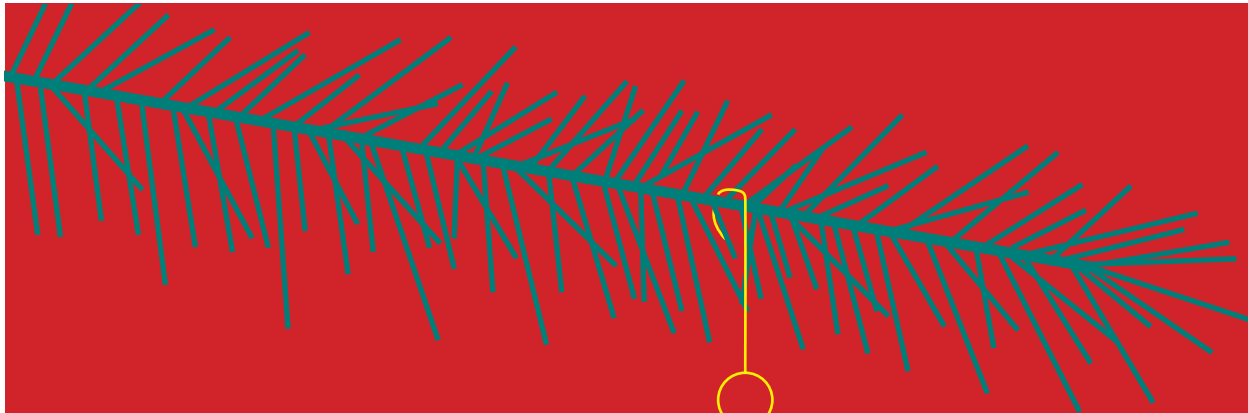


# THE SUN

*Saddle Up! Newsletter*

Winter 2011

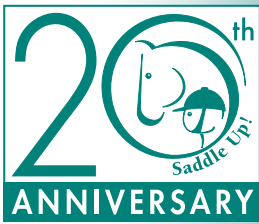


from our herd



to yours

Wishing you joy, peace, and good health  
this holiday season and throughout the new year!  
From your two-legged and four-legged friends at Saddle Up!



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

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## Joey+Rory concert and Homecoming Day end Anniversary celebration on high notes

With a full house at the historic Franklin Theatre and more than 300 people at Saddle Up!, the year-long 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration ended the same way it began – on high notes!

Joey+Rory rocked the house at the Franklin Theatre on September 17, when the two engaging entertainers filled the evening with memorable music, light-hearted banter, and personal stories about why they support the work of Saddle Up!.

The talented twosome generated misty eyes and laughter from their audience throughout the concert. And though Rory had knee surgery only a few days before, he and Joey went to the Theatre lobby after the show to patiently pose for photos, sign autographs and visit with concert goers. Saddle Up! thanks them for so generously giving of themselves to make this a night to remember.

Two weeks later, more than 300 people came to the farm to participate in Homecoming Day. The four founders of Saddle Up!, former riders/families, volunteers, first-time visitors and others joined in for a variety of activities. These ranged from looking at the new family room wall display, created by Nancy Swindell, depicting the history of Saddle Up!, to watching a demonstration lesson by Saddle Up! riders.

Julie Stein's coloring book of Saddle Up! horses – with cover art by artist Joan Jannaman, who also created the special T-shirt art – and colorful map added to the festivities, as did music by Jim Batson and Aaron Raitiere. Visitors also got to buy varied merchandise from the yard sale organized by Board Member Cheryl Magli, try out coloring and tattoo stations, ride the "practice ponies," and try their hand at roping. Amanda Hara of News Channel 5 hosted a special noontime ceremony honoring the history of Saddle Up!.

A big thank you to the following who did demonstrations during the day: "horse whisperer" JR Root; roping teacher Cowboy Kevin; Dr. Nathaniel Wright of Tennessee Equine Hospital; farrier Billy Lampley; and massage therapist Richard Valdez.

Thanks also to Governor Bill Haslam, Franklin Mayor Dr. Ken Moore, and Williamson County



Above, Joey+Rory rock the house. Below, Lynne Robertson, Nancy Wennberg, former student JoAnn Cotton, Charles Crafton, former students Angie Gray and Amy Flanagan, Lynne Evans, and Patti Simpson gather during homecoming.



Mayor Rogers Anderson for the proclamations issued in recognition of the special Anniversary and day.

A special thanks to Homecoming Day Chair Karen Garfield for her creativity and leadership.

Work on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary began in the spring of 2010. Co-Chairs Lisa McInturff and Ken Wilmes had a talented and dedicated volunteer committee to bring the year-long celebration to life. Committee members are: Nancy Bass, Jill Bosse, Knox Brewer, Craig Campbell, Tina Carpenter, Joe Gallivan, Karen Garfield, Margie Quina, Cheryl Scutt, Julie Stein, Nancy Swindell and Janet Wilkins.

