

Our mission is to foster personal growth and achievement by providing educational, recreational and physically challenging therapeutic experiences using horse related activities for persons with disabilities.



STAR News

Shangri-La Therapeutic Academy of Riding

A 501(c)(3) non profit organization.

Issue 39 Summer, 2006



Lauren Allen rides, led by Nancy Sweeney, with Alyssa Bell sidewalking.



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OPEN HOUSE

Ever thought of coming out to visit our new place? Pick a date, bring some friends and learn about the program in action; welcome any day below between 9:30 a.m. and noon.:

September 16
October 21
November 18

Ground Breaking Education and Administration Building

STAR celebrated the official start of construction on its new Education and Administration building by having a Groundbreaking Ceremony on June 8th. STAR Board members and staff donned hardhats, grabbed shovels, and joined Joseph King of Elkhorn Construction, Kevin Diegel and Mike Keller of Studio Four Design, and Loudon County Assessor of Property Doyle Arp to begin the next phase of STAR's growth. A group of excited STAR riders, parents, volunteers, and supporters were there to cheer them on. The celebration continued as the group moved inside the barn to enjoy star cookies and discuss the impact the new building would have on STAR's program.



This event heralds the beginning of an expansion that will include covered walkways to the barn, a therapy room, space for hosting training seminars, handicapped accessible bathrooms, offices, and meeting space, as well as a caretaker apartment. We have been privileged with the gift of roofing for the entire building (from an anonymous source) and have other gift/donation options that have been keeping the costs in check. A special thanks to Holly Williams of Studio Four Design for her diligence and creativity with the project.

The indoor riding arena is slated for construction next, and when both buildings are completed STAR will be able to work on accommodating up to 200 riders with disabilities per week while maintaining the same level of service and standards under which we currently operate. The ability to serve this many riders will only be possible with an increase in the number of volunteers. Call Georgina at 988-4711 to sign up.

Hoofing & Hiking Date Changed

Hoofing and Hiking has been moved to September 23rd, so mark your calendars for this fun annual event held at Rarity Bay. Contact the office for more information.

Wish List (needed items friends may donate)

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Copy paper | Bevel Pad |
| Stick-on name tags | Veterinary cabinets (\$500) |
| Whitening horse shampoo | Stamps |
| Fly drops for horses | 39-gallon + size trash bags |
| Flea drop for cats | DVD player |
| Toilet paper | CD player (for the arena) |
| Spray cleaner (409 Type) | HP 45 black ink |
| Small cleaning buckets | HP 78 color ink |

Help STAR through Goodsearch.com

A new search engine, goodsearch.com, has partnered with yahoo.com to help non-profit agencies. A penny is donated to your selected charity for every search. This can add up quickly if all of us sign on - a one time log on. Pass this on to friends and family so the gifts to STAR will grow. Goodsearch.com is powered by Yahoo, so you'll get high-quality search results.

Welcome New Development Director

Fiona McAnally has just come on board as our new Development Director, replacing Carol Ann Lawhon who moved to California. Fiona brings a lot of experience in development and management to STAR having worked

at Knoxville Tourism and Sports Corp, Ramsey House and even

a stint in Washington DC where she was a budget analyst for the Department of State and Department of Commerce. Wanting to work with a non-profit where she could see exactly who her efforts were affecting drew her to us initially and we can sure fill that desire! She was born and raised in Loudon County so she is enjoying getting reacquainted with her old stomping grounds. She has readily taken on the task of moving STAR ahead and we are so excited to have her as part of our team.



Welcome New Handy Helper

Kyle Johnston has joined our STAR family to assist Mary Elrod with maintaining this growing facility. He works four days a week assisting in



multiple ways from bringing in horses, cleaning stalls, mowing & weed eating to helping with special events and general cleanup. With a staff of all females, we have a good time keeping Kyle on his toes.

Welcome New Volunteer Coordinator

Georgina Karklin joined us in February, 2006 to take on the arduous task of Volunteer Coordinator. With over 200 volunteers to keep

track of, train and schedule, she has her hands full. She comes well equipped however, with a degree in

Library Science and a certificate in Education. She has experience managing libraries and coordinating seminars and conferences. Also, she has two children (Jillian & Gavin) who always provide the best experience for a job in which multiple balls are being juggled. She is dedicating herself to restructuring our volunteer process to meet the needs of the growing program.

