



Our Mission:
to provide children and youth with disabilities the opportunity to grow and develop through recreational activities with horses

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Newsletter Design/Editor

Nancy Oglin-Swindell
dznancy@comcast.net

Sizzling summertime 'fun'-raising events!

Please be sure to mark your calendar for our two main fundraising events, both bigger and better than ever! The Tractor Supply Company Music Country Grand Prix moves to a Saturday (June 4) and adds a rocking post-party that features Mel & The Party Hats. Two weeks later (June 18), the Infiniti Chukkers for Charity again features a top flight polo match and a unique pre-match car show in a day of fun for the entire family. Details are below. So, enjoy the fun to raise funds and help keep our riders riding!



- Saturday, June 4, 2011
- Gates open at 2:30pm
- Grand Prix 4pm
- Brownland Farm
1155 Hillsboro Road
Franklin, Tennessee
- www.musiccountrygrandprix.com

Event Co-Chairs: [Sarah Ingram](#) and [Jennifer Pennington](#)

- Saturday, June 18, 2011
- Gates open at 2:30pm
- Car Show 3 - 4:30pm
- Polo Match and dinner 5 - 8pm
- Riverview Farm
1475 Moran Road
Franklin, TN
- www.chukkersforcharity.net

Event Hosts: [Lee Ann](#) and [Orrin Ingram](#)

Event Chairs: [Lexie Armstrong](#), [Cathy Brown](#), [Valerie Levay](#), and [Theresa Menefee](#)

Tourney news tees up memories of early days



Former Saddle Up! rider
Lyrica M. in 1992.

Dear Saddle Up!,

I was so surprised to see the golf tournament last fall to benefit Saddle Up!. On June 1992, we at Jose's Taqueria held a benefit for Saddle Up! with a golf tournament at the Nashboro Village. We called it 'Hispanic Panic: The Golf of Mexico' with many country stars and dignitaries from the state and city government attending and/or playing. I believe we raised over \$10,000 and had a wonderful time.

Lyrica, Gayle (her mom), and I, would like to invite you to the signing and debut of their new book on Autism, *AWEtism: A Hidden Key To Our Spiritual Magnificence*. It will be held at the Hampton Inn in Green Hills on June 11, between 2 - 4 pm..

Thank you Saddle Up! for being there for Lyrica many years ago. Now Lyrica is asking you to be there for her, too.

Her Dad (Jose Marquez, former owner of Jose's Taqueria)

Homecoming celebration just around the corner! See page 6 for more details.

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*Currently away at school

2010-2011 Student Intern

Daniel Johnson

2011 Board, officers and Advisory Board announced

Thanks to our new Board and Advisory Board members. Beginning their first three-year terms of service on the Board are:

- **Nancy Bass** of bytes of knowledge. A former member of the Advisory Board, Nancy is a long-time Saddle Up! volunteer. She created and remains the designer for the Saddle Up! website. In addition, she manages our Facebook page and designed and maintains the Music Country Grand Prix website. She is also serving as Chair of the 20th Anniversary Celebration Marketing Committee.
- **Will Caldwell** of Ortale, Kelley, Herbert & Crawford law firm in Nashville. Will also serves as a Big Brother for the Big Brothers Big Sisters program and is an active participant in the Nashville Pro Bono program.
- **Deborah Newman**, community volunteer and parent of a Saddle Up! rider. Deborah has been a volunteer with various Saddle Up! events, including the Country Ride 'N Roll and Chukkers for Charity. She is a strong champion for the benefits of our program. She was previously an accountant at Ernst & Young before choosing to be a full-time mom.

Beginning their service on the Advisory Board are:

- **Anna Freeman** of Anna Freeman Law offices of Brentwood. Anna served as a Board Intern in 2010 and has assisted in providing advice and counsel on legal topics for Saddle Up!.
- **Anna Keith** of Your Community Magazine. Anna is a volunteer in lessons and has been instrumental in helping Saddle Up! get publicity in Williamson County.