So, from the rousing benefit concert at the War Memorial Auditorium in Nashville by Chris Cagle through the summer events of the Music Country Grand Prix and Chukkers for Charity to the closing events of Joey+Rory and Homecoming Day, the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration was a year for sharing memories, making memories, and looking to the future for memories still to come.

## S.U.P.E.R. Show and graduates make the grade

Unseasonably beautiful October weather played host to our annual S.U.P.E.R. Show and graduate reception this year. The show had 69 competitors from Saddle Up!, Therapeutic Animal Partners, and Tri- State Rainbow Riders, who enjoyed a smooth day of event schedules earning ribbons in a variety of colors. This show is a highlight for riders of all levels who participate in dressage, futures, equitation and obstacle classes. Many riders participated in Special Olympics classes receiving medals. (Please see show results and graduates on page 3)

about the cover: Saddle Up! horse hero, Dumpling, graced this year's Christmas Card. A favorite among staff and participants, this 17-year-old grey pony has been with Saddle Up! since 2008.

## Oh what a year!

Wow! What a year it's been.

It doesn't seem long ago that [Lisa McInturff](#), [Ken Wilmes](#), [Knox Brewer](#) and I first put our heads together to begin planning the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. But it was – actually it was Spring 2010.

A lot has happened since then, more than we could have imagined at that meeting. [Chris Cagle](#) literally rocked the house at the War Memorial Auditorium with his “Unbridled” benefit concert, presented by [Big Horse Ranch](#), in February to kick off the celebration. Saddle Up! rider [Dylan Q.](#) joined him on stage, where he took command with a spot-on performance that brought the house to its feet and Chris to his knees to sing along with his newly found duet partner. Thanks, Chris, and concert Chair [Janet Wilkins!](#)

The [Tractor Supply Company Music Country Grand Prix](#) in June again put the spotlight on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by naming Saddle Up! as its honoree of the year, a recognition that previously had gone to individuals for their contributions to the equine world. The Grand Prix had its biggest year yet, became the largest single fundraising event for Saddle Up!, and raised the bar for years to come. Thanks to the awesome Co-Chairs [Sarah Ingram](#) and

[Jennifer Pennington](#).

Two weeks later, the [Infiniti Chukkers for Charity](#) polo match and car show highlighted Saddle Up!'s anniversary in multiple ways. Even wicked winds and stormy weather couldn't put a damper on the day, even if they did destroy nearly 30 tailgating cabanas on the morning of the event. A quick shopping trip to buy new cabanas and “can-do” spirit got them all replaced before the gates opened in early afternoon. Thanks to Co-Chairs [Lexie Armstrong](#), [Cathy Brown](#), [Valerie Levay](#) and [Theresa Menefee](#), plus the always gracious hosts [Lee Ann](#) and [Orrin Ingram](#).

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“the work of Saddle Up! continues year-round with nearly 4,500 lessons in 2011”

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On September 17, [Joey+Rory's](#) “[Rockin for Riders](#)” concert, presented by [Carhartt](#), did just that at the historic Franklin Theatre! Rocked the night and raised money for our riders. Two weeks later, October 1, more than 300 people joined in for Homecoming Day activities at the farm. You can read more about these two events in this newsletter. Thanks [Joey+Rory](#) and Homecoming Day Chair [Karen Garfield](#).

Of course, no year would be complete



### Little Bits

Cheryl Scutt, Executive Director  
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without the one that lets our riders shine – the annual S.U.P.E.R. Show competitive horse show, which took place October 8 at the farm. This year's show drew 69 competitors from Saddle Up! and other therapeutic riding programs. Thanks to all the riders, families, volunteers and staff who make this show possible.

A special thanks to ALL of our wonderful events sponsors for choosing to make a difference through their support!

Now the year is drawing to a close. Thanksgiving is past, and the December holidays loom on the horizon. But the work of Saddle Up! continues year-round as shown by the nearly 4,500 lessons in 2011. To each of you who makes this work possible, thank you for making Saddle Up! the place “Where all children are equal in the saddle.”

Happy holidays!

## From our Facebook pages: Special visitors from Eastern Europe

*Note: The following by Executive Director Cheryl Scutt is from the Saddle Up! Facebook page to share with those who don't follow us on Facebook. If you don't follow us, please consider doing so to learn more about what's happening.*

Nearly 30 people just left Saddle Up! after spending an hour and a half with us to learn about therapeutic riding programs. Twenty-two of the guests are from Eastern European countries that had been part of the former Soviet Union. All work with special needs families, mostly through churches since there are few other resources for people with special needs in their home countries. They have been working with members of a local group named MasterHope to find ways to offer more services in their countries. MasterHope had asked Saddle Up! to participate in on-site visits during the group's eight-day stay that's filled with visits to several programs and services in the

Nashville/Williamson County area. (Thanks, [Teri Edmonson](#), for connecting us!)

We had been asked to help the group by sharing how Saddle Up! got started and information on therapeutic riding, including horses. Our team consisted of Founder/Instructor [Lynne Evans](#), Program Director [Lindsey Wood](#), Equine Manager [Ashley Kurtzahn](#) and me.

