

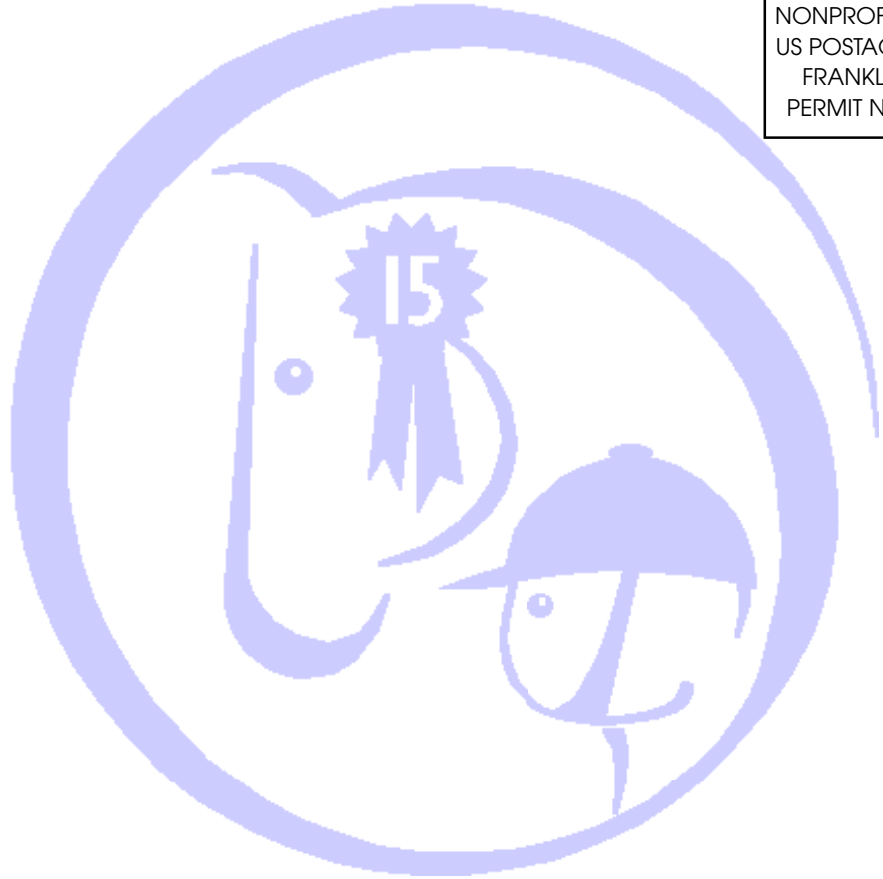


15 Years of Dedication

1549 Old Hillsboro Road
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615-794-1150

www.saddleupnashville.org

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Calendar of Events 2006

November

- 22-26 NO LESSONS - Holiday
- 30 (Thurs) Orientation 5:30 - 7:30 pm

December

- 2 (Sat) Orientation 10:00 am - noon
- 2 (Sat) Leader Clinic 3:00 - 5:30 pm
- 4-7 LAST DAY Mon - Thurs lessons
- 9 (Sat) Horse Handling Clinic 2:00 - 7:00 pm
- 15-16 LAST DAY Fri & Sat lessons
- 15-17 NARHA Registered Instructor Workshop
- 22-26 CLOSED for Holidays
- 30-1 CLOSED for Holidays



The staff and animals at Saddle Up! wish you a Happy Holiday Season!

Know someone with a horse or cat on their Christmas Wish List?

see page 6 for details



15 Years
of Dedication

Our Mission

to provide
children & youth
with disabilities
the opportunity to
grow & develop
through recreational
activities with horses

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Saddle Up!

newsletter

Winter 2006



Love, Laughter and a Year Full of Horse Tales

Saddle Up! Honors Those Who Make Our Program So Super at Annual Awards Banquet

With hands waving in the air in silent "applause," attendees at the October 7 Annual Awards Banquet cheered on SU! riders demonstrating their horse skills for parents, volunteers and fellow riders. The annual celebration was replete with good barbecue, good friends, horses decorated for the holidays and even a special tribute to some retired equine staff who came back to visit their old human friends.

As we do every year, we honored those volunteers, riders and parents who help make our program so special by going above and beyond everyone's expectations. Please read about each of them throughout this special year-end edition of the Saddle Up! newsletter.

