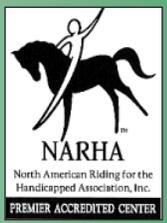




# The Mounted Eagles' Mane Tales



Therapeutic Horsemanship

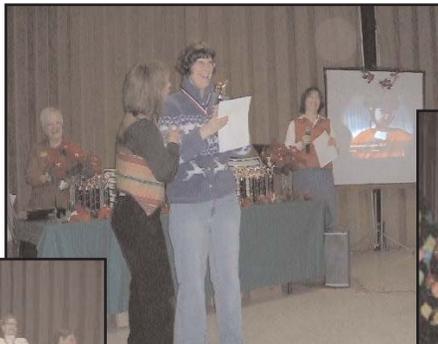
Volume 6 ♦ Issue 1 ♦ January-March 2008

## *Celebrating Achievements!*

The whole Mounted Eagles gang gathered at St Andrews Catholic Church on Dec 14th to celebrate the individual successes of 2007. Approximately 45 of our 58 riders attended the banquet with their parents, siblings, extended family members and care givers who were there to watch their "Special Person" receive his/her trophy as an acknowledgement of how hard they worked to reach their goals over the past year. As usual, there was plenty of great food for all and a terrific slide show highlighting some of the year's events. Pride and happiness filled the air. There is little more to say, let the photos below speak for themselves.



*Way to Go!*



*Nice Job!*



*Congratulations!*



### *Dressage Schooling Show*

Benefit for the Mounted Eagles Therapeutic Horsemanship Program  
Saturday, May 10, 2008 ♦ Four Winds Horse Center, Brainerd MN

Contact:

Margaret Bollenbacher, 218-838-2629, marboll@brainerd.net  
or Toni Wasilensky, 218-821-8603, simplechanges@brainerd.net



### *Rider of the First Quarter*

Malissa Martin is a lovely 20 year old woman. She has Rett syndrome. This is a childhood neurodevelopmental disorder that leaves her non-verbal and with no purposeful use of her hands. There is also a delay in processing a request made of her. This does not stop our Malissa; she does communicate. When you hold her left hand and ask her to choose something, she will reach with her right hand momentarily and make her choice. Her eyes, her smiles and her huge hugs express her inner feelings without words. She likes coke, junior mints, chocolate covered raisins, Wheezie (her personal care attendant), church, her girlfriends in "friends club," eating, walking in the swimming pool, sitting in the hot tub and HORSES, HORSES, HORSES.

Julie, her mom, says when she points to a picture of a horse Malissa gets excited. She smiles when mom shows people the ribbons she has won riding in our annual horse show and the trophies she has received at the annual banquets. Malissa has a hard time focusing but when mom is showing her horse pictures and reading a horse story to her she is focused.

When Tuesday comes and they tell Malissa that it's riding day she gets very excited. This is one of the places where she really comes to life. Wheezie says it is one of her very favorite days. When she arrives and gets her helmet on, she strolls confidently up the stairs to the mounting block. She walks right to the side of her horse, Ace, who is patiently waiting for her to mount. We request her to get on her horse....quiet....then if you are watching closely, you see her lift her leg quickly to mount. As this is happening, we assist her in getting her leg over the back of the saddle and she settles in. Malissa sits tall and straight in the saddle with wonderful balance. She does

her stretches with assistance and off we go with two sidewalkers and a leader. The sidewalkers rest their hands on hers and this enables her to hang onto the reins. Then they pull her hand back to guide Ace as the turn comes up and she rides through the patterns. When it is time to dismount she is requested to get off her horse....quiet....and all of a sudden up comes her leg over the horse's neck and we assist her to the block. When she gets back into the club room and removes her helmet the two girls are off on an adventure to one of Malissa's favorite restaurants. Malissa's mom, dad and siblings have their social groups to associate with and relate to. Mom says that for Malissa, her social group is her trusted volunteers at the barn who walk, talk and help Malissa.

Congratulations, Malissa. We are so proud of you!

Mounted Eagles is committed to enhancing the lives of program participants, volunteers and the community by providing a safe and enjoyable environment where individuals with special needs benefit from therapeutic, developmental and educational equine-assisted activities. Services are provided to individuals from five counties within and surrounding the Brainerd Lakes area. The program takes place at Four Winds Horse & Human Learning Center, 13860 Shawkia Dr in Brainerd. For more information about participating in the program as a rider or a volunteer please contact Aggie Stroot at 888.828.9920 or 218.568.5883. You may also check us out on our website at [www.mountedeagles.org](http://www.mountedeagles.org)



### Annual Membership Meeting Scheduled (New Location)

Please join us for our Annual Membership Meeting on Monday, April 14, at the Northwinds Grill next to Coco Moon in downtown Brainerd. We will be voting on new and current Board Members for two year terms. Meeting starts at 6 pm. Beverages will be provided, meals on your own. Join us and hear what your program has accomplished over the last year.

### Thanks to Our Contributors:

Through donations and grant awards the following individuals and organizations helped to make 2007 a financially successful year for the Mounted Eagles. There were lots of other monetary and in-kind contributions for special events as well. We offer many thanks to all of you for your continuing support.

