



## From The Director's Desk...

**Priorities!** Something each of us faces each and every day. With a list of 'things-to-do' and only a limited amount of



time to do them, we find ourselves prioritizing. What's most important today ???

Prioritizing is an important part of what we do at Equine-Assisted Therapy, too!

Whether we call Equine-Assisted Therapy our chosen profession, our charity-of-choice or our *own* therapy, the faces you see at EAT have prioritized a portion of their time to make this program possible. As the Program Director of this quickly growing program, I find it's easy to get caught up in the day-to-day struggle of keeping a center going.

Finding the horses that are so vital to our work can be a challenge, attracting and maintaining the appropriate number of volunteers can be daunting, and the task of keeping our two locations, Lewis Road and Town & Country, funded for another month can be overwhelming. Meanwhile, we all struggle to balance the demands of our own families and other jobs too. In the midst of all these challenges, it is easy to lose sight of what our services really mean to our participants.

One young rider, a girl named Jordan, taught her instructor the true value of what we offer. Jordan had Juvenile Batten disease. She died much earlier than anticipated. She was expected to live at least until her late teens or early 20's but passed away at the age of 11 in her sleep following a seizure. Earlier that day she had had a terrific ride during her lesson sharing her never-ending smile with all.

Later that week, as the community gathered to celebrate Jordan's life, it was noted that there was frequent reference to what horses and riding had meant to her. Her poetry, artwork, photos and craft projects all maintained a continuous "horsey" theme. Her friends and family knew that riding and horses were an integral part of her life.

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Wrapped up in the day-to-day struggle, thinking of the next thing that needs to be done, we forget how very much the work we do means to our participants. Jordan, as well as all of the rest of the smiling faces that meet us night after night at Equine-Assisted Therapy, help us to keep sight of why we're really here. Our participants share with us their perseverance, determination and enthusiasm for life and help us step back and take a good look at our own priorities.

Each of our participants gives so much more to us than we realize. Each rider has lessons for us. And perhaps it is in this mutual exchange of gifts that we find the best motivation for why we continue to give our all to this work!

♥ *Ginni*

## Saddle-Up with an EAT Horse

### ☪ Meet "Smokey Joe" ☪

Smokey Joe is a 22 year old American Quarter Horse purchased by Ginni Hartke 9 years ago from Crescent Farms owner, Melody Roberts, as a Fathers Day present for her husband Gary.

Smokey has had quite a life. He was a lead pony at the race track, bringing the race horses out to the gate and shown in speed events by his next owner.



Melody bought him from a guy that boasted you could "shoot a rifle off Smokey's back without him spookin' ". During the time Melody owned him, someone fancied him to be the perfect canvas and Melody arrived the next day to find Smokey spray-painted like a walking billboard!

And yet, Smokey saved his best for last by becoming known for his romp down Clayton Rd last Spring! Using his nose to open the door of the T&C barn, Smokey decided to introduce himself to his new neighbors on a bright May morning. By the time he was stopped, he had 'introduced' himself to 3 bicyclists, 2 joggers, 2 dog walkers, many cars and 3 T&C policemen. We can all be grateful Smokey is still with us today because I was pretty mad as I ran after him and then had to lead him all the way back to the barn with many giggling on-lookers!



## Participant Spotlight

### Spotlight on "Taylor"

Taylor Branson is 5 1/2 years old and loves Polly Pockets, Barbies, arts and crafts, swimming and the Equine Assisted Therapy program, of course! Some of her favorite things to do include planting flowers with her grandma and cooking. Although one thing she definitely dislikes is peas!



Taylor has a younger brother named Corey who is 4 years old and a tabby cat named Snuggles. Her

favorite color is blue and if you've ever seen Taylor at one of her EAT sessions then you would know her favorite animal is Foxy! (Her EAT horse) She really enjoys watching Ariel from The Little Mermaid and Belle from Beauty and the Beast while munching on mushroom pizza, yummmm! The thing that Taylor likes best while riding is to ride with her hands out to her sides with only one Sidewalker!

## Heartwarming Poem ...

*Poem written by a 15 year old therapeutic riding volunteer...*

### Where Kids Can Fly

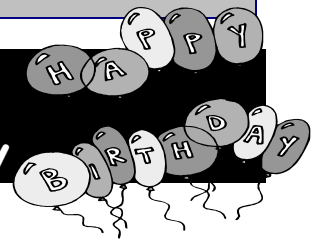
There was a welcoming feel about the farm  
And I was greeted with smiles and cheer  
Before even seeing the riders and horses  
I knew something good was happening here

Throughout the day it was obvious to me  
Loads of work was being done  
But to each volunteer and employee  
This work was actually fun

And at the end of the day, as closing time came  
It was hard to say good-bye  
For I learned at this therapeutic horse farm  
Kids truly can fly!



## Happy Birthday



### Volunteers:

#### MAY

Carol Ailer  
Erin Brooks  
Sandy Christeson  
Liz Conte  
Erin Dawson

Joy DeGraaf  
Mary Elliott  
Kayla Gibson  
Delany Hobbs  
Sarah McDonald  
Caryn Mundell

Collen Myles  
Tom Oliver  
Beth Schmaltz  
Matt Ulrich  
Bob Zellar  
Lucie Lucas

#### JUNE

Cheryl Burnett  
Emily Cahill  
Adline  
Christenson  
Susan Dalpini

Annie Eime  
Jane Hrach  
Daniel Krueger  
Nancy Misir  
Becca Mueller  
Patricia Noroian

Mary Paine  
Keith Pey  
Jessie Philbrick  
Jena Ranson  
Linda Taylor  
Carye Schmidt

