



MILE MARKERS



FALL/WINTER 2009-2010

The Miles of Smiles Therapeutic Riding Program Newsletter

PO Box 426 -901 W. Maple, Garden City, KS 67846 Phone: 620-260-9997

email: miles_of_smiles@sbcglobal.net

website: www.miles-of-smiles.org

Where did the year go? Can you believe that 2009 is almost over? So much has happened over the past year! We have had wonderful support from the community that has made all this possible! None of our accomplishments would be possible without the help and assistance that our program gets from volunteers, sponsors, and interested members of the public. For that we say **THANKS!**

FINANCIAL SUPPORTORS:

City of Garden City Community Grant,
Compassion Kansas, Community
Congregational Church, Cronin Memorial
Fund, Garden City Company/PICS program
Garden City High & Holcomb High,
Western Kansas Community Foundation,
The Finnup Foundation, Kansas Health
Foundation, Ballard Aviation, Circle C Cattle
Corp., Grant Makers of the High Plains,
Imperial Beef, Sunrisers Kiwanis, Steve
Krug, Mary Smith, SDSI, Mr. & Mrs. Tim
Roth, Windriver Grain, Earle & Betty Rice,



2009 IN-KIND CONTRIBUTORS:

The Smythe Family, Tiffany Schmidt,
The Standley Family, Heat Wave,
Huber Sand, Swords & Smith Animal
Hospital, Milligan Enterprises,
RSVP, Garden True Value, USD #457,
JO Cattle Co., Crop Production Services,

Chuck Messenger, American Processing,
John Jeffrey, Crop Production Services,
Center for Independent Living

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS!

*Congratulations to board members, Joe & Megan Gasper on the birth of their daughter, Meredith.

*Congratulations to Stable Manager, Mitzi Blankenship, who married Chris Coash back in August!

*MOS has a new Business Partner! Crop Production Services has offered to join forces with MOS to help out with various volunteer projects! Welcome to the employees and staff at CPS and most of all **THANK YOU!**

"We are never really happy until we try to brighten the lives of others."
Helen Keller (1880-1968)

Our MOS WISH LIST:

- Volunteers to help with riding lessons during Spring, Summer, and Fall.
- Volunteers to help serve on committees, such as Fundraising, Property Maintenance, & so on.
- A Grant writer
- Retirement homes for our aged horses who have given so much
- A tractor or Bob Cat to move large bales of hay and do other big jobs.



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- A Service Group for special “work day” projects.
- A new loafing barn for our horses. (The old one is falling apart!)

Twister-On the Move!
 April-A spring flower
 Magic-A “special” little girl
 *Sam-Retired
 *Foxy-In Loving Memory

If you feel you can help out in any way, please call our office at (620)260-9997!

Who We Are!

The 2009 Board of Directors includes:

Tiffany Schmidt-President
 Jennifer Standley-V. President
 Connie Hunn-Secretary
 Ellen Lynn-Co-Treasurer
 Earle Rice
 Roy Dixon
 Joe & Megan Gasper
 Troy Horton
 Brad Weller

NEW MEMBERS IN 2010-

Ryan Anderson
 Brian Schwindt
 Dale Theye

Our 2009 Herd of Equine Partners:

Sugar-A true sweetheart
 Ginger-The “spice” of our group
 Skip-The grumpy old man
 Paint-Our own comedian
 Satch-The ladies man
 Money-A true gentleman
 Tiny-He’s anything but small!



FALL '09 LESSON VOLUNTEERS:

Mitzi Coash-Stable Manager, Instructor*
 Betty Lilly-Bogan
 Heidi Boyles
 Sara Brown-Director of Programs, Instructor*
 Randy Buckley
 Emily Burns
 Karen Coulter
 Frosty Crouse
 Gene & Vicki Gile
 Chayli, Cody, & Marvin Hammond
 Connie Hunn
 Katie Hendrix
 Katie Hunter
 Adrienne & Tammy Lobmeyer
 Rebeca Lopez
 Kris Lundgren-Instructor*
 Ellen Lynn-Instructor*
 Anna McPherson
 Victoria Naylor
 Esther Oppliger
 Amanda Parks
 Sheri Perkins
 Lexi Peterson
 Earle Rice



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Tyson Sauer
 Tiffany Schmidt-Instructor*
 Brian Schwindt
 Autumn Schobert
 Enjoli Simmons
 Jennifer Standley-Instructor*
 Dale Theye
 Carol Vo
 Rob Walck
 Verna Weber

**Thanks also to all the families and significant others of all our volunteers, who often adjust their own schedules to accommodate ours!