#### Golden Eagles \$5,000+

Charisma Foundation

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

Brainerd Jaycees  
Crow Wing Community Trust  
Ctrl MN Initiative Foundation  
Nisswa Women of Today  
MLBO Corporate Commission  
St Joseph's Foundation  
Dave & Chris Bergin

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

Garrison VFW Post 1816

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

Crosslake Women of ELCA  
Central Lakes Rotary  
Northern Lakes Sertoma Club  
Mark & Trudy Jurchen  
Crosslake Women of ELCA  
Gretchen Preston  
MN Horse Council  
Steve & Rita Busch

#### Diamond Feathers Less than \$100

Terri Nault  
Frances Horton  
Paula Goligowski  
Charlotte English  
Zachary Ahlgrim  
Dale & Carol Meredith  
Wells Fargo-Pequot Lakes

### Saying "Thanks" to our Volunteers

Without our faithful volunteers our program wouldn't exist! Our volunteers recorded 3,374 hrs and we know that there were many more hours that were served and not recorded. In recognition of our volunteers dedicated service the following accomplishments and awards were recognized at the 2007 Year End Volunteer Banquet. Thanks to all of you - you gave so much!

#### Volunteer of the Year -

Abby Knoblauch

#### Youth Volunteer of the Year -

Sarah Fairbanks

#### 5 year Service Recognition -

Staci Grattan

#### Newest Dedicated Member -

Steve Lanz

#### Volunteer Hour Service Awards:

1000+hrs - Abby Knoblauch  
500+ hrs. - Sandy Zugswert  
250+ hrs. - Shirley Adolphson, Jean Ciesinski, Kris Olson, Deb Knoblauch and Christina Zugswert  
150+ hrs. - Char Czech, Lynn Fairbanks  
75+ hrs. - Diane Edison, Karen Kersten, Steve Lanz, Connie Madison and Kris Winum

### 2008 Calendar of Events

Mar. 14-16 Region 6 Conference, Fargo, ND  
May 10 Benefit Dressage Schooling Show  
July 12 Applebee's Flapjack Breakfast  
July 29-Aug. 1 Crow Wing County Fair Booth  
Sept. 6 Walk-N-Roll  
Oct. 1 - Nov. 15 Christmas Card Sales

Watch [www.mountedeagles.org](http://www.mountedeagles.org) for updated 2008 Calendar of Events

### Welcome to Our Family

**Riders:** Dylan B, Les M, Hank M

**Volunteers:** Robyn B, Lise L, Natalya N, Kelsey O, Abbie S, Katie V, Laura Z

**Horses:** Rosie - a six-year old Arabian mare who is just a "peach." She'll be taking on most of the riders that Jazzmin served along with a few new ones. We're happy she's here and we know that you'll just love her too. Rosie was donated to the program by a loving couple from Milaca who just knew she would be a perfect fit for our program, and they were right! Thanks, Cindy and Jim.

### New Staff Member

We would like to welcome Margaret Bollenbacher to the Mounted Eagles family. Margaret has accepted the position of Fund Raising/ Communications Coordinator effective February 1, 2008. Margaret's background is in Graphic Design and she has over 20 years of experience working with non-profit organizations in California. She is currently a Substitute Teacher/Para and a Tutor for the Crosby/Irton school district and operates her own Graphic Design business out of her home in Merrifield. She is a horse lover, although not an active rider, and believes in the ability of animals to be of great therapeutic benefit to individuals who face different challenges in their lives. She has known about our program for a number of years and always thought she would like to be involved in some way. She "came home" from California just over a year ago and is planning to stay. We are excited to add Margaret's professionalism, organizational skills and other areas of expertise to the growing success of our organization. Please contact Margaret at [marboll@brainerd.net](mailto:marboll@brainerd.net) or 218-838-2629 if you have any fund raising ideas or are available to help with our upcoming events for CY 2008.

### Parent Partnership Project

Plan to attend the 14th Annual Parent Retreat honoring parents of children/youth with special needs.

Cragun's Resort and Hotel on Gull Lake ♦ April 19-20, 2008  
11000 Cragun's Drive ♦ Brainerd, MN 56401

Friday night offered at reduced rate  
Registration deadline: April 11, 2008

Due to the availability of rooms, please register early!  
Please call Cheryl for more information 320-631-2504 or 320-632-4709.



### Happy Birthday

January		February		March	
Christina Z	Lynn F	Bucky P	Jack K	Ethan A	Staci G
Karen K	Char C	Lise L	Dalton S	Madeline B	Connie M
Darin L	Grace B	Justin F	Brad B	Jan M	Veronica U
Shyanne C	Colleen L	Sarah H	Hank M	Diane E	Tracie P
Heidi G	Jenny G	Bradyn S			

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

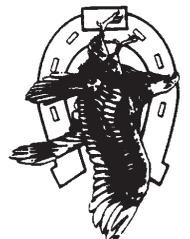
Aggie Stroot, Executive Director; Susie Baillif, Sr. Instructor; Mary Hammer, Volunteer Director

Board of Directors: Aggie Stroot, Chairperson; Staci Grattan, Secretary;

Mary Hammer, Terry Prettyman, Lynn Fairbanks, Theresa Grow, Missy Giles, Jolene Parks, Marcia Mehr.

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