



The Mounted Eagles' Mane Tales



Therapeutic Horsemanship

Volume 7 ♦ Issue 3 ♦ July - September 2009

6th Annual Walk N Roll So They Can Ride



Another successful Walk N Roll took place on Saturday, September 6. Forty-five walkers braved the cool weather and rain to complete the six-mile trek along the Paul Bunyan Trail from the Nisswa

Chamber of Commerce Gazebo to the Trailside Center in Pequot Lakes. There they feasted on a great All You Can Eat Spaghetti Dinner and enjoyed music performed by the C.C. Chips Band and "Elvis". The Silent Auction had 'tons of stuff' that had been donated by various area businesses and individuals. It was a great day and raised \$13,396.75 to support our program services and Ridership Fund. Many thanks to our major sponsors, Baxter Lions Club, Brainerd Lakes Surgery Center, Crow Wing Recycling, CTC, Grand Casino Mille Lacs, Grattan Healthcare, Northstar Kigers, Central Lakes Chapter 31300 of Thrivent Financial Services for Lutherans, Garrison VFW, Lakeland Agency and Pequot Lakes Physical Therapy Services. Thanks to all who came and supported the event. See you next year!!!!



Hank & Sara

2nd Annual "Hoofin It" for Mounted Eagles



Neither rain nor sleet could keep the participants of the 2nd annual Hoofin It event away. Individuals and horses braved the rain and cool temperatures to support the program services of the Mounted Eagles. Just like the Walk N Roll, Hoofin It is proving to be an exciting and profitable event for our fund raising efforts. Riders from Hugo, Minneapolis, Lake Elmo, Park Rapids, Moorhead and the Brainerd Lakes Area came to enjoy the Fall beauty and fellowship with other horse lovers. Those who didn't have a horse came to enjoy a fine feast of pulled pork, beans, potato salad and brownies on Saturday night and a great pancake breakfast was served on Sunday morning. Thanks to Dave Bergin of Feducia Financial and Blue Goose Inn in Garrison for the donation of the Saturday night meal. Many thanks also to Northwind Grille who donated food for the breakfast and WalMart who also made a donation for the food. Entertainment was provided by Stony Creek Band of Brainerd and what a treat that was! Rumor has it there may be a Spring ride next year in addition to the Fall ride. Stay tuned for more information. Remember, it's not just for people who want to ride horses - the dinner and music can be enjoyed by all!

A Salute to Pepper!

Pepper has been a steady part of our equine family for 14 years. She has been there for most all of our riders at one time or another. I don't think there are many riders who have not ridden or groomed Pepper at least once during their therapeutic horsemanship lessons. She is loved by all. Pepper began having health issues about four years ago when she developed Lyme's disease. The next year we discovered that she has Cushings Disease, another disease that affects the joints and immune system of a horse. Last year we discovered that she also has diabetes. Just last week she developed an infection in her mouth due to a cut on her tongue and was unable to drink or eat on her own. Do you think she gave up during all of this? Absolutely not! She took her meds - not always like a good girl - but she took them, bounced back and continues to give rides to our special people. She is tough but gentle. She is loving and firm. She is constant and challenging. She is a tribute to all horses who give joy and strength to the special people in our communities that we are blessed to know. Pepper is 20 years old and, as long as her meds are available and working, we hope that she will be able to continue to be with us for a few more years. She is a prime example to all of us who think we can't go on just because we hurt a little. When you bring sunshine to others, you cannot keep it to yourself. Thank you Pepper for shining for us!



Justin & Pepper

Donations to assist with Pepper's medical needs can be sent to Mounted Eagles, 6504 59th Ave SW, Motley MN 56466.