#### JULY

Melissa  
Curfman-Flavey  
Amy Dixon  
Blaise Herder  
Judee Hewitt

Laura Maher  
Lauren Patterson  
Becky Rekart  
Sarah Rekart  
Megan Richter

Mike Roberts  
Lori Rood  
Carolyn Smith  
Katie Weller  
Marrisa Williams

### Participants:



#### MAY

Taylor Branson  
Meghan Concagh  
Alley  
Feih-Hartman

Madelyn Hubbs  
Elizabeth

Elizabeth  
Kaufmann  
Lilly Rogers

#### JUNE

Brandy Dickerson  
Anna James

Ross Kramer  
Bennett Mueller  
Nick Potterfield

Jeffery Smith  
Owen  
Waldsmith

#### JULY

Jay Jay Eberle

Claude Turner

## Special Thanks!



We had a wonderfully successful Egg Hunt!  
Here's sending a special "Thank You!" to:

- All of our **Participants** who provided support to EAT by hunting eggs
- All of our fabulous **Volunteers** who donated their time to make for a perfect day!
- **Town and Country** for allowing us the use of their beautiful Longview Farm Park for this event





## Volunteer Spotlight

### Volunteer Spotlight on "Jane Hrach"

This issues Volunteer of the Month is Jane Hrach. Jane is 79 years old and has been with the Equine-Assisted Therapy program since its inception. She attended the very first Volunteer Orientation that EAT held!



Jane will do anything! Not only does she catch, groom, tack, lead and sidewalk with the horses, but Jane cleans refrigerators too! Our tack room refrigerator sparkles when she gets through with it and, believe me, it's doing anything BUT that before she sets to work on it!

Jane also runs the arts and crafts portion of our program, the "Country Store" when needed and sets up hunts on the trails before class-time even begins.... all of this before dinner is served at her cozy retirement village in Shrewsbury!

With all of that, who would think Jane has time for anything else? Well she does! She enjoys swimming, golf and working on her computer. In addition she volunteered in both the Bonne Terre Library and the St Joseph Grade School Library. She likes working with children and animals so EAT appears to be the perfect fit for Jane and we are so glad!

## Thank You's... ♥♥♥

- **Green Pines Elementary School 2nd Grade Students and Teachers** - for fund raising and a cash donation!
- **Matthews Medical Books Charity Committee** - for conducting an Easter Egg Lottery and donating the proceeds!
- **Rick & Lawrence Kerperien** - for sponsoring a child
- **Wayne Owens** – for helping remodel T & C office
- **Rick Meoli - Meoli Studios** – for sponsoring a child
- **Ryan Pott** – for a cash donation

## Thank You's... ♥♥♥

- **Knights of Columbus Christ Prince of Peace** – for their cash donation.
- **Don & Sally Morton** - for their cash donation in memory of Judie Maloney
- **Keith Pey** - for doing the EAT Newsletter
- **Randy & Tamara Nelson** - for their monthly donation and some beautiful 'horsey' items for our new T&C office
- **Clarkson Jewelers** - for donating a fabulous watch for our silent auction through Taylor Branson
- **Sara & Kirsten Huggins** - for arranging all of our Egg Hunt prizes
- **The NCL Ladies** - helping to set up the Egg Hunt
- **SAFECO Employees** - for volunteering their time to help us prepare for opening day at T&C
- **The Wotka Family** - for their donation to EAT in memory of their horse, Manhattan
- **Joe & Kristin Downey** - for their work on the Equine-Assisted Therapy website
- **Liz & Bob Conti** - for hours and hours of work on the new T&C office
- **Linda & Allison Coe** - for donating our newest therapy horse, Skye
- **Rolling Ridge Nursery** - for giving us a price break on the 100 Burning Bushes for the T&C arena
- **Erb Equipment**- for giving us a price break on the new Gator for Town & Country
- **Bill Schmidt** - for shoeing our therapy horses at a reduced rate
- **David Hunt**- for providing his veterinary services free of charge
- All of our **T&C stall cleaners** that work so diligently behind the scenes to keep our therapy horses fed and comfortable:

- **Barb Benecke**
- **Jeff and De Brantley**
- **Larry Diamond**
- **Diana and Abby Dunbar**
- **Steve Gable**
- **Lauren Mizel**
- **Lori Rood**



- **Our 3 Awesome Westminster Girls; Christina Kelly, Rebekah Shippy & Emily Schurpfel** – for agreeing to stay with us even after their Senior Service days are over!
- **Gary Hartke** - for countless hours of office work, labor at Town & Country, volunteering at Lewis Road and applying for grants
- **Steve Gable** – for his cash donation



# Equine-Assisted Therapy News

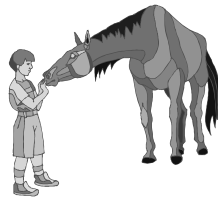


## EAT - Contact Info

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Equine-Assisted Therapy, Inc  
644 Old Smizer Mill Road  
Fenton, MO 63026

## EAT - Calendar of Events

- Session 2 - April 10<sup>th</sup> thru May 27<sup>th</sup> (Crescent Farms)  
April 17<sup>th</sup> thru May 27<sup>th</sup> (First Session at T&C)
- Session 3 - June 5<sup>th</sup> thru July 22<sup>nd</sup> - 2 weeks off!!! ☺
- Session 4 - Aug 7<sup>th</sup> thru Sep 23<sup>rd</sup> (Last Session at T&C)
- Session 5 - Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> thru Nov 18<sup>th</sup> (Crescent Farms Only)

## In Need Of Your Help...

*Your Generous Contributions are Greatly Appreciated,  
Below are some of our current needs :*

- Scholarship funds for Participants
- Funding for materials for our many projects
- "barn buddies" for Town & Country facility to open on Fridays
- Sponsors for riders that can't otherwise ride without the financial assistance

**Quotable....** ~ by AESOP

*"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted..."*