We have drop off boxes at our office and at Garden True Value. These items can also be given to any board member!

NEW THIS FALL!

Now you can shop and help Miles of Smiles at the same time! By going to our website, www.miles-of-smiles.org and clicking on the Equestriancollections.com link, you can change a life forever! Miles of Smiles will receive 8% of every sale from Equestrian Collections, so if you are a horse enthusiast and you want to help out, here's your chance.

HELP FINANCIALLY, BUT WITHOUT MONEY!



- Donate your used vehicles!
 Call 877-CARS-4US (227-7487)
 Ext. 1651
 (the extension # is how the donation gets applied to Miles of Smiles!)

OR

Donate On-Line at www.donationline.com

GIVE US YOUR USED



**CELL PHONES,
 INK CARTRIDGES
 AND
 ALUMINUM CANS
 TO RECYCLE!**

DID YOU KNOW...

*It costs approximately \$12 per day to feed and care for each horse in the Miles of Smiles herd? That comes to a cost of \$43,800 a year, for the horses alone.

*Miles of Smiles is a member of NARHA (North American Riding for the Handicapped Association)

www.narha.org

We have four NARHA certified instructors and two instructors-in-training!



*Miles of Smiles is a member of the Kansas Horse Council



www.kansashorsecouncil.com

*If you volunteer any time at all with Miles of Smiles, you and your household qualify to receive assistance from the Prairie Land Food Bank. See their website for details!

www.prairielandfood.com



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WAYS TO HELP FINANCIALLY

- Donations to support various projects of the program such as...
 - Rider Scholarships
 - Adopt-A-Rider Sponsors
 - Adopt-A-Horse Sponsorships
 - Feed and Equipment
 - General Operating Funds
- When planning your estate or thinking of long term giving, you might want to consider Miles of Smiles!

- April 23-25, NARHA Region 7 meeting, Kansas City, KS
- Saturday May 22, Summer Volunteer Training, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM
- Summer Session of lessons; May 31 to July 1. Lessons will be Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings, and Wednesday mornings!
- Saturday June 26; Annual Miles of Smiles Showcase, An event for our participants to demonstrate what they can do! All are welcome to attend!
- November 3-6; NARHA National Conference & Annual Meeting, Denver, CO

Mark Your Calendar!

*Our Board of Directors' meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month.
5:30 PM.

- EquiFest of KS, KS Coliseum, Feb. 12, 13, 14, 2010
- Spring Volunteer Training: Saturday March 6
- Spring Session of lessons; March 22 –April 29, Lessons are held on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings, come see what it's all about!
 - April; Volunteer Appreciation Week
- April or May (Date not set yet); Women's Day Out

(The following is an email from a volunteer/client who recently went through a tough spot in her life.)

I honestly came today expecting to be bored and not feel any better. But I think I surprised even myself. Helping you was rewarding to me. And I want to thank you for the opportunity. Brushing Satch was awesome. Taking my time, not having to rush to get to the arena for a lesson. Talking to him as I went along. Seeing his ears turn to hear my words. His nose brushing up against me, and leaning against, making me feel needed and wanted. And then being able to catch Twister, or should I say Twister allowing me to catch him. LOL I enjoyed the entire afternoon and look forward to many more. You said it really helps you and I can honestly say it has helped me too. It's good to be useful and not have to be responsible for anyone but myself for a while. I will let you know when the next day might be. If



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that is okay. Thank you very much. Miles of Smiles is a godsend. Especially to my family.

MILES OF SMILES

THERAPEUTIC RIDING PROGRAM

I/We wish to gift Miles Of Smiles' with \$_____.

Donor(s) Name:

Address:

City, State, & Zip Code

Your gift will be used where it is most needed, unless specified otherwise by you.

(Cut out & send in with your donation! Thank you)
(No amount is too small!)