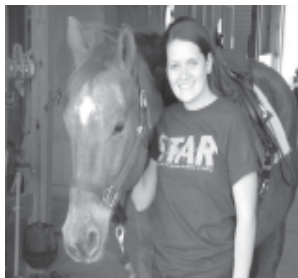


Welcome New Equine Manager

We are very pleased to introduce our new Equine Manger, **Claire McGuinness**, who started with us in February 2006. We are very thankful to instructor, Jan McElroy for sending her our way. Claire is a life-long horse woman who

has a warmth and dedication to the horses that is remarkable. She is a graduate of UT with a degree in

psychology but horses are her first love. She is training to become a NARHA certified instructor so will be able to join us in improving the lives of our riders, too. Right up the alley for a psych major who loves horses! She oversees our Equine Committee and puts in many hours in the saddle making sure the horses are fit for and understand their jobs.



Th' Way Things Happen 'Round Here

While laboriously pushing **John Leech**, an adult wheel chair user, through our gravel dust hallway toward the mounting ramp, I mentioned that one day we would have mats in this area so that those who use wheelchairs could get easily from the grooming area to the mounting apparatus. Without blinking an eye, his wife Marianne said they would see what they could do. Well, after a few letters and strategic visits she shows up with enough donations to cover the cost of the mats. **Dave McAdoo** of Tobruk Farms had given STAR a good price on the mats and waived his installation fee so we were ready to go. The timing of the military work day enabled the job to be done in one morning. Now we roll out smoothly and quickly to mount up. It has also cut down on the dust in the stable area which is another plus. Our special thanks to these kind donors: First National Bank - Lenoir City, FSG Bank - Lenoir City, ERA Lakeside Realty - Vickie Skofield, Tellico Village POA, Lenoir City Animal Clinic, Wampler's Farm Sausage, ReMax at the Lakes - Avery Petty, United Community Bank, and John & Marianne Leach.

Robin Gains Certification

After a long process of education, practice and personal riding lessons, **Robin Bowen** received notification that she is now certified as an instructor for those with disabilities. This certification is not easy to obtain, requiring about a year of prerequisite work and testing. Matching the horse with special needs individuals can be a real challenge and is not to be entered into lightly. We are proud of Robin and her accomplishment. She brings our number of certified instructors to eight.

Shop the website of COUNTRY CARE - www.countrysupply.com - type in our care code: STARTN, and a percentage of your purchase will be donated to STAR. Thanks, y'all, for your country care.



Second Annual Bridles & Blue Jeans Magic

Around 270 friends of STAR gathered on April 29th to celebrate a successful year and boost our capital campaign. This second annual **Bridles & Blue Jeans** was a resounding success raising almost \$130,000! All of the proceeds from this event are enabling us to break ground on the Education/Administration Building!

Whether it was watching STAR riders, **Randy & Wyatt Branson** and **Lauren Allen & Savanna Spencer** demonstrate their skills on horseback, dancing to the tunes of Uncle Funky and the ZRow Cash Band, snacking on the incredible appetizers provided by **O'Charley's**, touring through the stable or bidding on over 100 fabulous items - the guests were so busy they didn't want to heed the dinner bell.

After they were herded into the decorated tent, they enjoyed a scrumptious dinner of steak and salmon complete with salad, corn, baked potatoes, O'Charley's famous rolls and then delicious desserts. A STAR video was played and then the fun began as **Rob Strickland** drummed up some raucous bidding on our live auction items. We are ever so grateful for the generous bidding as well as the donors who offered such lovely get-aways. A special thank you to **Edie Klimas** for designing and making a fantastic quilt featuring pictures that our STAR riders had made. It caught the eye of **Sommerville Harris** (daughter of **Stephen Harris**) who was top bidder for the piece. Then she promptly gave it to STAR to hang in the hallway of the new building! What a phenomenal gesture from this young lady. Our other stupendous auction story was for a sponsorship for *Scooter*, one of our adorable therapy ponies. With bidding hot and heavy between **Debbie & Paul Nichols** and **Sommerville & Stephen Harris**, the clincher happened when **David Cox** stood up to say O'Charley's would match the bid if it went to \$15,000. It took 30 seconds for Mr. Strickland to get both the Nichols and Harris' to join forces for a match! It brought down the house!

In every way, it was a magical night and we would like to extend special thanks to O'Charley's and their crew, as well as all of our event sponsors: **Addicks CPA Firm, Skier's Choice, A Beautiful Room, Knoxville Orthopedic Clinic, Carpe Librum, Broadway Sound, Mayfield Dairy, and Advanced Medical Group.**

Below top: Supporters enjoy O'Charley's repast. Congressman Jimmy Duncan is seated at center table. Lower: Prospective bidders preview items before auction action begins.



