



How You Can Help the Mounted Eagles Program

Mounted Eagles is a non-profit organization and operates primarily from donations and grant monies received. Over the past 4 years grant monies have dwindled and/or distributions have been scrutinized heavily. Because we operate on a smaller scale and do not serve as many individuals as a larger organization does, we have lost funding from several grantors. They want to put their money toward a larger population served. We serve residents of six surrounding counties, Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, Mille Lacs, Morrison and Todd, and have limited barn time available to do so. We charge a minimal lesson fee of \$20 which does not nearly cover the cost of each lesson. We have some participants who are unable to pay the entire lesson fee so we raise funds to provide them with scholarship funding so they can continue to receive the benefits offered by therapeutic horsemanship classes. We touch a lot of lives from these communities, not only those of the participants in our program but also their families and the volunteers who help provide our services. We are asking for your help to sustain us in these difficult financial times. All donations in any amount are greatly appreciated.

To help you make a decision on an amount, here are some ideas of ways you can help:

- ♦ Sponsor a rider for a six-week session \$120
- ♦ Sponsor a rider for a year \$760
- ♦ Sponsor a horse for a month \$215
- ♦ Sponsor a horse for a year \$2,580
- ♦ Sponsor one horse's Training & Fitness program for a month \$73
- ♦ Sponsor our horses' Training & Fitness program for a month \$580
- ♦ Sponsor arena time for one week's lessons \$270
- ♦ Sponsor arena time for one six-week session \$1,620

Do you know of an organization who may be able to help? Does your place of business offer support to the communities it serves? We are always available to present information about our program to community organizations and businesses/corporations who are interested in supporting our program. Their support will assist in providing unique but very effective services to the physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially challenged individuals who live and work among us. Please contact Lynn Fairbanks at 218.454.3228 or Aggie Stroot at 218.568.3968 for more information. You may also mail your contribution to Mounted Eagles, 6504 59th Ave SW, Motley, MN 56466. Thank you for your contributions and support!

SPECIAL OLYMPICS



Mounted Eagles is proud to be the host of a Special Olympics horseshow on July 8 at Spirit Horse Center. This horse show will be in place of our Special Olympics State Competition. Athletes will be selected based on their riding ability and ability of the horse that they currently ride. This will be a fun-filled day and will give more Mounted Eagles riders the opportunity to participate over the state show. Dalton Schreier, a former rider is using the show as a 4-H Youth Leadership project and is working on making the show very rewarding for all athletes. If you have questions, please talk to Susie or Lynn.

Painted Turtle Races



For the past twenty years Mounted Eagles has been wrangling horses. This year marks the beginning of wrangling a new critter which happens to be turtles, yes turtles! You wouldn't think that turtles would need wrangling, but in Nisswa, MN they do. Mounted Eagles has been

selected as the new "turtle wranglers" for the weekly Nisswa Turtle races. To conduct a successful turtle racing season, 100 turtles are needed. Thanks to many of you for going out in search of the elusive critters and bringing them to the barn. We have realized that turtle keeping is not as easy as it sounds. They are creative little characters in their methods of escape. They are not like a horse that gets through the fence and leaves a big hole. I am still trying to determine how they escape! All Mounted Eagles participants, family, friends, volunteers and supporters are invited and encouraged to attend the races. The racing starts at 2 pm every Wednesday through August 15th. The turtle track is located just off Main Street in Nisswa. Registration begins at 1 pm and the cost is \$4. If you don't race, just come out to say Hi to the Wranglers and show your support for Mounted Eagles by wearing a logo shirt. Participants who would like to help wrangle need to be able to carry buckets in and out of the race ring and must be under age 17. If you are interested in helping, please call Lynn at 218-963-3936. Thank you to our primary wranglers Zachary, Morena, Tyler, Amber, Jeremy, Aggie and Lynn. This event draws a huge crowd so be sure to get there early! See you at the races!

Rider of the Quarter - Amber Heittola



Amber Heittola is a shy 9 years old who has been with the Mounted Eagles program for three years. Amber, diagnosed with Downs Syndrome, continues to gain improved social skills from her weekly riding lessons. She likes both riding and interacting with her riding partner Rosie, a gentle little white Arabian horse. Amber also enjoys working with her volunteer riding coach, Christina. Once mounted, Amber works on her reining skills and listens to Christina's direction as she moves Rosie around the arena. When dismounted, Amber likes to hold Rosie's lead rope with Christina by her side. Amber giggles as Rosie moves in closer to do some inspecting of the young rider.

