



Equine-Assisted Therapy News

From The Director's Desk ...



I know I say this every year but "BOY! what a year!" I always knew non-profits enjoyed their share of ups and downs but on a daily basis? Yikes! The bad economy has been affecting ALL charitable organizations since 2008 . . . it's been an uphill battle and many therapeutic riding centers around the country have had to close. The overhead on caring for horses, insurance, grocery bills and having to have a huge property is large and depends on donations which are so slim in times like these. In addition to relying on fund raisers, we apply for grants and corporate funds which are also down. Gratefully, we have always survived on a lean budget so times like these don't hurt us as badly as those who have larger, fancier facilities to maintain. :) Between this crazy economy and finding our way through the red tape of building an indoor arena/ education center we were certainly put to the test again and again. However! We are going to survive and thrive and guess what? Construction has begun on our new Arena at Wildwood !!! *Equine-Assisted Therapy has also received the Stellar Performance of the Year Award from Variety - The Children's Charity of St Louis. Yay! . . . a-a-a-n-d recognized as a Partner in Education by Rockwood School District.* So, let it be known that EAT has a wonderful group of dedicated people who would give their all to sustain this program, including myself. Please consider joining us in our efforts to bring the therapeutic benefits of horseback riding to our more than 200 disabled participants as part of your year-end giving. All donations are tax deductible and guaranteed to warm your heart for the holidays! :)

Thanks everyone! ♥ Ginni



From Your Friends @ EAT



Equine-Assisted Therapy News



2012 * EAT Schedule

Registration Opens January 30th for both locations
(314) 971-0605 or garichars@gmail.com

Wildwood Location

- Session 1 March 5 - March 31 - 4 weeks only (if arena ready)
- * Trivia Night March 16th
- * Egg Hunt March 31st
- No class - April 1 - April 7
- Session 2 April 9 - May 26
- No class - May 27 - June 2
- Session 3 June 4 - July 21 no class July 4
- No class - July 22 - Aug 4
- Session 4 Aug 6 - Sept 22 no class Sept 3
- No class - Sept 23 - Sept 29
- Session 5 Oct 1 - Nov 16

Town & Country Location



- * Trivia Night March 16th
- * Egg Hunt March 31st
- Session 1 April 9 - May 26
- No class - May 27 - June 2
- Session 2 June 4 - July 21 no class July 4
- No class - July 22 - Aug 4
- Session 3 Aug 6 - Sept 22 no class Sept 3
- No class - Sept 23 - Sept 29
- Session 4 Oct 1 - Oct 27 - 4 weeks only



2011 PATH Conference

Our instructors once again had the opportunity to attend the PATH International (formerly NARHA*) conference in Lexington Kentucky. What a great time was had by all who were able to attend. The Annual Conference is always chock full of informative seminars, new and innovative techniques in therapeutic riding, break-out sessions where we can network with the other 743 programs around the world and, in general, refuels the instructors to get back and give everything in them to making a difference in the lives of our participants. (*NARHA is now officially the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.))



We Love Our Volunteers !!!

New Riding Helmets



Our thanks go out to a chain of wonderfully caring people who obtained the donation of five brand new riding helmets for Equine Assisted Therapy! Here's how it came about . . . (try to keep up !) Robin Bair - who donated Hero - had her in-laws visiting during our Town & Country Fall Days. "Father-in-law" noticed that we didn't have XS helmets for our XS riders and felt that needed to be rectified, so Robin told Corinne at **The Tack Trunk** whose bookkeeper, Janice of MO Hunter Jumper Organization (MOHJO), decided that MOHJO would so generously donate the needed helmets and they are beautiful! **THIS** is why we say we want you to be a part of "People Talk" - talk about EAT! See the wonderful things that can happen!

The Royal Couple

Dick & Linda Taylor were crowned the "EAT King & Queen" of volunteers at our Annual EAT Volunteer picnic celebration held at our Wildwood facility. Congratulations to Dick & Linda . . . "Long Live the Royal Couple"





Equine-Assisted Therapy News



Thank You . . .



