

Mane Tales

Volume 13 ♦ Issue 5 ♦ April- June 2021

Thank You Volunteers: April is volunteer appreciation month. Mounted Eagles has many things to be appreciative of and one of the greatest is the dedication, love, and support of ALL our volunteers. They do so much for the program in their own special way, whether it be volunteering at the barn for lessons, aiding for fundraising, or serving as a member on the board of directors. There are twenty-six volunteers at Mounted Eagles, fifteen are currently volunteering at the barn on a regular basis, eleven volunteers comprise those individuals who either serve on the board of directors, work special events or are "on-call" volunteers." We have volunteers of all ages who have joined for many reasons; either they are a parent of a rider, a horse enthusiast, or a loved one recommended us to them! The cumulative hours the volunteers clocked between September of 2019- August of 2020 was 2,875 hours. Without the dedication, support and care of our volunteers Mounted Eagles would not be able to administer the love of lessons to our beloved riders!

Fun Facts

Longest Volunteer:

- Sandy Zugschwert who started volunteering in February of 1996.

Newest Volunteers:

- Holly Bjerkness & Kelly Muston who started volunteering in April of 2021

Oldest Volunteer:

- Sandy Strom-Gieske

Youngest Volunteer:

- Amber Hidde

Volunteers who joined in 2021:

- Autumn Williams
- Liz Eisler
- Emily Anderson
- Mary Fogle
- Christine Bergin
- Holly Bjerkness
- Kelly Muston

Quotes from our volunteers:

"The smile on the riders faces from either riding or even touching the horses is what makes it special to me." Amber Hidde "Mounted Eagles is my home away from home." Nick Patterson "I see the value of horses and what they can do for people." Sandy Zugschwert "Horses are amazing therapy animals; they sense the riders who really need them." Cindy Rader "Little things make big things- and this looks different for everyone." Gladys Behmyer

Mounted Eagles is a 501(c) non-profit organization.

Our Mission Statement: Mounted Eagles enhances 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.

PIZZA SALES INCENTIVES & WINNERS

INCREDIBLE is the only word to describe our 2021 Giovanni's Frozen Pizza Sale fundraiser! We had 27 sellers participate and they sold a staggering number of pizzas. 1113 to be exact! THANK YOU to everyone who sold pizza, bought pizza, promoted pizza, will be eating pizza and delivering pizza. Because this smashed our goal of 500 pizzas we will be celebrating with a Root Beer Float party for everyone! Also, many of our sellers earned the incentives offered. Ten sellers earned their choice of a ride in a Corvette or Mustang Convertible plus a DQ treat. Nine sellers earned an hour session with their horse or the car ride/DQ if they choose. Our top seller was Gabby who sold 165 pizzas!!! Congratulations to George, John, Sandy SG, Nathan, Austin, Allyson, Rachel, Susan, Jennifer, Gabby, Aggie, Justin, Xavier, Alex, Autumn, Bergen, Landen, Keaton and Kelsey!!! Thank you to everyone who sold pizza!! Watch for photos of the car rides and horse sessions in our next newsletter. It's going to be a lot of fun!!

STEPPING DOWN BUT NOT AWAY

Cheryl Triplett recently stepped down as Chairperson on the Board of Directors. Mounted Eagles recognized her dedication and extraordinary work at our annual meeting on April 12th. Cheryl served on the Board of Directors from April 2009 thru November 2020. Her daughter, Rachel, has been a participant in the program for 20 years. "Thank You" just doesn't say enough to express our appreciation of your past and continued support. We look forward to seeing you around the barn with Rachel and at other events.



First Time EVER on a horse for Cheryl –
"So this is what Rachel feels"

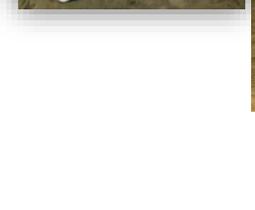
We would like to welcome Christine Bergin as the newest member of the Board of Directors. Chris has been affiliated with Mounted Eagles for a number of years and previously served on the board from 2006 – 2008. Chris lives in Ft Ripley with her husband, Dave and their two children, Hunter and Holly. Chris has a love for horses and helping others which contributes to her qualifications for being a great addition to the BOD. Chris is an accountant and she and her husband own and operate Trinity Business Partners in Brainerd.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Over the last few weeks, I have been at the barn during lessons for longer periods of time than what is normal for me to assist with our participant awards. What a blessing it was to be able to have time to visit with participants, parents, and caregivers! There were several special moments but the one that stands out most was seeing the love, care, and friendship our participants and volunteers share with one another. One of our riders came to her lesson visibly upset and inconsolable. I saw one of our volunteers sit with her, talk quietly, hold her hand, rub her back and dry her tears. She had lost a close family member. She felt better and wanted to spend time with her horse. As she rode Kyd around the arena, she asked for the assistance of her usual volunteer who happened to be in the office at the time. His face lit up when he heard that she had asked for him to come and help with her lesson and her face lit up in the same when he came out to sidewalk for her. They have a connection and she needed "her people". Our participant was smiling and relaxing at the end of her lesson. She received her award, more hugs and words of encouragement. By the time she left her sadness had lessened for a little while. It was heartwarming to see this interaction. Our volunteers are our heartbeat and as we celebrate them during April, Volunteer appreciation month, I want to tell each one of them how much they are appreciated and that they make a difference in someone's life every time they enter the barn. We do not always know if one of participants or volunteers is facing a difficult situation, but it makes me proud to be surrounded with caring volunteers who are compassionate and can turn a bad day into a smile. The next time you see one of our wonderful volunteers give them a fist bump and let them know you appreciate them! Thank you to all our volunteers.

Lynn

On March 9, 10, and 11 Mounted Eagles held our rider's banquet in a VERY new way! Although it looked different everyone was excited to celebrate their accomplishments. Congratulations to all of our participants!! We are PROUD each and every one of you!!!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 22	Volunteer Training
April-May	No Bake, Bake Sale
June-Aug	Turtle Races
June 27	Arts in the Park/ Raffle Ticket Sales Kick-Off
June 30	Volunteer Training
July 24	Mounted Eagles' FUN Show
August 11	Open House
September 2	Volunteer Training
September 15	Volunteer Recognition
October 17	Participant Horse Show (tentative)
October 22	An Evening for ME/Raffle Drawing (tentative)

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

Lynn Fairbanks, Executive Director; Susie Baillif, Sr. Instructor; Michael Rader Chairperson; Gladys Behymer, Vice Chairperson; Cindy Rader, Secretary, Volunteer Training Manager; Aggie Stroot, Treasurer, Volunteer Records Manager; Eva Froehle, Board member, Newsletter Editor; Chris Bergin, Board member

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