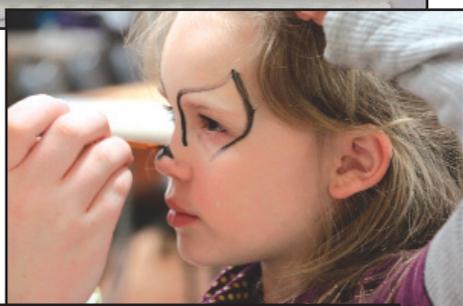
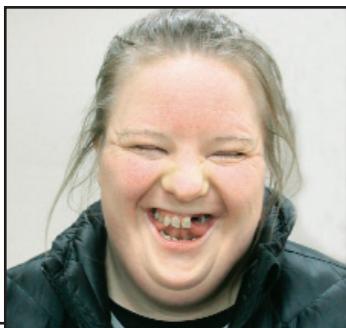
Amber lives in Brainerd with her parents Lisa and Russell Heittola and big brother Evan. Amber likes to help Evan with his baseball and basketball practice by throwing balls to him. But her favorite thing to do is to play with her Barbies, or the "girls" as she calls them. Amber plays computer games on her iPad, usually with a Barbie theme, and likes to sing along and act out movies. Her favorite movies are of course Barbie movies and "Dora the Explorer." Family time is spent going four-wheeling. Amber even has her own four-wheeler to ride, but often prefers to ride with her Mom or Dad. Amber's favorite food is Chicken Nuggets and she requests them on a regulate basis. The Heittolas have watched Amber become more vocal as her confidence has grown from her riding lessons with the ME program.

Amber, a 3rd grader at Riverside Elementary, loves going to school. She also gets to spend time with her best friend who attends school with her.

Amber, we are glad to have you in our ME family and look forward to your continued success. Congratulations on being selected as the Mounted Eagles Rider of the Quarter!

Mounted Eagles Celebrates 20th Anniversary!

On February 27, 2012 nearly 70 friends, supporters, volunteers and participants joined together to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Mounted Eagles at the Northland Arboretum in Brainerd. We enjoyed excellent food, fellowship and viewed the new Mounted Eagles promotional video produced by Steve Lanz of Nisswa. The 20th Anniversary is an ongoing celebration which includes the sale of special 20th Anniversary clothing. Vests, hoodies and t-shirts with our special anniversary logo are available for purchase at Spirit Horse Center on any Mounted Eagles riding day. Vests are \$30, hoodies \$28 and t-shirts \$15. A portion of each sale goes to the Mounted Eagles program. Thank you for your support!



Wine Tasting Fund Raiser

On May 5, 2012 we held our annual wine and appetizers event. We gathered at the Nisswa American Legion again this year with their new caterer, Red, White and Blue catering. We had a small group but enjoyed great food and wine together. Many nice raffle prizes were donated and our raffle generated lots of excitement for the evening. Fun was had by all when some raffle items were turned into a live auction!!



Caregiver/Participant Mentor Program

Mounted Eagles is developing a mentoring program for new participants and their families. Our new families will be mentored by families who are experienced with our program. This mentoring program will help to develop closer connections between our participants and their caregivers and ease the transition as a new participant. You may be contacted about this program. Please give this mentoring program your consideration in both capacities. Working together, we can continue to build a strong successful program.

Welcome New Riders

Isaac S	Ruthie M
Isaiah S	Derek O
Austin M	David L
Makayla S	

2012 Calendar of Events

June 20, 27	Nisswa Turtle Races
July 8	Special Olympics Horse Show
July 4,11,18, 25	Buffalo Wild Wings Fundraiser
July 4,11,18, 25	Nisswa Turtle Races
Aug 1, 8, 15	Nisswa Turtle Races
Aug 7	Quarterly Volunteer Training
Sept 8	Walk-N-Roll
Oct 5,6 & 7	Hoofin It Trail Ride
Oct-Nov	Cookie & Soup Sales
Oct-Nov	Christmas Cards

Watch www.mountedeagles.org for updated calendar.



Happy Birthday

April

RaeLynn R	Lydia P	Susie B
Eric L	Mitchell R	Theresa G
Stacy G	Nakota P	Amanda G
Jake T	Shirley A	Austin N
Kelsey O	Katie V	Bruce G
James S	Dylan B	

May

Mary D	Austin M
Rachel T	Jessie H
Melodie S	Preston N
Courtney G	Alicia J
Renee D	Greg D
Austin H	Natasha S
Nancy R	Jenny W

June

Nancy L	Ronda R
Barb H	Brittany E
Louisa T	Zoe S
Mya H	Wanda G
Gavin P	Daniel B
Wendy W	

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