- ♥ Bill Schmidt - Farrier
- ♥ David Hunt—St Louis Equine Veterinary Services
- ♥ Homestead Veterinary Hospital
- ♥ Thanks to the efforts of Scott Pitzer, Downunder Horsemanship sent us Clinton Andersons 4 DVD set on Problem Solving on the Ground and Under Saddle worth \$250 as an auction item.
- ♥ Peggy Browne
- ♥ AT&T United Way Employee Giving Campaign
- ♥ Our fabulous Barn Buddies
- ♥ The Lattner Foundation
- ♥ The Variety Club
- ♥ Mark Fletcher & Diane Miller
- ♥ Eileen & Craig Palmer
- ♥ Arlene Dobrinic
- ♥ Sue Ragsdale
- ♥ Scott Pitzer for working with our therapy herd and for turning every hour he volunteers with EAT into cash from the Boeing Company
- ♥ Zimmerman Halloween Display Fund Raiser
- ♥ Kristin Downey - taking care of horses wintering at Crescent Farms and her donation towards supplements needed for our therapy herd
- ♥ Crescent Farms - allowing some of our herd to winter at their beautiful place

- ♥ Parelli Horse Training Method - donated training videos
- ♥ Carlyn Muehlhauser for building a fabulous activity center for our Wildwood location as her Girl Scout Service project
- ♥ Michelle Ennenbach for another year of creative, totally fun yet therapeutic lesson plans.
- ♥ Keith Pey our wonderfully creative (and patient) Newsletter Editor ☺

Special Thanks to Rams Justin Bannan

- ♥ A Special EAT Thanks to Rams player, Justin Bannan, who donated 20 of his own family game tickets so some of our participants could enjoy the Rams vs New Orleans game on Oct 30th. The



weather was perfect for twenty of EAT's lucky ticket recipients to enjoy watching the Rams beat the Saints 31 to 21 In addition, they got to see a special on-field appearance by the 2011 World Series Champions Cardinal baseball team! Thanks to St

Louis Rams player Justin Bannan for making this wonderful day possible for our Equine-Assisted Therapy participants!

A year of growth at EAT's Wildwood Location...

Wow what a year! Not only did EAT grow by 51 participants and 84 volunteers, we entertained dozens of groups from local churches, schools, scout troops, and businesses as they came to help us develop our Wildwood property from picking up rocks and branches to fencing, painting, and building. We've had horse trainers volunteer their time to come by and work with our therapy horses and our EAT Barn Buddies come twice a day to feed, groom, and care for them as well. We have met with architects, engineers, inspectors, city officials and banks. Our Board of Directors has been busy working through the paperwork, permits and legalities of property development while minding the daily details of running this program, making the big decisions and smoothing the way for all who benefit from what EAT does. The instructors not only have put their heart and soul into the classes they teach - no matter the weather - they also work full time jobs and run a house and home. And even in this horrid economy, our donors have been ever-faithful . . . paying the bills and allowing for this phenomenal and continuous





Equine-Assisted Therapy News

Welcome 2 New Additions to the EAT Herd

Welcome 'Santa' Hero - donated by the Bair Family - he's a draft cross with the heart of an angel! This gentle giant is as perfect as horses come for a therapeutic riding center and we are so grateful to his generous donors.

Little Gumdrop has also joined the Equine-Assisted Therapy herd! Gumdrop came to us through a very unique and inspiring family. This wonderful family is made up of dad, mom, 3 biological kids and 22 adopted kids with special needs! Our visit in their home, talking with them all and hearing their stories was an experience we'll never forget.



2 New Picnic Benches for EAT

Ani Gururaj, a Boy Scout from Troop 803 in Chesterfield, MO, built two picnic benches as an Eagle Scout Project for Equine Assisted Therapy. The project was successfully completed with the help of local businesses, scouts, friends, and other helpers. A special thanks to Ace Hardware and Bill Grasle for their contributions to the project. Ace Hardware donated 100% of the materials needed for the 2 benches. Along with Ace Hardware, Home Depot donated \$50.00 which was used for additional materials.



Bill Grasle, an experienced worker in the art of construction, and his son assisted Ani with the project. They helped with measuring, cutting, nailing and teaching new skills. He even helped transport both of the benches to Equine's facility in Wildwood. Ani also enlisted the help of friends from both his Boy Scout Troop and School.

Ani had this to say about his experience on this project, "Equine-Assisted Therapy offered me a wonderful project that would support them, and I had a great time doing it. I built stronger relationships, learned many new skills, and after a few more write-ups, will be an Eagle Scout. I am excited to finally see volunteers who work there, sit on benches, instead of the ground. I am greatly appreciative to all of those who worked. Thank You!"



EAT Raffle Winners !!!

The results are in and the Equine-Assisted Therapy Raffle Winners have been announced. The raffle winners were drawn by the Eureka Schnucks Manager, Jerry Birke, and witnessed by John, your friendly Schnucks Customer Service Manager! The whole drawing was captured on tape by the Schnucks surveillance camera just to keep things completely honest!

Thank you Schnucks!