Special awards were given to those stalwart volunteers who have stood the test of time:

★ **Libby Bond (10 years)** - Libby has come full circle as an SU! volunteer. She started as a horse leader 10 years ago and served as an instructor and board member for many years before again becoming a leader today.

Despite having a toddler at home and a busy job, Libby always makes time for our riders.

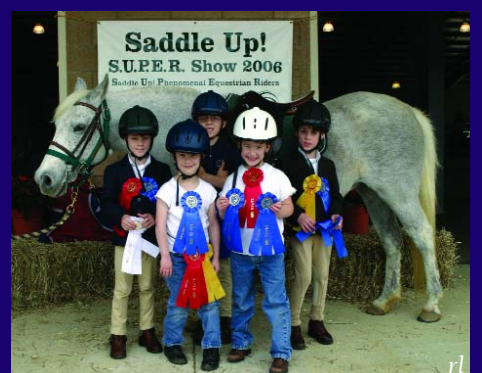
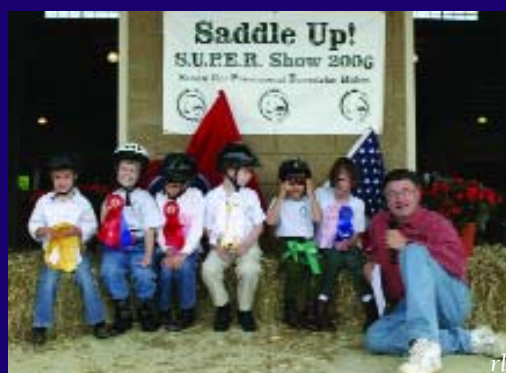


★ **Kim Light (10 years)** - Just like her name, Kim brings light to all those she touches at Saddle Up! Kim has served as an instructor and volunteer at SU! for more years than we have records and continues to be a example to all for her professionalism, compassion and enthusiasm. (with Cheryl Scutt on her right)

★ **Dr. Monty McInturff (10 years)** - Where would we be without the veterinarian who has so selflessly given his time to the care of our horses for a full decade? He's even brought his associate vets to our program to help us as our herd has grown. We are so thankful for his years of quiet dedication and expertise.



★ **Billy Lampley (7 years)** - It's all about healthy feet when it comes to horses and Billy Lampley has assured our equine staff always puts its best foot forward for more than seven years. His steady hand and gentle manner make shoeing and trimming a peaceful experience for the horses and handlers alike.



Smiling faces, a rainbow of ribbons, and a SUPER year at Saddle Up!

What's Been Happening?

Saddle Up! Chosen to Participate in Alternative Gift Market

We are happy to announce that Saddle Up! was chosen to participate in the Fifth Alternative Gift Market. The event took place November 5 and was held in the Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church in downtown Franklin. There were 26 agencies represented this year and each chose two "items" to sell. Saddle Up! offered a \$15 gift to furnish one lesson to a child who needs a scholarship and a \$5 gift to purchase one bag of shavings for a horse's stall. Saddle Up! volunteers Charlotte Scholl and her daughter Katie manned our booth with Tina Carpenter. Thanks ladies!



All dressed up and everywhere to go, the three minis get ready for the party!



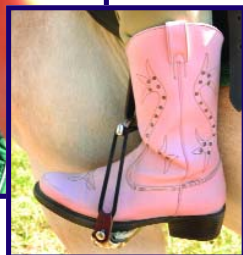
Currey Ingram Offers Helping Hands

Currey Ingram Lower School Community Service Club members made their third appearance at our farm for a little hands-on service project. They spent their time cleaning the horses' grooming kits and then were treated to a field trip out to see our miniature horses. A big thank you to these great helpers.

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Happy Trails to You - 2006 Ride-a-Thon Recap

Fallen leaves crinkled beneath the feet of our gentle giants as they lovingly carried our precious children along the sun dappled pathway. Blue skies, cool breezes and an army of smiling volunteers offered an added bonus to the eventful day. A generous total of over \$16,000 was raised through donations and sponsorships by many individuals and companies, including the 2006 event sponsor [Blue Haven Pools](#). A grateful thank you to Sarah and David Ingram for the opportunity to ride on trails at their beautiful Duke-it-Out Farm in Franklin. Another big thanks goes out to Bill Kenner for spending the day with us to capture this special occasion in pictures.



