



The Mounted Eagles' Mane Tales



Therapeutic Horsemanship

Volume 8 ♦ Issue 4 ♦ October-December 2010

Mounted Eagles Special Olympics Equestrian Team Bring Home Gold!



Congratulations to Justin Fairbanks and Alicia Paine who represented Mounted Eagles for the first time in the Special Olympics Equestrian events on

August 20 in North Branch. Both riders competed in the English Obstacle Class in which the rider must steer their mount in a designated pattern around barrels, through a gate, in a circle and over poles. Alicia rode the course on her own without the assistance of a volunteer walking at her side. She won the gold medal in this event. Justin also rode in this class and decided to have a side walker with him. He won a silver medal. Their next ride was English Equitation in which the rider must walk, trot, halt and back their horse. Justin won a gold medal and Alicia won the silver in this class.

Riders and coaches were all smiles after their rides. Their victories were not only winning medals, but the thrill of training, riding strange horses, driving to North Branch and performing their routines flawlessly. It was a day they truly felt like the Olympians they were!

Both coaches and riders put in extra time in the saddle to prepare them for their competition. Thank you to Lynn Fairbanks, Susie Bailiff, Becky Clarkin and to our sponsors Spirit Horse Center and Grattan Healthcare.



Special Olympics Medal Winners
Alicia and Jason

Wishing everyone in the Mounted Eagles family a safe and joyous Holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Walk-N-Roll

So they can ride

The six mile walk from the Nisswa Chamber gazebo to the Trailside Center in Pequot Lakes was completed by 39 walkers and rollers. The walk was followed by a spaghetti dinner and entertainment by the CC Chips Band from Little Falls who entertained diners with gospel and country music. Congratulations goes to

Richard Langer from Pierz, the winner for the individual with the most pledges collected--a total of \$689.00! Justin Fairbanks' team was the team with the most participants, great job Justin!

Under the leadership of Chairperson Lynn Fairbanks, 18 volunteers put in 235 hours of prep time to ensure a successful event and saw a total event attendance of 85. There were 58 sponsors for T-shirts, Start/Finish Line, Entertainment, Silent Auction, Mile Markers and In-Kind Donations. Total Revenues collected were \$11,733 with In-Kind Donations of \$4,945. Thank you to all walk participants and volunteers for a great day!

Many Thanks to our Sponsors:

Entertainment Sponsor - Lakeland Agency, Pequot Lakes
Start Line Sponsor - Garrison VFW Post 1816
Finish Line Sponsor - Pequot Lakes Physical Therapy Services
Spaghetti Dinner - Roma of Rice donated all of the food items for the dinner

T-Shirt Sponsors: CTC - Consolidated Telephone Company, Grand Casino Mille Lacs, Grattan Healthcare, Crow Wing Recycling, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Chapter 31300-A Caring Abounds Communities Project, Brainerd Lakes Surgery Center, Landis Gyr+

Mile Marker Sponsors: Anonymous Donor; Baxter Lions Club; Brainerd Kiwanis Club; Colleen & Irwin Langren; Crosby Eye Clinic; Cuyuna Range Lions Club; Cuyuna Regional Medical Center; Jim, Shirley, & Tate Boelter; John & Janet Moran; Melodie & Sami Salzi; Nisswa Tax Service; Scott Stroot; Ameriprise of Baxter; VFW Post 1816 (Garrison); Vleck Family (Dan, Amy & Cody); Watt Automotive



Rider of the Quarter - Sharon Loring

Sharon Loring is a lovely, unassuming woman. She lives in a group home in Brainerd and works in-house for Productive Alternatives. Sharon loves to be out and about, doing some shopping or just to have a look around. A trip that she considers special is her trip to the barn on Tuesday evenings to horseback ride with the Mounted Eagles therapeutic horsemanship program. Sharon walks in quietly and gives a little wave and a big smile as you greet her. She then finds her helmet and prepares for her ride. When it's her turn to ride, she walks up the mounting ramp and waits patiently to mount her favorite horse, a bay Arabian named Ace. Once mounted on Ace, she listens carefully to her coach and then asks Ace to walk on. She walks Ace around the arena and then does her stretches as requested.

Next, Sharon focuses on the verbal requests from her coach to ride to the different parts of the arena. She needs very little correction as she always remembers what she has been taught in previous lessons. Sharon has autism and anxiety disorder. She is able to walk and trot very nicely but prefers to quietly walk her horse sitting tall in her saddle. She worked very hard practicing the pole bending and the keyhole events for this year's Participant Horse Show in November. Sharon received two second place ribbons for her efforts! We were very proud of her!

Along with riding at Mounted Eagles, Sharon loves going to Camp Confidence a few times every month through all seasons. She enjoys being outside and going out to eat. Playing bingo at the senior citizens center is another favorite. Sharon cooks for the residents of her group home once a week. She is given several choices of what to cook, but she really likes making lasagna the best. Sharon's very favorite thing to do is to play computer games. She excels at Play Station, and also puzzle books and word finds. At the end of her Rider of the Quarter interview, she smiled and said "and I like anything chocolate."

Congratulations Sharon, on being rider of the quarter and a very special lady.



