

HOOFBEAT

Freedomfarm Therapeutic Riding Center 11500 Ferman Ave SW Waverly, MN 55390

www.freedomfarmMN.org

info@freedomfarmMN.org

952-955-2505

January 2011

rider roundup

WE had a great year! Here are a few comments I heard this year from parents about their riders' progress:

- Speech was louder ~ confidence from the horse carries over to school
- Abdominal muscles stronger ~ able to sit up for longer periods of time while at home & school
- Completing directions ~ several riders began the year completing a 2 step direction & ended the year completing a 6 step obstacle course



Horsing around

We are searching for 4 new horses. Two have arrived & the training process has begun.

Painter is a 9 year old paint gelding - our short volunteers will love him.



And for our tall volunteers, **Vic** is a 15 year old thoroughbred.

volunteer lowdown

We were blessed with over 100 trained volunteers who gave their support in many ways: Sidewalker & horse handler during weekly lessons. Coming together to put on the Polo Event & Riding Celebration. Water flowers, clean paddocks, compile mailings, and on and on...

thank you!!

It was a beautiful evening in November honoring our volunteers at the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. Some very special parents were happy to help: Dave & Robin Durkin, Kathy Knoploh and Mike & Helen Mason made very delish desserts. Mindy Wisegarver & Julie Zajac spent the evening serving 45 volunteer attendees.

Congratulations to 2010 Volunteers!

Volunteer of the Year: **Kurt Rischmiller**

Couple of the Year: **Jim & Janith Jacobson**

Horse Handler of the Year: **Carly Koxvold**



a note from Susie

Happy New Year! I am so excited for 2011.

Although 2010 was personally very difficult, the work of God is evident and I am feeling blessed.

Being in the hospital this summer for 5 days, then a slow recovery at home was very difficult for me. I was blessed to have Sue take the reins and handle the daily functions of Freedomfarm and all she did to help me get back on my feet.

Then, when my son Troy had a near death anaphylactic reaction in ICU just before the Riding

Celebration, **wow** did our volunteers shine! The *Riding Celebration* had to change to just *The Celebration*. A very special thank you to Sandee, Barbara, PJ and Brian. Over 300 guests, riders and their families had a great day enjoying fun activities. Many parents expressed *how they liked it better*, with no scheduled ride time. It also gave me & Sue more time to spend with all of you!



Funny how things can change, and if you are willing to embrace the change, the new path can be full of unexpected blessings.



God has blessed me and Freedomfarm with the most beautiful, giving people.

Thank you for being a Friend of Freedomfarm. Your support, whether as volunteer, rider or in giving, is precious.

With much love,

Susie



2010 Freedomfarm Blessings

Freedomfarm Veterans Program



Healing with Horses, a time for women veterans, has been growing! Freedomfarm made front page news in the Mpls StarTribune December 19th. This was part of a series about women veterans and how getting help with any type of service is a real challenge. We are working on ways to fund this program, as there is no charge to our veterans. *Word of mouth is a powerful thing.*

Sure Hands Lift

It happened! A surprise gift was received in the spring allowing us to install the Lift. We are using it every week. Thank you to all who helped raise the funds needed.



Volunteers Dave Kummer & Paul Snetting renovated an old mounting block needed to use in conjunction with the ramp. It was a smooth year for all our Riders to mount their horses safely.

"The Horse Show"



Rick and Diana Lamb from "The Horse Show" were here for 3 days filming Episode 289 'Dirty Jobs', the installation of 2 new Ritchie Automatic Waterers donated by Ritchie. You can watch it at www.thehorshow.com, then find Episode 289! We enjoyed having them, along with Ruth from Ritchie and Chad from Harwood Trenching!

More...

- The new logo designed by Jennie Menke!
- Paddock #2 was fenced with HiQual fencing with a donation from Cargill.
- Cargill's Horizon Milling employees spent a day working; removing cobwebs, pulling weeds, cleaning out shelters, organizing & cleaning tack.
- Chaska HS students Becky, Brittany, Chelsea & Joe chose Freedomfarm for their Senior Project.
- Kids from St. Bonifacius' Summer Stretch program spent a day helping out at Freedomfarm.
- Echo was donated! He is a HUGE BLESSING and is sooo loved!
- Rider Katie Colbert's family made the 'Barn' & 'Hut' for a fun activity while on a horse.
- Thomas Hertzog chose Freedomfarm to complete his Eagle Scout requirements. He made a timeline on a beautiful wood horseshoe wall display.
- Kris Kinder, owner of Angel Hands Thrift Shoppe in Watertown, donated \$800 to sponsor a Rider in 2011.
- Friends and families of our riders and volunteers who chose to donate, in lieu of exchanging gifts.
- The many gifts received 'In Memory Of' your loved ones.
- Volunteers working extra hard to provide consistent handling for our therapy horses. This resulted in our horses ending the season very **HAPPY!**

Special Events

The 3rd Annual Freedomfarm Polo Event (July 17, 2010)



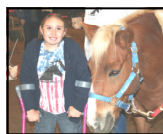
The polo event has become a well known community gathering ~ a fun day under the tents for the entire family! It was so exciting to watch the polo players with their ponies thundering across the field! Check our website for 2010 pictures. **Mark your calendar for July 16, 2011!**

Friends of Freedomfarm Dinner (October 28, 2010)

was a special fundraising dinner. Riders: Abby, Annika, Joshua & Natalie showed our guests their riding skills & received polo jerseys from Rob & Linda Berg. Our guests were generous with their donations & very excited to be involved with Freedomfarm. Erik Wibhom from Cargill presented us with a beautiful framed Cargill Polo Team jersey.



8th Annual Riding Celebration (September 25, 2010)



was a great day! There was no Horse Show this year. Instead, our riders were able to introduce their horse to family & friends. Roping with Renegade was a

huge hit & of course, everyone enjoyed the carriage rides. Volunteer Corrie brought a very sweet llama, Volunteer Casey brought the cutest piglets. Rider Family Neddermeyer was busy grilling



600 pork chops! Giving the Riders their awards is always a precious time. They are so proud of their trophies!

NARHA National Conference (November 3-6, 2010)

Susie and Sue spent 3 intense days attending various workshops at the conference in Denver, enjoying 75 and sunshine!