- Ω Winner of \$2500 is C. Neville of Belleville, IL
 - Ω Winner of \$400 is Susan Walls of Dittmer, MO
 - Ω Winner of \$100 is Eileen Palmer of Wildwood, MO
- ... a big thanks to Eileen for returning her winnings to the EAT Program!*

Quotable . . .

You have not lived a perfect day, unless you have done something for someone who will never be able to repay you. ~Ruth Smeltzer



Equine-Assisted Therapy News

Twelve Days of Christmas w/ Equine-Assisted Therapy . . .

By Karen Zimmerman, Barn Buddy, Volunteer & Participant Mom

On the 1st day of Christmas my EAT horse gave to me...
An apple for his hungry tummy.



On the 2nd day of Christmas my EAT horse gave to me...
Two thrown shoes...And an apple for his hungry tummy.



On the 3rd day of Christmas my EAT horse gave to me...
Three horsey kisses...two thrown shoes...and an apple for his hungry tummy.

On the 4th day of Christmas my EAT horse gave to me...
Four hearty snorts...three horsey kisses...two thrown shoes...and an apple for his hungry tummy.



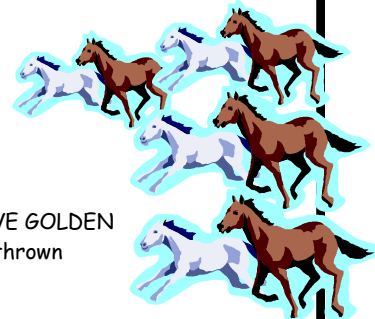
On the 5th day of Christmas my EAT horse gave to me...
FIVE GOLDEN POOPS! (Gold? Really?) Four hearty snorts...three horsey kisses...two thrown shoes...and an apple for his hungry tummy.

On the 6th day of Christmas my EAT horse gave to me...
Six English saddles...**FIVE GOLDEN POOPS!** (What did that horse get into?)...
four hearty snorts...three horsey kisses...two thrown shoes...and an apple for his hungry tummy.



On the 7th day of Christmas my EAT horse gave to me...
Seven salty salt blocks...six English saddles...**FIVE GOLDEN POOPS!** (Yup, time for a diet change)...four hearty snorts...three horsey kisses...
two thrown shoes...and an apple for his hungry tummy.

On the 8th day of Christmas my EAT horse gave to me...
Eight bays a-trotting...seven salty salt blocks...six English saddles...**FIVE GOLDEN POOPS!** (If this happens on the 9th day, I'm calling the vet)...four hearty snorts...three horsey kisses...two thrown shoes...and an apple for his hungry tummy.



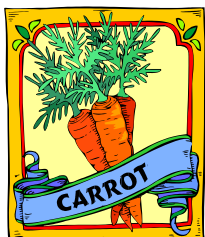
On the 9th day of Christmas my EAT horse gave to me...
Nine riders riding...eight bays a-trotting...seven salty salt blocks...six English saddles...**FIVE GOLDEN POOPS!** (Nothing "golden" smells like this)...four hearty snorts...three horsey kisses...two thrown shoes...and an apple for his hungry tummy.



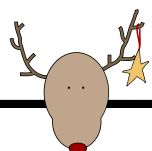
On the 10th day of Christmas my EAT horse gave to me...
Ten cats a-mousing (Okay, we have one cat. Whatever)...nine riders riding...eight bays a-trotting...seven salty salt blocks...six English saddles...**FIVE GOLDEN POOPS!** (I'm starting to think it's all the apples)...four hearty snorts...three horsey kisses...two thrown shoes...and an apple for his hungry tummy (Forget it! No more apples!).



On the 11th day of Christmas my EAT horse gave to me...
Eleven carrots crunching...ten cats a-mousing...nine riders riding...eight bays a-trotting...seven salty salt blocks...six English saddles...**FIVE GOLDEN POOPS!** (Someone is getting Imodium in his stocking)...four hearty snorts...three horsey kisses...two thrown shoes...and an apple for his hungry tummy.



On the 12th day of Christmas my EAT horse gave to me...
Twelve noisy neighers...Eleven carrots crunching...ten cats a-mousing...nine riders riding...eight bays a-trotting...seven salty salt blocks...six English saddles...**FIVE GOLDEN POOPS!** (Enough with the poop already!)...four hearty snorts...three horsey kisses...two thrown shoes...and an apple for his hungry tummy!



Merry Christmas !



Equine-Assisted Therapy News

Equine Assisted Therapy - Contact Info

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Session-1 @ Town & Country
April 9 - May 26

4 weeks only (if arena ready)

Session-1 @ Wildwood
March 5 - March 31

(314) 971-0605 or garichars@gmail.com

== both locations ==

Registration Opens January 30th

~ Happy Holidays ! ~

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