

# Majestic Hills Ranch Foundation

24580 Dakota Avenue  
Lakeville, MN 55044

Phone: 952-888-6077  
www.majestichillsranch.org

NON PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
MPLS, MN  
PERMIT NO. 30881

Fall 2010  
Volume 3, Issue 3



24580 Dakota Ave  
Lakeville, MN 55044  
www.majestichillsranch.org  
(952) 426-5688

### Inside this issue:

2010 Volunteers	2
2010 Volunteer Groups	3
Foundations/ Corporations/Civic Organizations	3
2010 Morning Session Child of the Year	4
2010 Evening Session Child of the Year	5
"E Komo Mai!" Event Supporters	6
2010 Individual Fundors	7
Board of Directors	8

## Majestic Hills Ranch Foundation



### 2010 Season in Review

By Vicki Benson



Time flies when you're having fun! The 2010 riding season is now in the books. As always, we saw a lot of change, learned some lessons, and are looking forward to the 2011 riding season. This season we had 99 active riders in our program from all over the Twin Cities. Between May and October, they received therapy outside of a clinical setting and inspired the staff and volunteers with their smiles and hard work. Our annual picnics for HopeKids and Cornerstone gave us the chance to provide a day of fun to chronically ill children and those facing domestic upheaval. This year 1,969 hours of service were provided to the kids, while over 205 volunteers donated 4,804 hours of their precious personal time to the ranch.

This season saw the introduction of our advanced riding program with Brenda Steinhauer. Working almost exclusively one-on-one with Brenda, the nine riders involved started independent riding lessons. Switching up equipment and horses, Brenda challenged the kids to work with their horse, and they learned that horses sometimes don't do what you ask them to. Problem-solving and assertiveness were other key lessons. Because of Brenda's dedication and hard work getting this program up and running, Brenda received the Volunteer of the Year Award for 2010.



We also saw the start of our pilot "Heroes on Horseback" program for military veterans. This year, 15 veterans enjoyed the peace and tranquility of the ranch and a chance to get out of the hospital setting. Six of them were able to take therapeutic riding sessions and their physical therapists were amazed at how quickly they demonstrated improvement. Throughout the next couple years, we will continue to grow all programs.



During the year, we were able to partner with volunteer groups from some new companies to help with projects around the ranch. Blue Cross and Blue Shield once again provided the majority of our volunteers for the picnics. Caribou Coffee and Target sent groups who pulled weeds, trimmed trees, filled post holes and landscaped, all of which helped us to keep the grounds looking well manicured and clean. Our spring and fall clean up days were well populated with groups from Our Lady of Grace Middle School, River Valley Church, the Prior Lake High School equestrian club, and Girl Scout Troop #52109.

Now we begin to look towards the 2011 riding season. More lessons to learn, more changes, and more smiles from the kids await; more healing successes with our veterans are in store ... and it will all be here sooner than we expect! Have a happy and safe holiday season. Registration forms for 2011 should go out in February.



### Board of Directors

#### Executives

**CJ Pierson, Board President**  
ASI Employment  
Vice President of Human Resources

**Carol Meagher, Treasurer**  
ASI Employment  
Accounting Manager

**Larry Johnson, Vice President**  
ASI Employment  
Director of Sales & Service

**Jennifer McKenna Vogen, Secretary**  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield  
Principal Business Analyst

#### Members

**Mary Lee Enfield, Ph.D.**  
Educational Psychologist  
Co-Owner, Language Circle Ent., Inc.

**Kim Howard**  
ASI Employment  
Owner/President

**Virginia Latocki**  
Western National Insurance  
Human Resources Manager

**Heather Harden**  
LPL Financial  
Branch Manager & Investment Advisor

**Sandy Jarrett**  
Gerand Engineering Company  
Owner/President

**Wayne Mertz**  
Alternative Graphics, Inc.  
Owner/President

*No hour of life  
is wasted  
that is spent  
in the saddle.*

*~Winston  
Churchill*

## 2010 Volunteers

The Board of Directors, Molly, Brenda, Craig and I would like to recognize the following volunteers for their hard work and dedication to the children and veterans. We could not do what we do without all of these dedicated people:

