

RANCH RAMBLIN'S



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2009 Season in Review

By Vicki Benson, Executive Director

It is hard to believe, but the season has already come to a halt. It seems like only yesterday we were planning and preparing for the 2009 riding season. Once again this year we saw some major changes at the ranch and the lessons we have learned this season will be carried into the 2010 riding season.

This year, 85 children were active riders in the program, while our annual picnics for Hope Kids and Cornerstone gave over 200 other children a chance to spend some time at the ranch doing crafts, playing games and enjoying hayrides, taking pony rides and visiting the petting zoo animals. The children received over 2,284 hours of service while 180 volunteers donated over 4,185 hours of service to the ranch.

Our morning instructor, Molly, worked her magic again this year and continued to redesign the riding program with new games. Her creativity constantly amazed us all. The exciting result was that we were keeping the children and volunteers more engaged in the sessions and working the kids harder than in the past. Feedback from all involved has been overwhelmingly positive.

Throughout the year, we were the beneficiaries of a couple of groups' fundraising activities. McKesson Corporation held a Casual Day benefit and the Minnesota Quarter Horse and Trailriders Association selected us to benefit from their annual cattle sort and trail ride. We held fundraising events in partnership with Linder's Garden Center and Timber Lodge Steakhouse, and had a pancake breakfast and bake sale at Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church in Prior Lake. We held our annual garage sale in

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Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. ~World Health Organization

June and we hosted a very successful pig roast and benefit concert on the ranch grounds.

With great enthusiasm we look forward to the 2010 riding season. At this point, we are beginning to develop an advanced riding program for next year for those children who meet the established criteria. These classes will be led by Brenda Steinhauer, who has many years of experience with horses and teaching riding lessons. We are very excited about her involvement in the evolution of our advanced riding program.

Mark October 23, 2010 on your calendars for our main event next year! Have a happy and safe holiday season. Registration for the 2010 season will be mailed in February.



Morning Session Child of the Year Reier Vogen

By Jennifer Vogen

“This is Reier’s second season at

MHR. I don’t remember how we first learned of MHR, but I do remember our first visit. The ranch immediately felt welcoming and the staff illustrated their enthusiasm and sincerity in helping children and animals.

Reier has moderate to severe spastic quad cerebral palsy with epilepsy. When Reier began riding, he wasn’t able to hold up his head for any length of time. His riding helmet was too big and kept falling over his eyes. He would bury his face in his pony’s mane, which quickly taught us that Reier has a major allergy to horses! (Thank goodness for Claritin).

According to Reier’s orthopedic surgeon, riding is one of the best ways to help prevent, or at least

delay, some of the surgeries he will most likely need in the future.

Reier initially only tolerated 20 to 30 minutes of riding and went home exhausted. His trunk and neck strength were almost non-existent. By the end of the first year he was able to hold his head up on his own. His favorite part of riding this season was starting his therapy by brushing Molly, his tiny little pony. He was able to ride 45 minutes to an hour and we continued to work on “sit up straight”.

Not only has (sic) Reier’s motor skills improved, so have his social skills. Reier is defining his destiny and MHR is helping him to achieve his potential.”

Evening Session Child of The Year Ryan Kane

By Luann Kane

“My son, Ryan has cerebral Palsy.

I ..came across Majestic Hills Ranch when Ryan was 2 years old. Now, Ryan is 9 years old so he has been with Majestic Hills Ranch for 7 years. Ryan loves the ranch and loves having David and Nancy each week as his volunteers. Funny, the things that used to make Ryan scream and cry now make him laugh uncontrollably. The all time best is anytime his horse poops, pees or farts. You will hear nothing but hysterical

laughter from across the arena.

Since Ryan started at the ranch he has made so many gains in his life. Ryan’s overall balance has improved... Ryan’s walking has improved (and) Ryan’s loveable spirit has grown by leaps and bounds. (sic) When he first started, he would hardly say anything. Now, he gleefully says “walk on” to his horse and hardly stops talking to David the entire hour he is riding. Ryan loves coming to the ranch and seeing his horse each week and seeing his volunteers. Over the years, he has built a special bond with them and can hardly wait to get going.

And to everyone at Majestic Hills Ranch, I say “thank you” for giving my son the opportunity to ride a

horse as I had growing up. Thank you for all the time, energy, loving spirit and dedication you provide for all the riders. It wouldn’t happen without you.”



