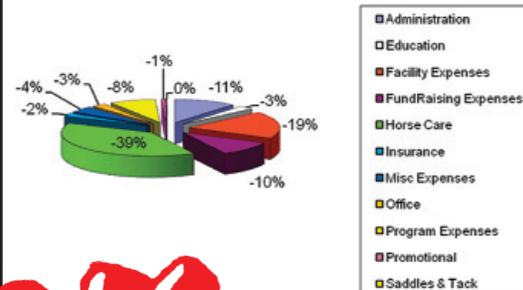
2009 Income	\$57,745.56
2009 Expenses	\$70,124.57
Income vs Expenses	(\$12,379.01)



### 2009 Income as of 12/31/09



### 2009 Expenses as of 12/31/09



## 2010 Calendar of Events

Jan. 22	Rider's Banquet
Jan. 23	Brainerd Jaycees Ice Fishing Extravaganza
Jan. 30	Spirit Horse Center Open House & Gala
February	Cookie Dough Sales
June 19	Benefit Horse Show
July 17	Applebee's Pancake Breakfast
Aug. 3-7	Crow Wing County Fair
Sept. 11	Walk N Roll So They Can Ride
Oct. 1-3	Hoofin' It For Mounted Eagles

Watch [www.mountedeagles.org](http://www.mountedeagles.org) for updated 2009 Calendar of Events

Correction for 3rd Quarter Newsletter: The Rider of the Quarter should have stated Rider of the Third Quarter instead of Rider of the Second Quarter. We apologize for the error.



## Happy Birthday

### November

Jessica L  
Cody V  
Sharon L  
Alex B  
Staci B  
Kelsey W

Aggie S  
Bill S  
Jessica M  
Erica B  
Tanya K

### December

Alicia P  
Emily G  
Kelly O  
Victoria L  
Ben P  
Deb S

Kristi D  
Tasha L  
Sherry S  
Caleb M  
Alexa K  
Marcia M,  
Kris O  
Patti J  
Kristae L  
Kathy P  
Bruce D

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

Aggie Stroot, Executive Director; Susie Baillif, Sr. Instructor; Shirly Adolphson and Katie Velardi, Volunteer Directors

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Mary Hammer, Lynn Fairbanks, Theresa Grow, Colleen Langren, Marcia Mehr, Kris Olson, and Cheryl Triplett

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