Because they all spoke Russian, we talked through a translator – which was certainly an interesting experience for those of us from Saddle Up!. An interlude: [Ashley](#) just stopped by to say how amazing the experience was. “It just shows again how awesome this place is!” (If you know [Ashley](#), you can hear the enthusiasm with which she said that.)

It was a truly amazing – and inspiring – experience. Though we can't begin to imagine the obstacles and challenges they face in trying to start a program like this, we can imagine the passion and compassion



Eastern European friends visit Saddle Up! to learn more about our services to take back to their countries.

behind the desire. For regardless of language, cultures, background, or other factors, we shared the common purpose of trying to make positive differences for individuals who have disabilities.

It indeed was, as [Ashley](#) said, an awesome experience.

## You grant, girl!

A big thank you goes out to Saddle Up! volunteer Nellie Folsom. An employee of Morgan Stanley in Nashville, Nellie has secured a special \$2,000 grant this year from Morgan Stanley through their employee volunteer appreciation program. Last year Nellie managed to secure a grant of \$1,500 for Saddle Up! through the same program. In addition to her commitment each Saturday helping with lessons, Nellie has worked hard to obtain this financial support for the children and families we serve! Thanks Nellie!!



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## Saddle Up! S.U.P.E.R. Show 2011 Trophy Winners

### Special Olympics High Point Award

Will Brim

### Caroline Kirk Memorial Trophy Challenged Rider Basic Obstacle

Matthew McGowan – Tri-State Rainbow Riders

### Luella Jeffery Challenged Rider High Point

Cameron Ochs & Madison Walker (TIE!)

### Lynne Evans Challenged Rider Basic Equitation

Nicole Wright

### Lynne Evans Dressage Award

Delonda Calfee – Tri-State Rainbow Riders



Left to right, Saddle Up! rider Emily N., aboard Gabby with volunteers Jean Dixon and Caroline Delaney, is up against some **tall** competition. Rider Tank O. (center) with brother Max and mother Claudia. NARHA Certified Instructor Anna Vaughn chats with student Madison aboard Piggy, and leader Ashley Lemanski.



## Saddle Up! 2011 graduates honored

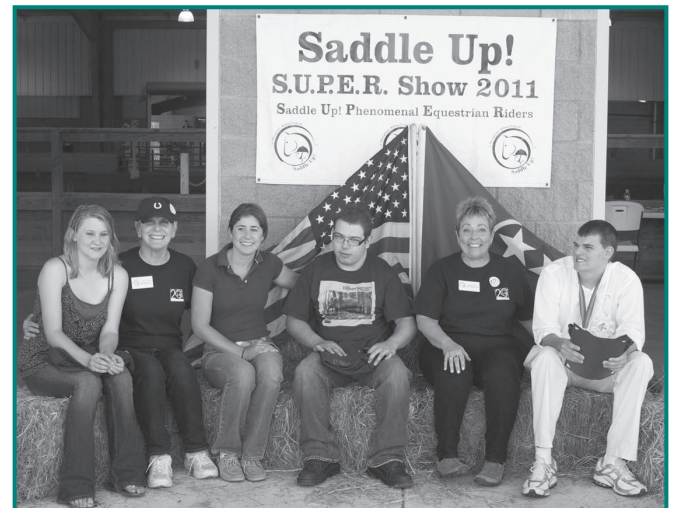
Three graduates were recently honored during half time at our annual October S.U.P.E.R. Show. Each Instructor shared memorable moments about the times with their respective students.

Julie R. has been riding with the program since December 2006 riding favorite horses like Lucky, Nelson, and most recently Elvis. She has participated in not only our S.U.P.E.R. Show but also the STAR Show in Lenior City, TN. NARHA Certified Instructor Lynne Evans says, “Julie is a sweet girl, a delight to work with, and I will miss her.”

Dylan Q., most famous for his singing duo performance on-stage with Chris Cagle at the Chris Cagle Unbridled Concert last February, has been riding here consistently since March 2009. Dylan says of his Instructor Brittany Halstead, “She was one of my favorites and the ‘toughest’ one, but she inspired me to learn. I am making plans to attend college next fall.” Dylan has recently been riding Nacho, a great team because they are both determined and stubborn.

Although Evan S. has only ridden at Saddle Up! since May 2010, Instructor Alice Duva says of him, “His tall, good-looking lanky appearance reminds me of a cowboy. He has a wonderful sense of humor that often gets the volunteers cracking up. He has loved his two horses, Red and Harley, and is very gentle with them. He can be frequently heard saying - in his deep southern accent - “Come on Red.” In his short time here, he has gone from having no idea what to do with those reins, to western reining patterns off lead!”

Saddle Up! wishes Dylan, Julie, and Evan all the best as they embark on new plans for their future beyond the barn and farm.



2011 Saddle Up! graduates and their Instructors (left to right) Julie R., Lynne Evans, Brittany Halstead, Dylan Q., Alice Duva, and Evan S.