



Nicker

Summer
2008

Newsletter of Midwest Therapeutic Riding Program



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*Improving the lives
of children
with special needs
through equine
facilitated activities:
providing
individualized care
to maximize
the child's potential.*

www.mtrpinc.org

*Horses and children,
I often think,
have a lot of the good sense
there is in the world.*

— Josephine Demott Robinson



It's Show Time – Again!

Goodie Memorial Horse Show Returns

Due to the success of last year's Goodie Memorial Horse Show, MTRP has decided to host the event again this fall. Riders and horses will perform in the Goodie Memorial Horse Show on Saturday, September 20th.

Preparations are under way to make this year's horse show even more successful than last year's. We want the children to have a great time while excelling at riding," stated Stephanie Clausen-Kubarth, program director.

The event will focus on the riders and their showmanship while also having fun activities

for the families of the riders. The main goal of the horse show is for everyone to have fun.

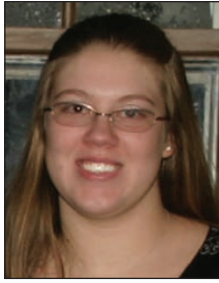
Once again, the show is an opportunity for riders and their families to help raise much needed funds for MTRP. Riders will raise pledges to participate in the horse show, so remember to ask your family, friends and co-workers to help support MTRP.

MTRP is looking for people to sponsor the different classes our participants will ride in. We are also asking for other donations to help make this year's horse show a great success. We couldn't do it without you!

MTRP Volunteer

Carla Johnson

When my aunt picked me up from my first week of middle school eight years ago, little did I know my life was going to change forever. On the way



home that day, she told me about a new therapy that my cousin, Alice, (who was just like a little sister to me) was starting. She told me what hippotherapy was, and since she knew I loved horses, she invited me to go with them the next day to Alice's therapy session. That was perhaps the best day of my life!

As I watched "Pebbles" ride I realized that she was happier than I had ever seen her before. It was amazing! A few weeks later, Aunt Debbie and Stephanie asked me if I could walk in front of the horse and call to Alice so she would look up more. I said yes, of course! At another session Stephanie was short a volunteer, so instead of walking in front of the horse, she asked me to side-walk. While side-walking I fell in love with "volunteering" at Midwest Therapeutic Riding Program.

Since then many things have changed in my life. In November 2001 Alice passed away, about a year after she had started hippotherapy. That was probably the worst day of my life. And yet, as every cloud has a silver lining, good things have come out of her passing as well. I took a "break" from volunteering for a while (since I had only been working with her), but then a friend of Alice's started riding and I started going back to help him. That

helped a lot with the healing process for me. I then found out that they needed more volunteers and so I asked Stephanie if I could come for the whole day and that is when the dedication began. I realized that even though Alice was no longer with us, I could still let her "live through me" by helping other children with special needs like her.

What I did not know was that the dedication developed then would last this long, but I am sure glad it did. I continued my volunteer work at MTRP throughout all of high school, taking off of work to help out two days a week. Then, after my senior year, I moved two hours north of the farm to live with my family, who had moved earlier in the year when my dad transferred for his job. Despite ridiculously high gas prices and work time "lost," I still continued coming down each week to volunteer. Even though that didn't stop me, everyone figured I would stop for sure when I went off to college. But I figured coming down from Concordia was less of a drive than from home, so why stop for that? Unfortunately, I had to volunteer around my school schedule, so I did have to cut down to one day a week, but as of this summer, I still help out every week and I would not even think about changing that! I look at it as therapy for ME (a few hours OUT of the dorm room!!!) and as great experience for my future as an occupational therapist. Besides that, I have also received several awards and scholarships thanks to Stephanie, so I have to pay her back somehow! Overall, I don't know exactly what the future holds in store for me, but I do know that I cannot imagine my life without being a part of MTRP!