2009 Funders:

Thank you to the following foundations, corporations, and civic organizations for their program support :

AAA Reporting	Linder's Garden Center
Allegra Printing & Imaging	MN Valley Electric Trust
Alternative Graphics	Optimist Club of Prior Lake
American Quarter Horse Foundation	People in Business Care
Bromelkamp Company LLC	Petco
Canterbury Park	Securian Foundation
Casey Albert O'Neal	Shjon Podein Children's Foundation/Team 25
Dakota Electric	Truist
Hansen Family Foundation	Wal-Mart Foundation
The Elroy and Terry Krumholz Foundation	Windmill Feed

2009 Individual Funders:

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

Over \$500.00

Jeanne Ahrenholz
Mary Lee Enfield
Marilyn Listvan

\$251.00 - \$500.00

Alison Bakken
Susan Gallagher
Michelle & Christopher Hellie
Kim McKimmy
Karen Meyer
Michael & Shari Reiser
Stephen & Kristen Woodford

\$101.00 - \$250.00

Thomas Catania
Michelle Cerwick
Janet Favorite
Luanna Hacker
Carol Meagher
William & Connie Rosso
Douglas & Carol Skanse

Up to \$100.00

Donna Adams
Barry Alderink
Randy & Pamela Alderink
Thomas & Rita Anderson
Barbara Ashkar
Catherine Bannister
Lori Bassin
Dennis & Holly Jean Begin
Chris & Peg Benson
B.M. and L.J. Benson
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Paula & Gary Chambers
Marsha Chevalier
Tatyana Chizh
Darrin Christianson
Susan Clubb-Mueller
Tamara Connell
Betty Cook
Terry & Rancy Cook
Missy Dahms
Rhonda & David Dalbey
Loren Daniels
Claude & Barbara Davis
Robert & Julie Ann Deutsch
Tracy & Joan Engstrand
M.M.W. Fairely
Sherry Lynn Fincham
Sharon Fritze
Assefa Galeta
Stephanie Gasca
Cherly Gatchell
Catherine Glad

See Individual Funders continued on page 4

*Individual Contributors, continued from page 3***Up to \$100.00 cont.**

Dennis Glenna

Barbara & Gregory Golson

John & Karen Griffiths

Cory Grimm

Gregory Groess

Donne Anne Groetsch

Sharon Haas

Cindy Jo & Joe Hacker

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Kent Haft

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Irene & Michael Thielges

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Stacy & Jim Wickre

Gilbert Williams

Dana & Mike Wills

Heather Worm

Gary & Vicki Wyard

Eleanor Zanna Brown

Jerry & Laurie Zelesnikar

Karen Zupancich

Sometimes, hope is what makes us smile. Other times, a smile is what can bring us hope.

Volunteers of the Year

Barb Davis and Janette Stodola



From the left: Diana Pierce, Janette Stodola, Barb Davis and Kim McKimmy at the Year End Event.

We say it again and again, but without the help of our dedicated volunteers, we would not be able to offer the services we do at Majestic Hills Ranch. Each year, we like to recognize a volunteer who has gone above and beyond the call of duty for MHR as our Volunteer of the Year. This year, we had two exceptional volunteers we want to recognize.

The 2009 riding season was Barb Davis' second year volunteering at the ranch and Janette Stodola's first season. Both of these women stepped up to accept leadership roles, taking charge of the barn area

between sessions and making sure things ran smoothly. They made sure the horses were in, groomed and ready to go when the kids arrived, and that equipment was organized and put away at the end of the evening. Their help was invaluable, allowing Vicki to concentrate more on the teaching aspect of the sessions this season.

Aside from their love of horses, both women have a personal interest in the program. Barb's niece is a rider and Janette's nephew also rode for the first time this year. In Barb's case, she started volunteering to help with Sam. She has since adopted a horse of her own. For Janette, her nephew Ray started riding because of her involvement with the program. She has also since become the proud owner of a horse.

Thank you, Janette and Barb. We are deeply grateful for your dedication!

2009 Volunteer Groups

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

Blue Cross & Blue Shield
 Dakota County Department of Corrections
 Globe College MN School of Business
 Hands On Twin Cities
 Midwest Teen Challenge
 Normandale Community College
 Our Lady of Grace Middle School

People to People
 River Valley Church, Apple Valley
 Rosemount United Methodist Church
 Scott County Department of Corrections
 Scott County Youth Employment Program
 Single Volunteers of the Twin Cities
 Volunteer Match