Volunteers Extraordinaire

★ **Volunteer of the Year Award - Alice Duva:** Tell Alice Duva about a need at SU! and her response is always, "How can I help?" An associate instructor, Alice started volunteering as a horse leader and has even gotten her son involved as a volunteer. This year, she championed the difficult job of procuring food for Super Show volunteers by soliciting a donation from Panera Bread. We were eating delicious bagels for a week! Thanks, Alice, for ALL you do.



★ **Jr. Volunteer of the Year Award - Ann Q.:** Spend a day volunteering with Ann and you'll never believe she's just 14 years old. She is amazingly mature and responsible for her age, and (fortunately for us) has a passion for horses and for Saddle Up! Last winter, Ann showed up several times at 8 a.m. for barn work, and realizing there weren't enough volunteers that day to get the job done, stayed until 3 p.m. doing barn chores! All we have to do is think of a job to be done and Ann is already doing it! Ann's art was chosen for the 2006 Ride-A-Thon t-shirt design. (shown with Volunteer Vicky Haber on left)



★ **Pony Pal Award - Suzanne Fuller:** A special friend to all our SU! "ponies," Suzanne has served as a Pony Pal to Samoens, Valentino and Nomo for more than a year, giving them the benefit of her excellent equestrian skills as well as loads of TLC. Suzanne is always willing to ride any horse we ask her to work with and always greatly improves them with her finesse and expertise. The horses should have given her this award! (shown with SU! Equine Trainer Lisa Wysocky on right)



★ **Volunteer Family of the Year Award - David & Liza T:** When 11 year-old Liza showed up for volunteer orientation, little did we know we would score her dad, David, as one of our most dedicated volunteers, as well! There is no task too daunting for this dynamic duo who have helped with summer camp and barn chores and everything in between. Liza is wonderful with the kids and the horses, and she and her dad never leave until the job is done! What a family!



For More Information About
SU! Volunteer Opportunities

Amy Jones
Volunteer Coordinator
794-1150 Ext. 2
suvolcoord@bellsouth.net
www.saddleupnashville.org



We're always looking
for new volunteers!
Sign up today!

Volunteer Opportunities

Orientations are open to individuals interested in volunteering at Saddle Up!

Please check the calendar of events, call the volunteer hotline, or visit our website for dates and times of upcoming orientations

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2006 S.U.P.E.R. Show Trophy Winners

Congratulations to these special riders for their achievements at this year's S.U.P.E.R. Show, held at our farm in April. (clockwise from left)

Special Olympics High Point Award

Andrew W.

★ Luella Jeffrey Challenged Rider High Point Award

Kylie L.

★ Luella Jeffrey Challenged Rider Basic Obstacle

Wyatt M.

★ Lynne Evans Challenged Rider Basic Equitation

Moses S.

★ Lynne Evans Dressage Award

Jarvis D. from S.T.A.R.



December 15-18

Saddle Up! will be hosting a NARHA registered workshop. Volunteer sidewalkers, leaders and barn helpers are requested.

**For More Information
About These Opportunities**

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794-1150 Ext. 3
sudevcoord@bellsouth.net

Peggy Plunkett
Executive Administrator
794-1150 Ext. 1
suadmin@bellsouth.net
www.saddleupnashville.org

Kenz Ridership Tops \$650

Grants

MTEMC Customers Care Program
Enterprise

Wish List

When you're out holiday shopping, please remember your friends at Saddle Up! and as always, your gifts are tax deductible

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- Stamps • Bottled water
- Show Sheen (gallon size)
- Cowboy Magic detangler
- Gift Cards for Bookstores,
- State Line Tack & Tractor Supply

Horse Massages \$40 each
Sidewalk Chalk Paint

Buy Your Favorite Horse a
"New Pair of Shoes"



At the recent NARHA Convention in Indianapolis, Nancy, Cheryl, Jane, Lisa, Tina, Michele and Judy proudly accept the award and painting of King Bee in honor of being NARHA's Region 5 Horse of the Year!