Summer Wish List

Lemonade
Hot Chocolate Mix
Paper Cups
Paper Towels
Toilet Paper
8.5x11 Copy Paper
Postage Stamps
Rubbermaid Totes
Rainbow Reins
English Saddles
Western Saddles
Bridles
Snaffle Bits
Vet Wrap
Brother Printer Cartridges
(LC41 Black & Color)
Fax Machine Roll
(Panasonic model #KXFP145)

See us on



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YjtfihOS6vY>

MTRP Kid

Michaela Schmitz



I have been riding at MTRP since I was 5 years old. I like riding all of the horses. I think I have ridden every horse. My favorite horse is Savannah because Stephanie came to me on day and asked me if I would like to train a horse. At first I didn't want to but then gave it a try. Ever since then I have always liked Savannah.

My favorite therapist is Stephanie because she always knows how to make me laugh. Some things she has taught me is how to trot, post, how to brush the horse the right way. Also she taught me what everything is called, how to put on the saddle and reins. Stephanie has been with me from the start. I don't think that I could ever trade her in for another! She is more than just my therapist she is also one of my friends!

I like to go out there because everybody is so nice to me. Since I started I have made many new friends like Amanda, Madeleine, Carla, Wendy, Katie and my friend Jenny who I have known since I was 3. Even the cats and dogs are my friends. My favorite office person is Erin.

My next goal is to become a volunteer when I turn 13. Stephanie has already begun to train me. But until then I will keep trying and learning new things.

A Night of Dreams

Fundraising Gala Big Success

Our 4th Annual "Making Dreams Come True" Fundraising Gala was held on March 8, 2008. Tempel Farms and Tempel Lipizzan Company graciously hosted our event again this year. We added many new friends to MTRP this year, a huge thanks to Maralee Pope for bringing many of them. Our evening began in the indoor arena with performances by the World Famous Tempel Lipizzans and the following MTRP riders: Allie Rozumalski, Meghan McEneaney and Daniel Alfano. We had a wonderful performance of "YMCA" by Daniel Alfano as well. The evening then continued in the Tempel Guest House with a champagne, hors'd ourves and wine reception and silent auction.

We are very excited to announce that our 5th Annual "Making Dreams Come True" Fundraising Gala will take place on Saturday March 14, 2009. The event

will once again be hosted by Tempel Farms and Tempel Lipizzan Company. Please save the date as you will want to be able to celebrate our 5th Annual Gala with some new exciting changes. We hope to see you on March 14th!



Dr. Kevin Nelson and friends.

Friends of Midwest Therapeutic Riding Program

Your tax-deductible contribution will help scholarship program funding for children in need of financial assistance.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ |

Name _____

Address _____

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Phone _____ Email _____

Thank you for your support!

Please complete this form and return it with your check made payable to:
Midwest Therapeutic Riding Program (MTRP)
PO Box 085184
Racine, WI 53408

NARHA Conference

MTRP seeks frequent flyer miles

From October 29th through November 1st, the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA) will be hosting their national conference in Hartford, Connecticut. MTRP's two occupational therapists, Wendy Miklaszewski and Stephanie Kubarth, have been selected to lead their own presentation. Their session, *Seeing But Not Seeing: Vision Versus Acuity, What is the Difference?* discusses the various components to vision that affect a person's life and ability to reach goals.

While attending the NARHA

Conference is an invaluable resource of information, and leading a presentation is a great honor, it does come at great expense. One of these expenses is the cost of flying to Connecticut.

MTRP is asking that anyone who can donate frequent flyer miles for this trip to contact us. Please call 262.878.2000 if you or anyone you know can be of assistance in the donation of frequent flyer miles. This donation is tax-deductible and would help greatly in reducing the costs associated with attending this wonderful conference.

Calendar of Events

September

Saturday, September 20, 2008
Goodie Memorial Horse Show

November

Saturday, November 27, 2008
Thanksgiving
No lessons November 27th & 29th

December

Sunday, December 7, 2008
Christmas Party

**Christmas break - No lessons from
December 21, 2008 - January 3, 2009**

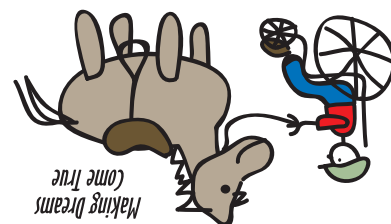
January

Thursday, January 1, 2009
New Year's Day

March

Saturday, March 14, 2008
Fundraising Gala

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