Robin Adkins	Carole Dunn	Megan Lane	Kim Purdon
Brian Aikey	Gina Durgin	Emily Larson	Amanda Ramey
Jessica Allison	Erica Easterlin	Rachel Larson	Rachel Ringstead
Ben Anderson	Taleen Elias	Molly Lass	Molly Rootes
David Anderson	Kelly Elmer	Julie Leon	Taylor Rush
Kim Anderson	Amelia Elverson	Deb Lindsay	Jeneen Sago
Maddie Anderson	Christopher Em	Pat Long	Mary Ellen Schmid
Sarah Anderson	Erik Espinoza	Amy Lopez	Deb Scott
Sheri Angen	Jennifer Espinoza	Amber Lord	Maddie Scott
Ingrid Bakke	Tucker Everett	Tammy Lord	Wendy Sherman
Mary Ballengee	Jenny Falk	Michael Lorinser	Lindsay Sheuchuk
Kelly Batdorf	Judy Finke	Frankie Lubeley	Jenny Skluzacek
Libby Bauer	Emily George	Wendy Matthews	Shelby Skrien
Amanda Bayer	Christine Gerrelts	Andria Mattlin	Mary Smith
Kristen Bayer	Meriah Gillard	Jessica McGuire	Paul Smith
Courtney Beck	Tonya Gillmore	Jordynn McGuire	Caitlyn Snyder
McKenna Belgarde	Caitlyn Girdner	Chessie McHugh	Clare Soderling
Madeline Bennett	Paul Gonzalez	Carol Meagher	Gina Sorren
Vicki Benson	Anno Goshgarian	Annie Meixner	Tyler Spratt
Grace Berkeland	Holly Graffunder	Gretchen Meixner	Brenda Steinhauer
David Betters	Thomas Haavisto	Megan Melzer	Caitlyn Steinhauer
Megan Blair	Leila Habashi-Movafaghi	Karen Meyer	Jeff Steinkamp
Sheri Blesener	Laura Haider	Krista Meyer	Janette Stodola
Mikayla Blevins	Tammy Hauer	Ashley Miller	Ellie Tealander
Cindy Bobs	Kirk Hawk	Alexis Mohs	Peggy Stromstad
Katie Boehm	Alissa Hernandez	Julianne Mohs	Jean Sutton
Marcus Bolton	Theresa Hoang	Albert Morales	Craig Swanson
Elizabeth Boyd	Patricia Hobot	Fran Morgan	Lisa Sweere
Joanne Boyd	Jaimee Hoefert	Orville Morgan	Wenda Taxdahl
Rachel Brankley	Megan Hondl	Kaelyn Mulcahy	Carly Telander
Becky Brown	Kim Howard	Pamela Neal	Suzanne Terry
Melody Buch	Shea Howell	Courtney Neher	Stacey Tessmer
Shirley Buchberger	Madison Humfer	Hannah Nelson	Tia Tessmer
Kim Burk	Christina Ibarra	Judy Nelson	Chuck Thalhuber
Sean Burk	Sasha Isenberg	Mary Grace Nelson	Jesse Torres
Anne Bueltel	Marcie Jay	Melissa Nelson	Suzanne Turner
Brett Burkhard	Clara Johnson	Peggy Nelson	Hannah Wacker
Aaron Busch	Emma Johnson	Raun Nelson	Jack Walterman
Devan Busch	Kristin Johnson	Savannah Ness	Marcia Wehmeyer
Maddi Buscho	Tyler Kalkman	Pam Nippa	Emily Wendorff
Kari Cable-Spratt	Samantha Kaufman	Leah Nystuen	Kris Wendorff
Colleen Callahan	Caitlyn Keo	Kimberly Olea	Sarah Werner
Cris Cannon	Josef Kerkinni	Nicole Oliver	Alex Whitehead
Emily Caskey	Brittney Knoke	Jeff Olson	Emily Wick
McKenna Caspers	Liz Komarek	Kristi Osiak	Amanda Wiemann
Iris Chandler	Ben Kotz	Beth Palo	Mark Wirfs
Allison Christiansen	Janet Kotz	Krista Peterson	Mollie Young
Colleen Chwialkowski	Laura Kotz	Mason Peterson	Greg Yung
Cindi Cotes	Jennifer Kowalski	CJ Pierson	Nicole Zaun
Emily Couture	Jackie Kramer	Dave Pinke	Kris Zieska
Barbara Davis	Hillary Kroehler	Nancy Pinke	Holly Zimmerman
Nicollette Deason	Kahlie Kroells	Jill Polinski	Lindsey Zocher
Donna Dobrzynski	Ashley Kroubetz	Marissa Pride	
Donna Domino	Lou Lachter	Trevor Prinsen	

***Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless,  
but because they're priceless. ~Sherry Anderson***

## 2010 Individual Funders

We would like to thank the following individuals for their generous support this last season:



### Over \$500.00

Alison Bakken  
Chris Benson  
Mary Lee Enfield  
Susan Gallagher  
Leo Polack

**\$251.00 - \$500.00**  
Always Handy Handyman



### \$101.00 - \$250.00

Janet Favorite  
Iris Chandler  
Susan Maples

### Up to \$100.00

Dick Ahern  
Lynn Bauer  
Stephen Bennett  
Joe Briol  
Loren Daniels  
William Fritz  
Jennifer Gorvin  
Victoria Greene  
Joel Helmberger  
Anne Knapp  
Kathleen Lomauro  
Carol Meagher  
Kevin Odefey  
Laurie Ohland  
Amy Raetz  
Linda Selchow  
Jessica Selchow  
Hugh Thompson  
Jennifer Vogen  
Kim Wangerin-Langevin





# “E Komo Mai!” Event Supporters

The following businesses and individuals contributed to the success of our main event with their donations. Thank you for your support!