Rider of the Second Quarter - Alicia Juenemann

Alicia Juenemann, a 16-year old teenager with Downs Syndrome, has been riding with Mounted Eagles since 2006. She is a very quiet young lady with pretty blond hair who keeps you guessing about what she is thinking. When we praise her for an accomplishment while she is riding we have no doubts what is in her mind because, if you watch her, there is a flash of a smile and a little light comes into her eyes. Her mom, Danielle, says she has a little horse and rider picture on her calendar to indicate when riding days are. Each night they cross a day off the calendar and Alicia gets more excited as the riding day approaches. She looks forward to horseback riding and pizza! Mom and dad stated that they are "amazed at how well she is doing with the program. She is accomplishing tasks and learning skills while her confidence is rising." The night she rode on a bareback pad for the first time, she smiled during the entire ride. Needless to say, we provide that experience often! She gives a little giggle when her coach makes silly noises like the animal that is on the picture she is looking for on the wall. When she rides past the window of the club room and sees her dad she calls out "dad, dad"....he waves and smiles at his girl.

Mom says that Alicia is very proud of her ribbons and trophies that she has earned for her horsemanship

accomplishments. When she receives a special ribbon for some unexpected accomplishment she has to show it to everyone as soon as she gets home. Mom has to hang it up on the wall right away, no waiting allowed. When visitors come to their home, they peek into her room to see her

trophies and ribbons and praise her. They are then blessed with that quick little smile. Her most favorite thing in the world is her daddy and after that comes Walt Disney movies, swimming and computer games. She turns on the computer by herself and loves to play "Freddie Fish". Right up there in priorities are French fries and ketchup. Alicia is a very special young woman and when you work with her you have the privilege of entering her world just a little. You are there with her as she sits on her horse quietly listening to what you are saying and giving little jerks back and forth to ask her horse to turn and to stop. She always remembers at the end of the lesson to give her horse a gentle 'thank you' pat on the neck before she walks away. Thank you for allowing us to share this adventure with you, Alicia. Congratulations - We're very proud of you!



Alicia & Tacoma

Why Fund Raising?

Some people have asked why we do so much fundraising. First and foremost we receive no third party/medical reimbursement for the services that we provide. Most service fees are paid by individual pay, respite grants, and/or special waivers. For those who do not have access to any funding, full and/or partial scholarships are offered. This is a result of the Board of Directors commitment to not turn away any qualified participant because of their inability to pay.

As a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization, Mounted Eagles has an opportunity to obtain funds from individuals and from other non-profit organizations in the form of donations or grants. All donations are tax deductible. Over the past 16 years we have been very blessed to receive financial support from area organizations such as Jaycees, Lions Clubs, VFWs, Rotary Clubs, Sertoma Clubs, American Legions, Knights of Columbus, church groups and others. We have also been able to secure grant monies from organizations such as the Initiative Foundation, Minnesota Horse Council, American Quarter Horse Association, Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation, Private foundations and others. In addition, we have received over \$5,000 worth of in-kind donations during CY 2009. While some organizations continue to fund us, others have had to tighten their belts and streamline their guidelines for giving. We have suffered from those cutbacks for several reasons. There are many more non-profits who are asking for help and there are many who reach a larger number of the population in our five county area. Funders that I have spoken with assure me that they consider what we do very important and vital but because we are *smaller* we don't make as big of an impact as larger organizations do. Therefore, funding goes to those who make a bigger impact on the communities--sad, but understandable.

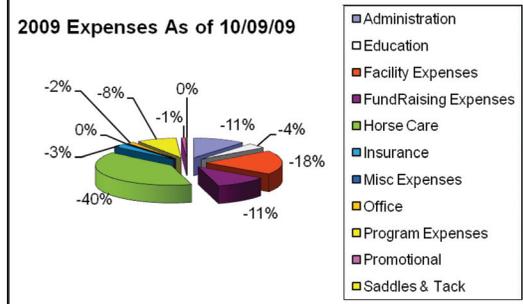
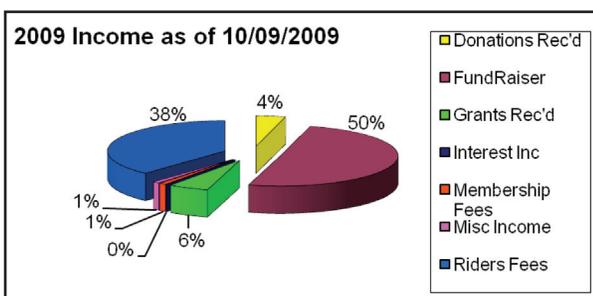
We currently have 66 riders in our program. Of that 66, 18 receive financial assistance from the Mounted Eagles' Ridership Fund. Another five riders receive funding from the Air Warrior Courage Foundation (AWCF). AWCF is a non-profit organization who provides funding especially for therapeutic riding for the children of our Veterans. In the past, the program has included active and inactive members of any branch of the armed forces. This year they had to streamline their guidelines to include children of only active members. Fortunately those children who have been receiving funding will be grandfathered into the program and funds will continue to be provided as long as they are available. We have had three riders who have lost waivers or respite grants and have had to request financial assistance. Cutbacks are everywhere--except in expenses. Individuals who receive funding from the Mounted Eagles Ridership fund are required to be represented at a minimum of two of the fundraising events during the calendar year in order to help raise funds for the program. This is so they will feel that they are giving back a small portion of what their family member is gaining from the program.

