

Rides and Reins Therapeutic Riding Center  
Hearts, Hands, and Hope Together Changing Lives!

# PONY TALES

Volume 1 Winter issue

2008 season will open on April 5th weather permitting.

Spring session : April 5th to June 14th

Summer session : June 21st to August 23rd.

Fall Session : September 6th. November 8th.

This schedule is tentative.

## Volunteer Hours for 07

Total 2,861 hours

Volunteer of the year is:  
Andree' Griffin 459.25 hrs.

Runner up:

Elise Brandt 375.25 hrs.

Kayla Lynch 340 hrs.

Without all our volunteers we would not be able to exist.

## THANK YOU

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## 7th Season Ends

Saturday November 10th was our last therapy session for 07. This is our latest closing date in the seven years of operation, thanks to our beautiful fall weather.

This year we served over 40 children with a wide variety of special needs.

New to us this year has been accepting riders from The Brain and Spinal Injuries of Milwaukee. These are adults who have suffered injuries from a variety of accidents. They ride our mustang; "Honey," who has been responsible for all of our older children and adults.

Our volunteers this year did a great job. We were able to fill all time slots.

I would like to give a special thanks to Alyssa, Joanna, Katilyn who helped Gail on Wednesday afternoons.

Rides and Reins can still use more volunteers. There are some jobs that I have been doing and I would like to find a volunteer to help out in those areas. I need to spend more time on outside work around the center. Next year we're planning on fencing in the field back by the woods and this will take a lot of time. I would also like to install more grass to hold down the dust. There are projects from two years

ago that still need to be



Nick rides Spring during his weekly session, side walkers Andree and Kayla assist Nick during his session.

completed. The jobs that I need some volunteers for are scheduling riders, manning the reception desk on riding days, stall cleaning, watering arena to keep down the dust, and data entry.

Don Elias

Executive Director

## Sign up for 2008 sessions

Starting January 15, 2008 applications will be available to print out online. We are not set up yet to fill out applications on line. Mail your application to Rides and Reins as soon as possible along with your choice of ses-

sion day. There will also be a rider's release, photo release and a doctor's medical approval form.

All the forms must accompany the application along with a picture of the child.

We have a new email address, please change your address book.

ridesandreins@hotmail.com

## Marion's thoughts

In the spirit of the Holidays, I would like to say how grateful I am for Rides and Reins. I have enjoyed and learned everyday spent there.

What a wonderful combination of children and ponies. The giggles and smiles are priceless.

Volunteers are of all ages from all different areas and occupations. We have all made good friends.

Our goal is that the children enjoy playing ball, working with the rings, singing songs, petting their pony,

learning to use reins and not to forget TROT (loved by all). What fun!

You can watch their confidence build. Their balance gets so much better. It is a day in the week we all look forward to.

Thank You Again . See you all in the Spring.



Marion

Happy Holidays to all my students and Volunteers.

Rosie hopes to see you all in

## Planning Board

Attention Parents and Volunteers we need your help in planning our 2008 riding season. I'm putting together a planning board made up of parents and volunteers, we will meet once a month either on a Saturday or an evening during the week at 7:00. Scheduling for these meetings is flexible, meeting will last no later than 9:00 pm.

Things we need to work on, volunteer scheduling, client scheduling, projects that need to plan for, fundraising DVD, grant writing, internet web site, and program planning.

Call Don 262-644-8324 or email me at [ridesandreins@hotmail.com](mailto:ridesandreins@hotmail.com)

## Tan'R You Fundraiser Results

October 13,2007 was the date that Tan'R You tanning salons held their first annual fundraiser . Next year's fundraiser will be in Sept10-12 and it will be held Thursday, Friday and Saturday, so start collecting items for that event.

Silent auction items were available for bidding at , West Bend, Germantown and Appleton salons.

Every item that was donated had a bid, plus Tan'R You also donated a part of their days proceeds to R & R

WBKV of West Bend did a live remote broadcast from the Germantown Salon, Don was able to tell our

story to a large audience. Many people stopped in to the salons to drop off donations during the day.

Don received many comments telling him that what were doing is great and to keep up the good work.

*Tan'R You fundraiser raised*

*\$2,688.00*

*Plus leads for new Volunteers*

## Calling All Volunteers!

By Andree Griffin and Kayla Lynch

Let's get more educated about horses!!! Some of the wonderful volunteers at Rides and Reins have put together a program to better prepare you for the upcoming therapy season. In this program you will learn some of the basics of cleaning the barn and tack, how to properly lead and saddle a horse, side-walk and instruct. We will spend days in the office looking at how to be safe around horses, horse behavior, and

look at how to groom a horse. Another part of the program is doing a hands on session. During this we will be in the barn and show everyone how to groom and saddle a horse and other things in the barn. Then, everyone will be able to show us their knowledge by showing us how to properly groom and tack up a horse. They will also show us how to side-walk and lead. We will give

you pointers on the different quirks with the horses. Through this program, you will gain more knowledge about horses and ponies at Rides and Reins. If you love ponies, you will want to come to these fun filled days.

**January Dates: Thursday 10, from 7to 9 pm. OR Saturday the 19 from 10 to 12. The February meetings will be scheduled at the January**

# The Happenings at Rides n' Reins Over the Winter

By Kayla Lynch and Andree' griffin

During the summer, everyone is able to see the ponies at work through therapy and various activities. However what do you think the ponies and the horses do throughout the winter without therapy? Well, they take a vacation!

