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**Wish List:**

- ♦ Donations for horse sponsorship in winter. (Hay, Grain, & supplements are **expensive** in the colder months.)
- ♦ Volunteers that are interested in training to become Teaching Assistants or Class Instructors.
- ♦ Board Members to help guide the future of our programs.

*And, of course...*

- ♦ An Indoor Arena



**2012 SEASON ALMOST COMPLETED!**

by Kris Zieska, Director of Children's Program

Time does fly when we are all having fun! It seems like we were just beginning classes in the spring, and now we are looking at the last couple of weeks quickly approaching. During the year we have enjoyed having over 80 riders in our Children's program, several different groups working in our Veteran's program, and 4 wonderful group "Day at the Ranch" style picnics.

The Children's program was able to expand it's advanced classes of riders until we had 2 classes in the evening throughout the year and one class in the morning during the summer session. With the increase to 13 riders, we will definitely be able to expand this service to our riders in 2013. These classes are for riders that are on the edge of graduating to regular riding lessons, but still needing the help at times of a leader.



*Rory making a perfect ring toss—upright!*



*Craig working with HOH riders*

The MHR "Heroes on Horseback" was able to utilize it's new hydraulic lift to get riders mounted onto their horses easier. Groups came out from several VFWs to meet, greet, and ride in the program. Their classes included work, games, and some trail rides—depending on the ability of the rider. We look forward to expanding the amount of riders and helping with their different needs in 2013.

The "Day at the Ranch" picnics enjoyed wonderful weather, fun, and frivolity at the farm. In June, Cornerstone came out for it's day and everyone enjoyed not only creating their signature cowboy hats, but also our new craft—rock painting! The horses all enjoyed giving rides to the children and their families, and as usual, the hay ride was a favorite for everyone. In July, with hotter weather, HopeKids came out for their day. While we did need to restrict rides to just the children and their siblings, the wait was kept to a minimum. Hats again were created, rocks were painted, and smiles were had by all.



## 2012 CHILDREN'S PROGRAM NEW FUNDRAISERS: VON HANSON'S MEATS BRAT STAND & MHR RIDE-A-THON

In 2012, the Children's Program put together 2 new small fundraisers with the help of several MHR Staff, their families, ranch boarders, their families, and LOTS of program volunteers, riders, and their families. Because of the success of each of these fundraisers, we will be continuing to have (and expand) them in 2013.

VON HANSON'S MEATS OF SAVAGE, MN was kind enough to host us 2 weekends for a hot dogs and bratwursts stand at their location as a fundraiser. They provided the meat, buns, condiments, grill, sodas and location, all we had to do was cook and sell brats! A portion of each item sold went into our "tractor" fund – and with the monies that we collected, we were able to pay off our old tractor so that we could then finance this lovely new tractor. With this positive outcome, we will again work this fundraiser in 2013, with the proceeds going towards the improvements of more ranch equipment. Thanks need to go out to the wonderful volunteers that helped out on these weekends, for we had the gambit of weather—cold and wet, windy, sunny and still with high temperatures. Typical Minnesota weekends in summer. We are hoping to get fantastic help like this again next year!

This summer, the Ranch had it's first annual "Ride-A-Thon" week, where riders and volunteers were asked to go out into the community and raise funds. During that week, each class had a special timed obstacle course or trail ride around the hay field that every rider was able to participate in. For those that collected money, a special MHR t-shirt and prizes were handed out, depending on how much they collected. These incredible folks raised over \$3000.00 that will go towards purchasing new horses for the 2013 year as well as the care of our current program horses and other miscellaneous expenses.



Above: Volunteers Allison & Patty helping Program Director Kris with sales and change. (Lots of help with that!)



Left: Volunteers Judy, Shawn, and Hugh helping Ranch Manager Erik with the grilling.

Below: Ranch Manager Erik on the lovely new tractor



The trail ride on the west side of the Ranch.



Finishing the trail



On the way home

**2012  
RIDE-A-THON  
GRAND PRIZE  
PICNIC**

"Pony" rides on Tobie for parents & siblings

Wagon full of fun!



The top collecting rider from the morning sessions and evening sessions and the volunteers that collected the most money received as their grand prize a picnic at the ranch for them and their family, which included a trail ride around the property, "pony" rides on Tobie, lunch, and then a tractor pulled hay ride. While the weather was a bit brisk and certainly windy—everyone had a fantastic day. We look forward to having the same event next year!

**Thank you, everyone! We could not have done it without you!**

## “VETERAN’S PICNIC”

There was a lot of excitement on Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at Majestic Hills. It was the first picnic honoring our veterans that ride in our “Heroes on Horseback” program, sponsored by Western National Insurance. Current participants and potential new riders joined us for a fun filled afternoon from the VA Medical Center, Minneapolis & Hastings Veterans Homes of Minnesota, along with current veteran outpatients that really enjoy the fun of equine assisted rehabilitative therapies.