Above left, the quilt of horses sewn by Edie Klimas; rt - Scooter and sponsors, Paul & Debbie Nichols and Sommerville Harris.



Above, Nancy Sweeney, Glenna Overton and Lynn Petr. Right, corps of volunteers kept the auction documented.



30-Year-Old Shera Retired

It is such a sad time when it becomes apparent that one of our herd has reached retirement status. For some, the decision is made for us by them becoming unsound or unusable, but for those who just grow old and tired, the decision is very different. Our *Shera* reached that level. While she is still sound at 30 years old, she lacks the willingness and stamina to trot for long with even a light load. She has been a valuable part of STAR for nine years. If you remember, she is the mare who took care of *Bucky* when he became hard of hearing. The bright side of all this is that our



Shera carries Brian Ferrell in the STAR arena .

wonderful farrier, **Kim Simmons**, has welcomed *Shera* onto her farm to live out her days in peaceful grazing with a menagerie of friends. Finding good retirement homes is always a challenge, so we feel lucky to have people like Kim who are willing to make such a commitment to STAR and to the animal who has served us so well.

Riders Ride to Benefit STAR

On May 21st, thirty-three STAR riders saddled up to raise money for a charity that is very close to their hearts. In typical fashion the riders strolled or rolled into the barn, mounted up and rode for an entire hour in support of STAR. Because of arena size constraints, the riders were divided into three groups for riding. After their time in the saddle, the families enjoyed a pot luck dinner (hot dogs provided by Elm Hill) where they could get to know the volunteers and each other better. **Savanna Spencer** was the big winner by bringing in the most money for STAR. All the riders got prizes donated by Smart Toys and Books, Carpe Librum Booksellers, Kimberly Pruet, or procured through sponsorship funds provided by the Wright family. The event was a joint celebration with Volunteer



Savanna rides to benefit STAR.

Appreciation Day. It is a way to recognize and thank our super helpers who make this program tick.

We also honor one person who has made significant contributions of time and talent to the program. This year's Volunteer of the Year is **Sally Moyer**, a long time volunteer who helps in all aspects of the program - from multiple lessons per week to fund raising to barn help...Sally does it all. She is our special "stamp fairy" in that she made a deal with herself that if she was ever in the Post Office and there wasn't a line, she would buy STAR a roll of stamps. Lucky for us, the Post Office has been very prompt in their service this year. We are very proud to have her as a friend of STAR. Congratulations, Sally!

Friends in Cammo

On June 15th, 35 students from the **Academy of Military Science** training course based at **McGhee Tyson** arrived with sleeves rolled up ready to work. Fencing, weeds, gravel, paint, trash, cleaning, and installed shed rafters all were addressed handily by these generous men and women who have just completed officers training. It is amazing how much work can be accomplished in a short period of time with this type of work force. And this is not the first time STAR had benefited from their services. Jodie Ramsey has brought scores of students out to assist us in this very tangible way.



Above: Kristen Sanders with a host of McGhee Tyson Military Science students.

Calendar

August

5th: State Show, Roane

State College

11 & 12th Region V

Conference, Mississippi

19th Volunteer Training,

9 am-1 pm

26th Fall session begins

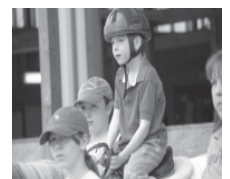
September

16th Open House, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

23rd Hoofing and Hiking

October 21st: Open House,

9:30 am -12:00 pm



Shangri-La Therapeutic Academy of Riding
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John Basler
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Morgan Duff
Mark & Cheryl Duff
Sarah Elizabeth Fisher
Jana Fisher
The DeVol Family
Susalee Higginbotham
Bethany Hallam's Birthday
Thomas & Rachel Hallam
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Deana Brotherton
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Our terrific herd is kept healthy and happy through the labor of staff and volunteers but the enabling factor is the sponsor who provides funding to purchase grain, supplements, salt, farrier services, worming, veterinary services, etc. With these costs met, we know our animals will receive the best care possible so they are ready and able to do their jobs. The following animals are in need of a sponsor. The cost is \$1,000 per year (can be made in payments) and your name goes on the stall of your selected animal.

Buddy - Black & White Spotted Saddle Pony (attitude and cuteness all in one)

Diablo - Chestnut Quarter Horse (big and solid)

Freckles - Bay Snowflake POA (learning the ropes)

May - Tiny Welsh Pony (our old lady)

Pete - Chestnut Tennessee Walker (steady and kind)

Rocky - Seal brown large pony (very cute and lovable!)

Andy - Seal brown Thoroughbred (gentle and easy going)