- |                               |                              |                           |                             |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Alaskan Fur Company           | Glass by SASS                | Ben LaBathe               | Park Theatre                |
| Allegra Print & Imaging       | Grand Casino Hinckley        | Lakeville Theatres        | CJ Pierson                  |
| Alternative Graphics Printing | Kim Grinstead                | James Larson              | Plymouth Playhouse          |
| ASI Employment                | Guthrie Theater              | John Larson               | ReAnna Stables              |
| John & Connie Benson          | Steve & Luanna Hacker        | Ginny Latocki             | Red Lobster                 |
| Breadsmith                    | Ted Halone                   | Lolamax                   | Michael & Amber Reiter      |
| Buca di Beppo                 | Heather Harden               | Majestic Hills Ranch      | Jan Renfrow                 |
| Cafe Latté                    | Haskell's                    | Mall of America           | Ristorante Luci in St. Paul |
| Canterbury Park               | Bruce Hawkinson              | Carol Meagher             | RJF Agencies                |
| Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Caputa      | Heather's Housekeeping       | Medina Entertainment      | Rocco Altobelli             |
| Caribou Coffee                | Hiawatha Golf Course         | Minnesota Orchestra       | Room & Board                |
| Chez Daniel Bistro            | Holiday Inn Express          | Minnesota Twins           | Schuler Shoes               |
| Jon Clark                     | Holiday Inn St. Paul         | Minnesota Vikings         | The Science Museum          |
| Linda Cordova                 | Kim Howard                   | Minnesota Wild            | Sunsets                     |
| Costco                        | Ichiban Japanese Steak House | Minnesota Zoo             | Target                      |
| Courtyard Marriott            | Kay Ireland                  | Mixed Blood Theatre       | TGI Fridays                 |
| Dale Studios                  | Sandy Jarrett                | Mystic Lake Casino Hotel  | Toro Corporation            |
| Dept. 56                      | Mike Jennings                | Debra Neuman              | Travel Leaders              |
| Divine Equine Services        | Jimmy's Food & Cocktails     | Northern Tool & Equipment | Kim Turner                  |
| Elko Speedway                 | Larry Johnson                | Old Log Theatre           | Sharon Wienandt             |
| Mary Lee Enfield, Ph.D.       | Kalynn Kay Photography       | Olive Garden              | Dana Wills                  |
| Linda Flicek                  | La Quinta Inn & Suites       | The Palomino              |                             |



# 2010 Volunteer Groups

Thank you to the following groups and organizations for their help at the ranch:



- Blue Cross and Blue Shield
- Caribou
- Convent of the Visitation
- Dakota County Department of Corrections
- Dakota County Youth Work Program
- Eastview National Honor Society
- Globe University/MN School of Business
- HoTC
- Our Lady of Grace Middle School
- Power Connections Youth Work Camp
- River Valley Lutheran Church, Apple Valley
- Scott County Department of Corrections
- Single Volunteers of the Twin Cities
- St. John's Summer Stretch Program, Prior Lake
- Target
- Volunteer Match

## Foundations/Corporations/Civic Organizations

We also wish to thank all of our funders who believe in what we do. Without their ongoing support, Majestic Hills would not be able to provide the service that it does to the children and the veterans.

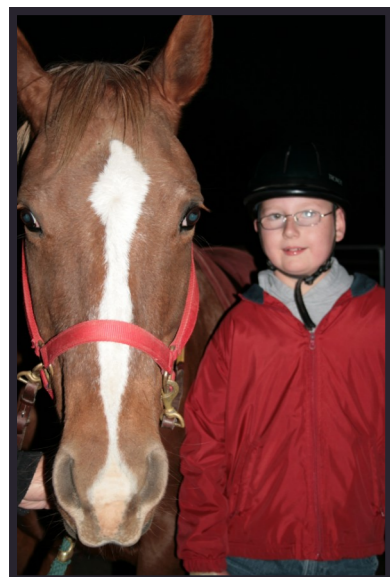
- |                              |                           |                            |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| ADC Foundation               | Hansen Family Foundation  | Sanger Family Foundation   |
| Allegra Print and Imaging    | Masterson Personnel       | Shjon Podein Team 25       |
| ASI Holding                  | Minnesota Valley Electric | TCF Foundation             |
| Blue Cross and Blue Shield   | Northfield VFW            | Teachers On Call           |
| Canterbury Foundation        | Northfield VFW Auxiliary  | Update Ltd.                |
| ChiroCenter Bloomington P.A. | Prior Lake Optimists      | Vets 4 Vets                |
| Farmington VFW               | Project Read              | VFW Post 4393              |
| Geo Technologies LLC         | RJF Agency                | Wal-Mart                   |
| Gerand Engineering Co.       | Roles Family Foundation   | Western National Insurance |

... AND OUR ANONYMOUS ANGEL

# Thank you very much!

## 2010 Morning Session Child of the Year Luke Mettlach

By Paul & Amy Mettlach



On behalf of Luke and our family, thank you for recognizing Luke as one of your "Riders of the Year."