The 2010 Board officers are:

- President Jill Bosse, Allergan Medical
- Vice President Ken Wilmes, Tractor Supply Company
- Secretary Elizabeth Lewis, Bridgestone Americas, Inc.
- Treasurer Mary Beth Gates, CPA and community volunteer

Recognized at the April 16 awards ceremony for completing their service on the Board were:

- Lisa Craft, M.D.
- Teri Edmonson
- Sarah Ingram



Nancy Bass



Will Caldwell



Deborah Newman

Saddle Up! welcomes Stephanie Louder, Volunteer Services Assistant

Saddle Up! is delighted to announce that Stephanie Louder has joined the staff as our part-time Volunteer Services Assistant. She will be assisting Kim Kline, Volunteer Services Director, with the daily schedules for volunteers as well as volunteer coordination for special events.

Stephanie began in August of 2008 as a regular volunteer on Wednesday mornings, typically as a horse Leader in lessons, and has volunteered her accounting skills to assist Peggy Plunkett, Business Director. Stephanie worked in a variety of financial positions, including Area Financial Auditor for Sprint. Please welcome Stephanie next time you are at the farm.

Thank You to Our Donors

Saddle Up! is deeply grateful to each donor who chooses to make a positive difference with a gift supporting our program. Each donation is vital to bringing our mission to life. Throughout the year, we have the opportunity to spotlight your support with recognition in our newsletters. If we have omitted or incorrectly listed your name, please contact Development Director Knox Brewer at 615-794-1150 extension 32 or kbrewer@saddleupnashville.org so that we may correct your information. Also, for more information about how to join the Hoofing Society or become a horse sponsor, please contact Knox. Thank you for your support.

The Hoofing Society

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Three reasons why all donations are greatly appreciated. Ryan W., Emma R. and Trevor P., shown left to right, are all smiles.

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Saddle Up! salutes volunteers and graduates

The 2011 Volunteer Appreciation week concluded with a spring awards ceremony. Throughout the week our special volunteers received thank you notes, sweet treats and door prizes from staff members and riders and their families. On Saturday, April 16th we celebrated with a delicious catered meal from the culinary students at Franklin High School followed by trophies to our 2011 award-winning volunteers and participants. Saddle Up! greatly appreciates the time, care and efforts that our volunteers give.



Equine Manager Ashley Kurtzhan (center), awarded TWO Volunteer of the Year awards this year to Carol Miller (left) and Robbie Warley (right) for their dedication and hard work.



Junior Volunteer of the Year, Chelsey M. got a hug and a trophy from Instructor Anne Rogers.



Seven-year volunteer mother and daughter dynamic duo, Charlotte and Katie Scholl, received the Volunteer Family of the Year from Volunteer Services Director Kim Kline (left).



Savannah M., shown with Program Director Lindsey Wood, accept the Parent Volunteers of the Year Awards for her mother, Renee Miller and rider Ashley H.'s grandmother, Glenda Turner.



Pony Pal extraordinaire, Rica Howard Ford (left), received this honor from Equine Manager Ashley Kurtzhan.



Executive Director Award went to Nancy Bass (left) for her outstanding design and continued hosting of the Saddle Up! website. Shown with Volunteer Services Director Kim Kline (right).



Connor B., shown with volunteer Cowboy Kevin and Instructor Lynne Evans, won the Companionship Award along with his horse Chester.



Caleb P., shown with his Instructor Kate Cole, earned the Sportsmanship Award.



Connor B., shown with Development Coordinator Tina Carpenter, also received the Country Ride 'N Roll High-Dollar Award for the sixth year in a row!



Saddle Up! 2011 Graduates John Snider with NARHA Certified Instructor Nancy Swindell (left) and Andrew Wash with NARHA Certified Instructor Kate Cole (right) holding their staff autographed graduation photos and certificates.

Please join us in celebrating our two spring graduates, **John Snider** and **Andrew Wash**.