*Thanking Western National for their support.*

Guests, to name a few, came from military organizations such as the Military of The Purple Heart, Disabled American Veterans, Vets4Vets, Vietnam Veterans, and many more were greeted by Board Members. Mayor Mark Bellows presented Founder and President, Kim Howard, with a proclamation signed by Governor Mark Dayton and Secretary of State Mark Ritchie, proclaiming August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Majestic Hills Ranch – Heroes on Horseback Day!



*Mayor Mark Bellows & Board President Kim Howard*

Boy Scout Troop #261 of Lakeville opened the day with their Honor Guard and Pledge of Allegiance and our guest entertainer, Matthew Griswold, performed the



*Singer Matthew Griswold performing.*

National Anthem. Our new carriage was on display and a demonstration of the carriage lift, to accommodate wheelchair bound veterans, was given and appreciated by all. Veteran Wayne Koski, one of our weekly riders, demonstrated our hydraulic lift that elevates the individual to the level of the back of the horse. This allows the person to slide over and onto the horse for easy access to begin the

therapeutic riding session. Wayne volunteered to do his entire session so all could observe and listen to his story of how he became disabled, why he chose Majestic Hills Ranch, and what he has gained from his equine assisted therapies at the ranch.

Great food and refreshments, plenty to see, interaction with old friends and new, wonderful entertainment, and the joy of helping our brave men and women regain and enrich their lives, made our first Veteran’s Picnic an afternoon to remember.



### *Thank you*

*To everyone that supports Majestic Hills Ranch. Your contributions help us keep our program costs low.*

#### **Business Support:**

Bobby & Steve’s Auto World Youth Foundation  
Eclipse Acoustic Solutions  
Northern Tool & Equipment  
Scoreboard Sportswear, Inc.  
The Question Club  
Western National Insurance

#### **Civic Organizations:**

American Legion Post 39  
American Legion Post 45  
American Legion Post 47  
American Legion Post 98  
American Legion Post 491  
American Legion Post 550  
American Legion Post 643  
Beyond the Yellow Ribbon  
Blue Star Mothers of America  
Disabled American Veterans # 13  
Marine Corps League #589  
Pine Island Lions Club  
Rosemount VFW 9433  
Stary Yerka Post 5727  
ULLR/Ski for Light  
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 217  
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 246

#### **Employer Match:**

From BlueCross / BlueShield:  
Alefina Bader, Anne Bueltel  
Jennifer Herman  
From Target Corporation:  
James Sauber  
From Thomson Reuters:  
Alison Bakken, Gregory Bannister

#### **Grants:**

Canterbury Park Minnesota Fund  
Carl & Verna Schmidt Foundation  
Hansen Family Foundation  
Mike & Linda Fiterman Family Foundation  
People in Business Care, Inc.  
TCF Foundation  
Walmart Store of Lakeville

#### **Individual Donations:**

Calvin & JoAnne Cameron  
Dr. Mary Lee Enfield  
Janet Favorite  
William & Marjorie Fritz  
Sandra G. Jarrett  
Mark McKasy  
Mr. & Mrs. L.M. Olsen

#### **In Kind Donations:**

Clint Anderson, Dorothea Bauman  
Erik & Shanon Bjornard, Gay Carpenter  
Linda Flicek, Mary Smith  
Paul Smith (for the HOH Lift repair)  
Kris Zieska

# MAJESTIC HILLS RANCH FOUNDATION

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## Tentative Dates for 2012/2013

**October** Fall Classes end (regularly scheduled) (October 22–25)  
Make Up Classes for fall (October 29–November 8)  
Ranch Fall Clean Up (November 3 or 11)

**November through April** Ranch closed to riding for the winter.

**December** MHR Winter Newsletter will be mailed out with donation envelope inside. *Please consider an end-of-the-year donation to the ranch to help us support the horses through the cold.*

**January & February** Planning for the new riding season and updating all of the paperwork.

**March** Mailing out all rider registration forms for the 2013 season, emailing or mailing out all volunteer registration forms. Scheduling the Children's riding program, tentatively scheduling days for Veteran's program—preparing all around for spring classes.

**April or May** Beginning the new season, weather dependent!



### **Board of Directors 2012**

#### **Executives**

Kim Howard, Board President  
Larry Johnson, Vice President  
Carol Meagher, Secretary / Treasurer

#### **Members**

Shanon Bjornard  
Mark A. Browne  
Mary Lee Enfield, Ph.D.  
Heather Harden  
Virginia Latocki  
Wayne Mertz  
Janis Verruos

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