Fabulous Fundraisers

Some of our best fundraisers are our riders. After all, who knows better and can better represent to others the benefits of this wonderful program? The following riders received awards at the Annual Awards Banquet for their superior fundraising abilities:

★ **Pennies for Ponies - Anthony P.:** Not only is Anthony (aka AJ) an avid rider, he is a fabulous fundraiser! For the third year in a row, he has raised the most money of all the donors to our Pennies for Ponies program. Each year, Anthony tirelessly puts out our Pennies for Ponies buckets at Pops Carwashes owned by his grandparents and collects more from family and friends. This year, he donated more than \$150. Anthony is an inspiration for his fellow riders and volunteers! Thanks, AJ!



★ **2006 Ride-A-Thon High Dollar Award - Connor B.:** Last year we elected Jill to be part of our Saddle Up! Board of Directors, but little did we know we were getting a package deal. Connor, who has been participating in the program for just over a year, has raised the most donations for our annual Ride-A-Thon for two years in a row. This year Connor and his mom raised over \$4,800, an all-time-high donation for this event. Way to go team!

**Once in a Lifetime Provision Allows For
TAX-FREE CHARITABLE TRANSFERS from IRAs**

A provision in the new federal Pension Protection Act of 2006 creates a new option: transferring IRA assets directly to charity. By donating directly to a charity, the money is not included in the IRA owner's income and - most importantly - IS NOT TAXED. The law covers gifts up to \$100,000 made only this year and next. Donors must be 70 1/2 years of age at the time of the donation.

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(continued on page 5)

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Lindsey Rizor • Michele Sandefur

Kelly Sheehan • Nancy Swindell

Contributing Photographers:

Bill Kenner • Rick Lance • SU! Staff

Mike Snider • Nancy Swindell



Familiar Faces

Amy Jones Named New Volunteer Coordinator



New volunteer coordinator Amy Jones brings both personal and professional experience to the job. Amy knew as soon as she saw a posting for the volunteer coordinator position on line that she had found her dream job. We knew as soon as we saw her resume, we had found our dream candidate.

With more than seven years experience as a volunteer coordinator and clinical programs assistant at the Rape and Sexual Abuse Center and as volunteer coordinator at Senior Citizens Inc., Amy brings a wealth of professional knowledge to Saddle Up! But, it is her "job" as a parent to a five-year-old son with autism that makes Amy's passion for and dedication to her new job here at Saddle Up! so special.

"I know first-hand the challenges the parents of our riders are dealing with," says Amy. "I am so eager to use my professional experience to make a difference for kids with disabilities." Amy is looking forward to getting to know all of our volunteers personally. "I don't just want to see our volunteers at orientation and the Awards Banquet," she says. "I really want to get to know these wonderful people who give so much time here and to advocate for our volunteer pool. The best way I know how to lead such a large group of volunteers is to serve them."

Amy says she will be making a special effort to get around and talk to as many volunteers as possible in the coming weeks, but invites anyone, including parents of our riders, to stop by her office to introduce themselves and chat as well. "I strongly believe in an open door policy. Our volunteers are our greatest asset here at Saddle Up! I'm here to help with any concerns or hear any ideas you may have." (shown with SU! President Sarah Ingram on left)

Saddle Up!'s Herd Welcomes Kelly O'Brien as New Equine Manager

There is nothing Saddle Up!'s horses love more than a horsewoman who knows her stuff! That's why our herd is extra excited about our new Equine Manager, Kelly O'Brien, a horsewoman with an impressive equine education and five years experience as a volunteer with therapeutic riding programs.

A recent graduate of Michigan State University with a B.A. in psychology, Kelly has taken numerous classes on horse care and animal behavior at both Michigan State and University of Findlay in Findlay, OH. During her years in college, Kelly attended many horse clinics taught by an impressive array of riding experts. She is also awaiting her NARHA Registered Instructor Certification, having just completed a six-week course at Equest Therapeutic Riding Center in Wylie, TX, studying all aspects of therapeutic riding.

"We're so grateful to have someone with Kelly's horse knowledge and enthusiasm to take care of our special horses," say Cheryl Scutt, executive director at Saddle Up! "I am excited that she will be able to share her horse skills with our volunteers and instructors to the benefit of our herd."



Know Someone with a Horse or Cat on their Christmas Wish List?