John has been riding with Saddle Up! since he was six years old. He is a very enthusiastic rider who can groom and tack his horse quicker than any other rider here. John has been riding independently (without a leader) at a trot for a few years and reached his long-term riding goal of cantering. Even though John is still perfecting his skills at a trot he never forgets to ask about cantering his horse. "When I began instructing John in 2003, I wrote in his end-of-session notes, 'Super kid; eager to canter and fearless; naturally balanced seat; has potential to be a great rider!,'" recalls Nancy Swindell, NARHA Registered Instructor. "Who would have guessed almost eight years later that I would *still* be instructing John and get to see those words come to fruition. Over the years, John has helped me grow as an instructor. When I unhooked his lead rope, wonderful things began to happen."

Andrew began riding with Saddle Up! at age four. Early on, his mom vividly remembers Andrew taking a nap the last few minutes of his lesson on top of his horse Mo. In 2009, Andrew was honored as the **NARHA Youth Equestrian of the Year** in Fort Worth, TX. Andrew was able to canter on a lunge line in 2009 but prefers to work off lead at the trot, a much more manageable speed for him and his horse Elvis. "At the beginning of each lesson, Andrew whispers something in Elvis' ear then he leads him around the arena, stopping to admire themselves in the big mirrors!," laughs Kate Cole, NARHA Registered Instructor.

John and Andrew are both very caring and intelligent young men. It has been a delight to see them grow and develop throughout the years. Please join us in praising them for their hard work and accomplishments. John and Andrew you will both be dearly missed here at Saddle Up! and we wish you the best.

Volunteers Needed

.....
Music Country Grand Prix
 Friday, June 3 - Set up
 Saturday, June 4 - Event

Chukkers for Charity
 Friday, June 17 - Set up
 Saturday, June 18 - Event
 Sunday, June 19 - Clean up

Volunteers please watch for emails for more details.

Galloping toward our goal



Thanks to you, we have raised over \$27,000 toward our goal of \$125,000, so far this year!

Lynne Evans
Saddle Up! Co-Founder, 2011 Annual Fund Chair,
NARHA Certified Riding Instructor

Please donate to our annual fund online today!

www.saddleupnashville.org

Grant Information

Recent Grants

- Cortland Finnegan ARK31 Foundation
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If you know of an organization that awards grants for which Saddle Up! may qualify, please contact Knox Brewer, Development Director
615-794-1150 extension 32
kbrewer@saddleupnashville.org

Joey+Rory benefit concert, homecoming day cap year-long 20th anniversary celebration

Saddle Up! will wrap up its 20th anniversary celebration with two special events – a Saturday, September 17, benefit concert by Joey+Rory and a Saturday, October 1, Homecoming celebration at the farm.

Joey+Rory will be performing in their second benefit concert for Saddle Up!. Their first was in 2007. The husband-wife duo has become a favorite of both fans and critics since then. They have earned multiple Country Music Association and Academy of Country

Music nominations, and were the ACM Duo of the Year winners.

They will take the stage at the historic Franklin Theatre, now entering its final phase of restoration before opening this summer. Built in 1937, the Theatre was a fixture on the Franklin landscape but ceased operations in 2007. The Heritage Foundation purchased the property and began work to bring the structure back to its previous glory – and designed it to be the first LEED-certified restoration project in the city, meaning it will meet

national standards for green buildings.

Two weeks later, on October 1, a daytime Homecoming will be a time for reunions, sharing memories, celebrations and launching into the next 20 years and beyond. Event Chair **Karen Garfield** and her committee are planning various activities for the whole family.

Watch the Saddle Up! website, Facebook page and our next newsletter for details about the upcoming fall events. (saddleupnashville.org)



Volunteer Ginger Wallace laughs with rider Megan C. as they have an egg and spoon race.



Eric M.-B. and his horse Samba have a fun-filled lesson with leader Courtney Glisson (right), and sidewalker Joanna Angel (left).



Nicole W. gets a giggle watching Dumpling sleeping in the cross ties.