When Luke was 8 months old, he was diagnosed with mild hemi-paresis Cerebral Palsy. The right side of his body is most affected which also impacts his balance. At 10 months old, he started therapy to both strengthen and stretch his muscles.

Luke successfully received therapy through Courage Center for many years and was ready to transition to another form of therapy. In the spring of 2007, one of the therapists at Courage Center recommended therapeutic riding into his routine and we were introduced to Majestic Hills Ranch. At that time, we were looking for fun ways to strengthen his core and stabilize his balance.

Luke has now finished his fourth riding season. He started his riding experience on a small pony, needing a lead and two sidewalkers that provided continual support. He has progressed to now riding big horses and only needing a lead and one sidewalker, that most time is purely there "just in case." In the fall of 2010, Luke experienced his first ride without the lead being in control. Luke was providing all of the physical and verbal cues to his horse Kitty. This is a clear sign of Luke's progress. The riding has strengthened his core and improved his posture and balance.

The staff and volunteers at Majestic Hills have done a great job of focusing on the needs of each individual. They incorporate stretches and create fun ways for Luke to use his right hand and arm. His core is strengthened through the riding itself, but also through the reaching exercises. His core has strengthened and his balance stabilized to the point where, if in a position where a railing is not available, he can walk up and down stairs independently.

Due to Luke's riding experiences at the ranch, we have witnessed other benefits beyond the physical ones. Riding at the ranch provides Luke an opportunity to excel at an activity of his own. He has developed a fondness and respect for the horses, he enjoys chatting and laughing with the volunteers, his confidence has increased, and he is proud when he earns a medal at the end of each riding season ... but most of all, he has fun.

As Luke's parents, we are thankful for the dedicated volunteers and generous donors that support the ranch by giving their time and financial support. We look forward to many more years.

## 2010 Evening Session Child of the Year Melissa Kunitz

By Deanna Kunitz



Majestic Hills Ranch has made a huge impact on Melissa's life. Melissa was born 2 weeks late and was slow meeting her milestones. She had strabismus, which is an eye condition where the eyes are working independently of each other. She had surgery to correct that when she was 18 months old. She also had several ear infections until we took her to a hearing specialist at 2 1/2 and they put tubes in her ears. Several of our relatives were insisting that we have her tested for autism, so we were referred to a pediatric neurologist where Melissa was diagnosed with MMI (mild mental impairment). It was after her diagnosis that we were able to get the special services she needed through the school district. One of the Paras that was working with Melissa mentioned that one of the other kids in Melissa's class was taking hippo therapy sessions, and suggested I look into them for Melissa. I began researching various websites regarding therapeutic riding and I discovered Majestic Hills. Melissa has been coming to the ranch for at least 8 years now with maybe 2 years off due to insurance issues. She took to the horses pretty

quickly and her love of horses just got stronger with every session. Every picture in her bedroom is horses with the exception of 1 picture of Jesus. Melissa was very clingy as a child and I couldn't go far without her crying in my absence. I used to have to stay in her room at night and wait for her to fall asleep before I could sneak out and go to bed myself. The ranch has opened so many doors for her. Over the years, Melissa has become much more confident and outgoing. Melissa also had large and small motor skill delays which the riding and working with the horses also improved. She has become quite the basketball player. She likes to shoot baskets as often as she can get out, and rarely does she miss the basket.

Over the years, Melissa has ridden many of the program horses. She started out with Cinnamon, Freckles, Kirby and a few others. The staff at the ranch always did an amazing job selecting the right horse for Melissa. After we returned from being away for the 2 years, Melissa started training with Mary and her horse Desi. I remember one summer day we drove out there to find it was just too hot to ride, so Mary asked Melissa if she wanted to help wash Desi; that was quite an experience for her. She became very close to both of them and when Desi could no longer be ridden, she made the switch to Kitty, adjusting well. It's even helped me become less afraid of horses.

I have recommended Majestic Hills to several people because I am so impressed with the positive impact it had on Melissa. She still has a hard time accepting it when the sessions need to be cancelled due to the weather, but it doesn't take long to make her understand and move on.

I am so grateful to Majestic Hills for being a part of our lives.