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

ASI Employment, Inc.	Guthrie Theater	Old Log Theater
John & Connie Benson	Luanna & Steve Hacker	Ordway Music Theatre
Black Forest Inn	Heather Harden	Palomino Restaurant
Brave New Workshop Theatre	Hilton Minneapolis/St Paul - MOA	Park Square Theatre
Burnsville Performing Arts Center	Kim Howard	CJ Pierson
Cafe Latté	Ichiban Japanese Steak House	Prairie's Edge Casino & Resort
Canterbury Park	Larry Johnson	Shari Reiser
Caribou Coffee Co.	Dale Klinkhammer	Dr. Neal Rich
Chanhassen Dinner Theatres	Lakeville 21 Theatre	Rocco Altobelli Salon & Day Spa
Cheri Cerwick	Ginny Latocki	Saint Paul Hotel
John & Judy Cerwick	Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises, Inc.	Sam's Club
Chez Daniel Bistro	Rockie Lynne	Schuler Shoes
Cole's Salon	Mall of America	Science Museum
Cosco	Mannequin in Motion	Seven Clans Casino Hotel
Coyne's Inc.	Mills Fleet Farm	Sheraton Bloomington Hotel
Dale Studios	Minnesota Orchestra	Colleen Stieg
Loren Daniels	Minnesota Timberwolves	Target Stores
DJM Consulting	Minnesota Wild	Timber Lodge Steakhouse
Andrea Flor	Mixed Blood Theatre	Kim Turner
Grand Casino Mille Lacs Hinkley	Mystic Lake Casino Hotel	Dana Wills
Grand Hotel Minneapolis	John Nelson	Woolley's Restaurant
Green Mill - Bloomington	Northern Lights Casino Hotel	



*A
Mexican
Fiesta!*



2009 Volunteers

Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is
like wrapping a present and not giving it.
~William Arthur Ward

Each year Majestic Hills depends on our dedicated volunteers, including our instructors and Board of Directors, to make the Ranch a success. Without them coming out week after week, we could not do the work we do. The horses may be the muscles that run the Program, but the volunteers truly are the heart. Thank you to all of you for your time and energy!!

Danielle Ackland	Alexis Dobrzynski	Kate Jensen	Stephanie Norris	Arn Steinhauer
Robin Adkins	Donna Dobrzynski	Libby Jensen	Ali Northrup	Brenda Steinhauer
Erin Adrian	Rachel Dobrzynski	Amelia Johnson	Ronica Norton	Kaitlyn Steinhauer
Barry Alderink	Ryan Dobrzynski	Austia Johnson	Bree O'Donnell	Jeff Steinkamp
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Jackie Auld	Scottie Felix	Lauren Li	Cynthia Perske	Jacob Thoreson
Mary Ballengee	Colleen Foley	Deb Lindsay	Nicole Peterson	Tyler Thoreson
Sharon Bass	Emily Foley	Tammy Lord	Chelsea Pettit	Jean Torland
Katy Bauer	Kristin Frame	Maki Love	CJ Pierson	Bailey True
Libby Bauer	Paula Gallagher	Stephanie Love	Randy Pierson	Kim Turner
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Thomas Burgess	Harlan Harworth	Karen Meyer	Mary Ellen Schmid	Brienne West
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Alicia Curti	Kali Hullsiek	Regina Nguyen	Mary Smith	Lindsey Zochner
Brianna Dahedl	Allen Irwin	Megan Nicklay	Paul Smith	Amanda Zoss
Barbara Davis	Deb Lazenberry	Howard Norris	Angie Steichen	

"I wish it could be more, but..."

Here's what your donation can do for Majestic Hills Ranch:

- \$10.00** Worm one horse
Buy hay for 4 days for one horse
Purchase one bag of grain or two bags of shavings for bedding
- \$25.00** Cover one farrier visit for a horse
Vaccinate a horse against rabies
Buy one bag of Senior Feed or hay for ten days for one horse
- \$50.00** Pay for two visits from the farrier
Worm a horse for the entire year
Cover the 5 in 1 vaccination for one horse for six months
- \$100.00** Put shoes on a horse
Buy grain for a horse for one month or 40 days worth of hay
Pay for all of a horse's vaccinations for 6 months
- \$250.00** Get a horse's teeth taken care of for the year
Buy one pallet of shavings for bedding
Cover farrier visits for an entire year for one horse
- \$500.00** Feed hay to a horse for the entire riding season
Pay for vet and farrier visits for one year
Purchase two pallets of shavings
- \$750.00** Put a child through the Riding Program
-

Majestic Hills Ranch for Children

Majestic Hills thanks you for your past and continued support of our riding program. Only through your generous donations can we keep serving these very special children. If you would like to make a donation, fill out the donation form and return it to:

Majestic Hills Ranch, c/o ASI Employment, 3001 Metro Drive #480, Bloomington, MN 55425. Attn: Carol Meagher

Name of Donor _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Amount of cash donation \$ _____ OR Charge my Visa Mastercard Am Express

Charge # _____ Expiration Date _____

Amount \$ _____

____ I would like my donation to support the therapeutic riding program

____ I would like my donation to support the indoor arena

____ I am interested in volunteering at the Ranch

Majestic Hills Ranch Foundation
24580 Dakota Avenue
Lakeville, MN 55044

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