Photo by Jan Moran

Ridership Program

Mounted Eagles has made a commitment that no eligible participant will be turned away because of their inability to pay for services. To meet this commitment, full or partial Riderships are provided to those individuals who meet the eligibility criteria. If Mounted Eagles could not provide this much needed financial assistance, several members of our community would not benefit from the mental, emotional, and/or physical rewards gained through their participation in equine-assisted activities. Sadly, these participants would not have the opportunity to talk with their peers at school about their horseback riding experiences the way football, basketball and hockey players do. They wouldn't be able to show off the ribbons they won in the horse show or how strong their arm and leg muscles have become because they "work out" on horseback.

2010 Statistics:

- 25% (16 individuals) have received full financial assistance
- 12% (8 individuals) received partial financial assistance
- 6.3% (4 individuals) receive funding through the Air Warrior's Courage Foundation (AWCF)
- Remaining 56.7% are privately paid or paid through waivers or grant monies obtained by their parents.

For 2011 we anticipate a 15% growth in the number of riders who will need financial assistance. It is expected that 69% will need full assistance and 31% partial assistance, equating to \$21,744.

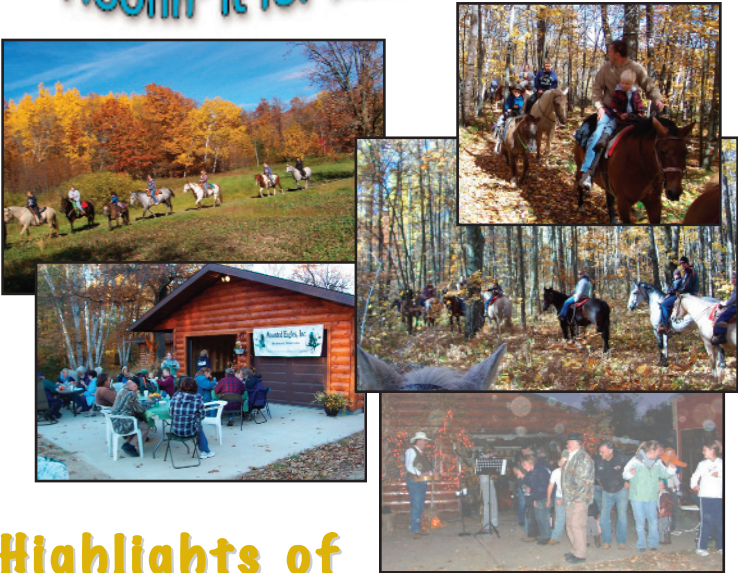
The number of people affected may appear low in comparison to other programs, however, if you consider the amount of time that is available to provide these services, it is indeed a definite proportional need. Mounted Eagles only has 20 hours of arena time available - 16 hours of actual riding time. There is no third-party reimbursement available for our services. Grant monies are not as readily available and individual giving is down.

If Mounted Eagles can continue to provide Riderships, a participant may for the first time be able to complete an outlined pattern because of the concentration they have mastered by riding through patterns laid out in the arena. They might, for the first time, be able to shake someone's hand and look them in the eye because of the trust they've gained by working with the volunteers at the barn.

There are 38 riding lessons per year at the cost of \$20 per lesson. \$760 will sponsor one rider for the calendar year. You can donate by sending a check to: Mounted Eagles, Inc., 6504 59th Ave SW, Motley, MN 56466.

We are grateful for any donation no matter what the amount!

Hoofin' it for Mounted Eagles



Highlights of Participant Horse Show

Oct. 17
Oct. 24



Photos by Jan Moran

2011 Calendar of Events

Jan. 4	Volunteer Training
Jan TBD	Rider and Volunteer Banquet
Jan. 11	Riding Season Begins
Jan. 22	Brainerd Jaycees Ice Fishing Extravaganza
Jan. 29	Spirit of the Horse Gala at Spirit Horse Center
Apr. 4	Volunteer Training
June 18	Dressage Schooling Show (Benefit Show)
Aug. 15	Volunteer Training
Sep. 10	Walk N Roll, So They Can Ride
Sep. 30-Oct. 2	Hoofing It for Mounted Eagles
Oct. 13	Volunteer Training

Watch www.mountedeagles.org for updated calendar.

Can Collection Trailer

We are looking for a new site for our Can Collection trailer. Jack's has been gracious to let us park the trailer there for the last few years and we appreciate it so much; however, we don't seem to be collecting many cans. If you know of a prime location where we would be allowed to park the trailer, please contact Aggie at 218.568.5883.

New Riders

Tony H Jaden G
Andrew T Kaleb G
Shelby D

New Volunteers

Abby Q Angela W
Melanie D Clayton W
Barbara F



Happy Birthday

October			November			December		
Cindy R	Jessica L	Bill S	Emily G	Debra G	Marcia M			
Erin S	Cody V	Erica B	Alicea P	Kristi D	Kristae L			
Jean C	Sharon L	Jessica M	Kelly O	Tasha L	Kris O			
Sandy Z	Kelsey W	Aggie S	Victoria L	Sherry S	Patti J			
Tate B			Debra S	Alexa K	Kathy P			

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