



The Mounted Eagles'



Mane Tales

Volume 13 ♦ Issue 9 ♦ April-June 2022

30 Year Celebration: Mounted Eagles is excited to be celebrating 30 years of service in the Brainerd Lakes area. It is with great pleasure that we have had the opportunity to serve individuals with special needs. Mounted Eagles was incorporated as a nonprofit in 1990, receiving official non-profit status in 1992 and becoming an accredited therapeutic horsemanship center under NARHA (North American Riding for the Handicapped) in 1993. Mounted Eagles has grown from our founder's backyard with two participants to a number of participants in excess of 60 at one time. Mounted Eagles operated at Susie Bailiff's house until 1995 when it moved to Clare B Farm in the South Long Lake area. In 2000 there was a move to Four Winds Horse Center. Mounted Eagles became a Premier Accredited Therapeutic Riding Center under NARHA in 2005 and has retained these credentials through 2022 under NARHA's international successor PATH, Intl (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship, Intl). Since 2008 we have been proud to call Spirit Horse Center our home. In thirty years Mounted Eagles has been served by numerous dedicated volunteers, helped hundreds of participants see their full potential, witnessed the love and understanding our special horses have to give and developed a thriving board of directors. We are excited to celebrate these accomplishment at our annual fall fundraiser, An Evening for ME. We hope to see you there! A date is yet to be set, but the event will be in October. We have come a LONG way since 1992 and we are hopeful that Mounted Eagles can continue serving the surrounding communities for many more years! Mounted Eagles' aspirations for the program is growth, healthy horses, loving volunteers and riders who look forward to coming, feel amazing when they leave and develop a higher self-esteem. These last thirty years could not be possible without our founder; Susie Bailiff, the devoted volunteers we have and the generosity of sponsors and donors!

Board Happenings

The Annual Membership meeting was held on April 11. Guests, members, and the board were present discussing news from the previous year, a summary of our most recent fundraiser; Giovanni's Pizza Sales and elections. The board of directors' officially elected the board chairperson, vice chair and secretary. We anticipate increasing the number of directors on our board in 2022. The board welcomes its newest member; Colleen Reber. The board is seeking the participation of individuals to serve on our Program or Fundraising/Public Relations committees, ANYONE can serve on a committee; volunteer, parent/caregiver, or community member. Special Event volunteers are always welcome too!!

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.



FAREWELL TO BOARD MEMBER EVA FROEHE

Hello, my name is Eva Froehle and I served on the board of directors and Public Relations and Fundraising committee for three years. It has been my utmost pleasure to be a part of the organization. I have thoroughly enjoyed watching the program flourish into the growing organization it is today! I found pleasure in writing the quarterly newsletters, volunteer at various fundraising events and bring new ideas to the program. I look forward to watching the organization grow from a different perspective! I wish the program great success and cannot wait to see where the next 30 years takes the program! -

Eva Froehle

A DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW

SPOTLIGHT ON WAYS TO HELP

A fun and easy way to help out to the program is by shopping through Amazon Smiles. It requires no heavy lifting and supports the program in an impactful way! A percentage of the money you spend goes to a non-profit and why not have that non-profit be Mounted Eagles! Even your business can be connected to Amazon Smiles. It's easy, go to www.smile.amazon.com do your shopping, and select 'Mounted Eagles' as the nonprofit organization you want a percentage of your purchase to go to. It is not an extra cost incurred by you, rather the seller

Executive Director's Note

With our annual meeting behind us, new and existing board members are preparing to tackle developing new programs, strengthening their roles and the upcoming fundraising year. I would like to acknowledge the extra work the Board of Directors is doing to educate themselves on how to work better together, strategic planning and identifying areas that need attention to continue the success of Mounted Eagles as a thriving non-profit in the Brainerd Lakes Area. I appreciate each one of them and their investment in Mounted Eagles. - *Lynn Fairbanks*

THE GAP

The GAP can be a tricky topic to discuss in many nonprofit organizations; for Mounted Eagles it is the difference between the actual cost of lesson fees versus the costs incurred by the program. Funding the GAP for our program can be done in many ways, grants, donations, but most importantly fundraisers! Fundraisers are a VITAL need to continue the success of our program. Without the generosity of sponsors from our annual fundraisers, the services we provide could not be done to their fullest potential. These events can be labor intensive, yet the reward of attributing to the success of our program is worth it all! "A recent studied showed that when kids are around horses it activates the part of the brain related to empathy." "If being with horses can help a child develop empathy, then a horse can help change the world."