The interior pasture gates are open so the ponies and the horses can intermingle with each other. This way they get to socialize with each other. However, various volunteers come out in the winter to keep the therapy pony's minds and bodies working. The volunteers spend time grooming, doing ground work, and riding the ponies so they stay healthy and fit. By grooming the ponies, the volun-

teers are able to keep the fuzzy winter coats looking their finest. The ground work helps to keep the ponies polite and helpers and kids safe on the ground. By riding the ponies, they are able to Stay in shape and not "pack on the pounds."

Beside just the therapy ponies, the other horses at Rides n' Reins go into training, now that the arena is not set up for therapy. This way the other horses that you see out in the pasture will hopefully be ready for therapy next year or in years to come. Some of the horses that are getting ready for therapy are Buttons, Nevada, and Lizzy. We have volunteers who specialize in work-

ing with horses who need training. Some of the things that they do to get the horses ready include practicing side-walking and leading, playing some of the therapy games like basketball, ring toss, and drop the ring on the cone, riding them, and getting the horses acquainted to the arena.

The ponies have a great season off relaxing in the pasture. They greatly enjoy grooming each other and nickering to each other in the field. However, the horses are eager to see everyone next therapy season. The ponies and horses would like to say " Merry Christmas and Happy New Years!"

## The Blizzard of Winter Costs

At Rides n' Reins winter is a costly time. The daily chores can take many hours instead of the normally takes. The cold weather causes the water tanks to freeze and the equipment takes a while to warm up in order for it to run properly. To keep the horses in good health, a 150 gallon water tank with a heater is hauled into the pasture. A few of the veteran horses have to be put in stalls because the weather is hard on their bodies. The

amount of senior grain increases by 50% in the winter, due to the fact that more horses need to eat the grain to maintain a healthy weight. The cost of the senior feed, however is escalating because of the price of corn. A bag of grain will now cost almost thirteen dollars instead of the ten dollars a bag cost last year. That doesn't sound like much, but when you buy 4 to 8 bags a month, it adds up quite fast. When the weather gets chilly, the horses

consume about 3 to 4 round bales a week with each weighing about 900 pounds. The amount hay consumed in winter doubles if not triples in winter, which can get costly with hay costing 35 dollars each. The cost of all the feed last year was a whopping 7,027 dollars. The farrier and veterinarian cost averages out to about 1,000 to 5,000 dollars every year. The average cost for the horses each year is an outstanding 10,000 dollars!

## Parent Fundraising Meeting

After the tree is down and the Christmas presents are put away join us at Rides and Reins . It's time to plan a fundraiser to help R & R raise money for the coming year. Bring your ideas and help plan

an event to help raise funds. Rides and Reins has a number of projects that need funding . They are fencing for the pasture by the woods, building a tack and feed room, mats for the barn and a number of

maintenance projects. I will be emailing you after the holidays to find out what days will work for you. Whether it's an evening or a Saturday morning or afternoon.

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## Rides and Reins

Hearts, Hands, and Hope  
Together changing lives!

We're on the Web  
[ridesnreins.com](http://ridesnreins.com)

Rides & Rein's mission is to provide therapeutic horseback riding to children. Physically challenged and having special needs from ages 2 to 12 years old. In 2007 we provided this service to 50 children. We provide this therapy to help promote independence and enhance the quality of their life, regardless of their ability to pay. We serve children with special needs ranging from brain injuries, Cerebral Palsy, Down's syndrome, Autism and more. Our children represent the diverse ethnic population of the six Milwaukee area counties we serve. Our experienced therapeutic instructors offer individual instruction to each and every child, focusing on their strengths and building on their weakness. Our instructors work closely with therapists from Children's Hospital from which 99 % of our children come from.

*Happy Holidays from all the staff and Volunteers . We are all looking forward to seeing you in 08*

*Soon we will be able to take donations online at [ridesnreins.com](http://ridesnreins.com) through the generosity of Google Checkout.*

## A Special Mustang

Honey was born in the Granite Range Herd Management Area which is located in central Washoe County, approximately 80 miles north of Reno, Nevada. Honey was born during the Spring of 1990. She was captured on February 14, 1993 near the city of Gerlach, Nevada.

The Granite Herd Management contains approximately 101,650 acres of public and private lands. The terrain in the area consists of a steep north-south trending mountains with small narrow valleys in the south half, and broad sloping ridge tops in the north half. Elevations within the range from 3,920 feet along the Black Rock Desert to 9,056 at Granite Peak. Climate is characterized by warm dry

days, cool nights and low yearly precipitation that ranges from 4 to 6 inches at lower elevations to approximately 14 inches at higher elevations. The area is also utilized by domestic livestock during part of the year and numerous wildlife species. Typical wildlife species found in the area include mule deer, California bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, sage grouse, chukar partridge, mountain quail, coyote, bobcats, and various rodents.



A very Special Palomino Mustang,

Vegetation varies from salt desert shrub communities at lower elevations to big sagebrush communities at upper elevations.

### Herd Description

The appropriate man-

agement level for wild horses in this area is managed in a range from 193-258 head. Periodic removals are conducted to maintain the population within the range. Horses within the Granite range are descendants of ranch horses and horses raised for cavalry remounts program that either escaped or were released into the area. The majority of horses exhibit a bay, brown or sorrel color pattern; however, there are a number of paint, buckskin and appaloosa horses as well.

Honey got her training from the BLM, she was trained as a cutting horse to work the corrals cutting other Mustangs out of corrals. She was picked by The B.L.M. to be used as a mascot to help promote the B.L.M. adoption program and was shipped to Milwaukee.