Why not surprise them with a photo of an eligible horse at Saddle Up! in need of sponsorship and a personalized name plate in their honor! Did you know it costs us over \$65,000 to maintain our four-legged friends? For \$1,000 a year you can sponsor a Saddle Up! horse and contribute to his/her feed, bedding, vet and farrier services, grooming supplies and tack. A plate will be made with your name on it and placed under your horse's picture on the Wall of Fame in the barn. What a better way to "have a horse for a year" and make a tax deductible donation at the same time! Choose your horse or pony today then come out to the barn to see your them giving back to our community!

Know a cat lover instead? Sponsors are also needed for our frisky felines. A cat sponsorship is only \$150 a year. Contact Tina Carpenter at 794-1150, Ex. 3 for more information.



Family Ties

SU! Parent DeAnn S. Honored as Parent of the Year



Usually this space within our newsletter allows parents a chance to give their perspective on SU! and how it has benefited their child. In honor of our special Awards Banquet issue, however, we are using this space to give you our perspective on a special SU! parent, DeAnn, winner of this year's Parent of the Year Award.

DeAnn is a great inspiration to all SU! parents with her willingness to help with any task both at the barn and during fundraisers and special programs. Having gone through sidewalker orientation, she is always ready to jump in when we need a substitute, whether or not her son Alan (this year's Sportsmanship Award winner, see story below) is riding at the time or not.

The success of our big fundraisers is so dependent upon volunteer efforts and DeAnn was a tireless volunteer this year at both Grand Prix and Chukkers. She not only arrived at the break of dawn to help with set-up, but then left to clean up and came back to volunteer in the tent on both occasions.

Not only has she helped with fundraisers, DeAnn is a selfless donor as well. On a family car trip, she and Alan found money in their rental car left by the previous driver. They turned the money in, but it was never claimed and the rental company gave it back to DeAnn who promptly donated it to Saddle Up! What a wonderful example to her son on the importance of giving! It's exactly what we would expect of this wonderful SU! parent! (shown with SU! Executive Administrator Peggy Plunkett on right)

Special Riders Receive Awards for Hard Work and Dedication

Riders came forward to receive their special awards from staff members and volunteers at our recent Annual Awards Banquet held at the farm. These students have demonstrated extraordinary dedication, a great work ethic and even superior fund raising skills to receive the following kudos:

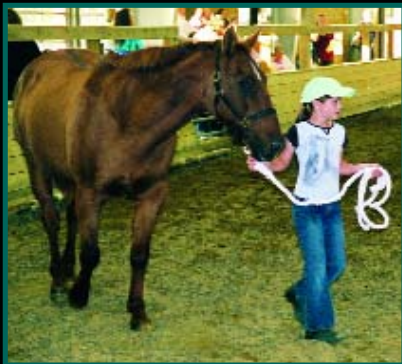


★ **Companionship Award - Hunter A.:** This award honors the student who has a special bond with his horse or pony and actively cares for it during pre-and post-lesson grooming. This is exactly what Hunter has demonstrated with Alyska and then some! During the six months that Hunter rode her, he could be seen constantly patting and talking to Alyska. He never left a lesson without lovingly thanking her for her hard work. This spring, it was determined that Alyska should no longer trot in lessons and Hunter had to move on to riding Maddie. At their last lesson together, Hunter threw his arms around Alyska's neck and exclaimed, "Alyska, I will never forget you and I will always love you!" We promise, no volunteers cried... really. (shown with Volunteer Beth D. and Alyska)

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★ **Sportsmanship Award - Alan S.:** This award is given to the student who demonstrates teamwork, participates enthusiastically in lessons and games, and encourages and inspires other students. It is more about attitude than riding skill, and what a positive attitude Alan brings with him each week to SU! Alan is not only unfailingly kind to his fellow riders, but kind to his horse, Nomo, his volunteers and anyone else with whom he comes in contact. In fact, during his "birthday ride," Alan kept making sure that the other rider received treats as well so he didn't feel left out. What a sport!

(shown with Instructor Lisa McKinless)



The Veteran Parade at the Annual Banquet brought back fond memories of Piper, Johnny, and Pretty Boy (L-R). Thank you Lynne Evans for arranging this special treat and thank you new owners for sharing these treasured heroes.