Pizza Sale Wrap-UP

We had another fabulous year of pizza sales. We ended our selling period on April 7th. We sold 1312 pizzas within the community. Gabby M. was our top seller, selling 151 pizzas! 34 people participated in the sale, which consisted of program participants, volunteers, board members and Brainerd area business. We had twelve new sellers, fifteen people sold 40 or more pizzas, four sold 30 or more and five sold 20 or more! Since we exceeded our goal of 1,000 pizzas we will be celebrating with a rootbeer float party very soon. Other individual seller incentives will be presented as well and include special sessions with horses, convertible rides and DQ treats! Mounted Eagles' is truly grateful for the willingness and generosity of so many individuals who took part in this delicious fundraiser!

Read-N-Meet

Our Community



In September of 1995 Aggie enrolled her 5 year old son Jacob in the Mounted Eagles program after his physical therapist recommended that she thought it would be good therapy for him. After riding only two times, Jacob took his first independent steps! Aggie and Bill were Amazed!!!! They were so grateful to have found this type of activity for him and he truly loved it. God had other plans for Jacob and in November of that same year, HE called him to his heavenly home. BUT, Aggie wasn't done - in January of 1996 Susie called and asked Aggie if she would be interested in volunteering with the program. Having had horses of her own in the past, Aggie already had the love for the animals and knew how peaceful one became when around the mighty animal. So she said Yes, adding "I may cry while walking around with the kids, but I'll be there to help". Yes personal experience is what brought her to Mounted Eagles. Leading became Sidewalking that became teaching that became becoming a Certified Instructor that became serving on the board of directors that became becoming Executive Director that became 26 years later and she's still here!!! Aggie currently serves as the Board of Directors treasurer, substitute instructor and on several committees. Aggie also has generously leased her horse, Kyd, to the program. Aggie's husband, Bill, has also been a real supporter of the program and of Aggie's passion for the horses and the participants. They both are great advocates for Mounted Eagles and whenever there is an activity or something that needs to be done, you'll more than likely find both of them right in the middle of it!

Jenny Aulie is our longest continuous rider with the program. Jenny has a supportive family including mom and dad, brothers, and their spouses and nieces and nephews who pack the bleachers at horse shows and come to celebrate with her at our annual rider banquet. This is a quote from her mom, Marci, about Jenny's experience with Mounted Eagles: Over the past 28 years, that we have been involved with Mounted Eagles, I have witnessed nothing short of miracles. I have personally seen riders that couldn't ride independently, that do ride independently now. Riders that were wheelchair bound that are walking. A rider removing his gloves to touch the horse and let the horse feed from his hand when previously this wasn't possible. I recently witnessed a rider that could not sit up straight on the horse that now sits up straight. I have seen many smiles and high 5's, and watched self-esteem soar. This has been paramount in Jennifer's life. Jenny has expressed to me many times about how much she has learned from all of the different horses she has been blessed to ride and instructors and "helpers" she has worked with over the years. Her physical strength has increased and this allows for easier ambulation, especially after her lessons. She is able to sit straight on her horse and keep her hands and legs still. She has gained control over her horse allowing her to ride independently. Her neurologist has noticed increased muscle strength also. The best thing about her lessons is the ever present smile that NEVER leaves her face. She is grateful to be able to ride and looks forward to each lesson.

At the annual horseshows I have shed many tears witnessing the excitement and improvement of the different riders, including Jenny.

I could write a book about how I feel about Mounted Eagles. But let me sum it up in two words that Jennifer and I agree 100% on; "LOVE and MIRACLES". We are happy Jenny and her family are part of our Mounted Eagles Family!!!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 12	Community Ed Dance at Cragun's Legacy Pavilion
May/June	Pie and Projects
June 22	Volunteer Training
June 25	Arts in the Park
July 23	Annual Raffle Starts
August 24	Open house
October 19	Pints for a Purpose
October (date TBD)	An Evening For ME and Raffle drawing with 30 Year Celebration

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

Lynn Fairbanks, Executive Director; Susie Baillif, Sr. Instructor

Board of Directors; Gladys Behymer, Chairperson; Christine Bergin, Vice Chairperson, Kalynn Ruis, Secretary; Aggie Stroot, Treasurer; Eva Froehle, Newsletter Editor; Mara Lundquist, Board member; Colleen Reber, Board Member

Facility Location: Spirit Horse Center, 8386 50th Ave., Brainerd 56401

Visit our website at www.mountedeagles.org or call 1-888-828-9920



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Mounted Eagles
PO Box 566
Nisswa, MN 56468