Spirit Horse Center is very generous with Mounted Eagles and supports our program very much. However, they are a business and need to survive as well. While we charge participants in our program \$20 per lesson, our cost is \$43.29 per lesson. Therefore, we have to raise \$23.29 for every participant who is in the program in order to cover our expenses.

The largest expense we have is for the care and well-being of our horses. Without them we could not deliver the smiles that you see on your child's face every time they ride or hear them get excited when it's time to go to the barn. You would not be able to see them take their first step after riding, say their first word, win their first blue ribbon, trust someone to be a constant in their lives or sleep through the night out of the fetal position for the first time because their muscles are so relaxed from riding the horse. The horses and their movement, trusting dispositions and their dedication make this and much more possible.

We know that fund raising is not always a pleasant thing and when a parent has multiple children, it seems there is always something that needs funding. Businesses are approached multiple times daily and asked to support some worthy cause. They can't afford to do it all either. Therapeutic Horsemanship is the "extra curricular activity" for those who cannot play physical sports or be in the band or speech club. We have heard many parents say that horsemanship belongs to that child just as football, soccer or basketball belongs to the other children in the family. We need as much financial support as other sports and clubs. We have always encouraged Mounted Eagles' participants and their families to feel ownership in the program and give us feedback that will help improve the services that we provide. Ownership comes in helping keep the organization financially healthy as well. That is why we ask them to help in any way that they can to assist with these fund raising events. One might not be able to give much money, but perhaps he/she can help make the event a success by working the day of and by spreading the word and encouraging friends and family members to attend; asking your church for a special collection for the riding program--happens all the time for other sports. Don't get me wrong, they are deserving programs and make wonderful impacts on our young peoples' lives, but so do we. We just use a horse instead of a ball and some people don't realize that we give much more to these special children and adults than a pony ride. If you are a parent or caregiver of a participant in the Mounted Eagles, you can help by helping others understand the impact this program has on your special person. We love the opportunity to speak at churches or community organizations and tell more about how our program operates.

I hope I have answered the original question to your satisfaction and that you have a better understanding of "Why Fund Raising?" If not, please contact me at any time and I'll be happy to discuss in more detail the financial operations of Mounted Eagles and why we need your help. We also welcome new ideas on how we can raise funds to keep us helping our participants "mount up as with wings like eagles." God Bless and many thanks to all of those who do help!



Aggie Stroot, Executive Director
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Happy Birthday

August

Karlee S	Katie R	Tara S
Tyler B	Cullin C	Robyn B
Melissa S	Levi R	Sarah F
Tiffany C	Rosae W	Wendy N
Norma Jean N	Kaitlyn M	Vicky S
Jenny A	Coryn VG	

September

Bethany L	Danielle L
Kayla C	Lee R
Kelly W	Bud R
Mary H	Bonnie B
Sandy S	Ramona S
Tammy B	Missy P

October

Pat H	Jean C
Zachary E	Sandy Z
Cindy R	Tate B
Erin S	

2009 Calendar of Events

Nov. 7 Non-Profit Day at WestGate Mall
Nov. 18-23 NARHA National Conference
Dec. 17 Last Day of Riding for 2009

Watch www.mountedeagles.org for updated 2009 Calendar of Events

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

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