



Small Miracles
Therapeutic Equestrian Center, Inc.

"For we walk by faith, not by sight."

2009 Annual Report

Small Miracles is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation. All donations are tax deductible.
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Mission: Small Miracles Therapeutic Equestrian Center, Inc. is a non-profit corporation founded through love to enhance the physical, emotional and cognitive growth of persons with special needs by means of therapeutic equine-assisted activities.

Vision: Small Miracles' vision is to enhance the lives of individuals with special needs and empower them to engage in life to the fullest.

National Affiliation: Small Miracles is a member of NARHA. NARHA is an international professional membership association for individuals in the field of equine-assisted activities and therapies--who inspire and enrich the human spirit for individuals with special needs. All of our Instructors have earned and maintain their NARHA Instructors Certification.

Local Affiliation: Small Miracles is a member of The United Way of Greater Kingsport.

Accomplishments: Small Miracles has been very blessed to have not only survived the continuing difficult economic times of 2009, but to have thrived and grown. Through the tremendous giving of our local community we completed our HOPE Connection Arena and Sensory Integration Trail.

Program Growth: Small Miracles Equine-Assisted-Learning (EAL) programs have continued to be an integral part of our organization, as well as to enable us to once again increase our direct service hours by more than 25% over last year. New partnerships with local schools and youth service organizations created a wonderful atmosphere of community synergism, as we enhanced each other's programs.



Molly makes a nice canvas for lessons in creative arts during our Aponi Program for girls.

Small Miracles' EAL programs with their specific objectives are: 1) **HOPE** (Horses Opening Pathways of Engagement) **Connection** for students diagnosed with Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, Sensory Processing Disorder and Pervasive Developmental Disorder, 2) **Buddies** for Developmentally Delayed Adults, 3) **Friends** specifically geared towards the acquisition of social skills, 4) **Work-Based Learning Programs** providing good opportunities for special education students from local high schools to improve their job skills for future application, as well as enhancing their overall development through basic horse management and general learning skills; and 5) **Positive Youth Development Programs** (PYD) for children and youth at-risk.

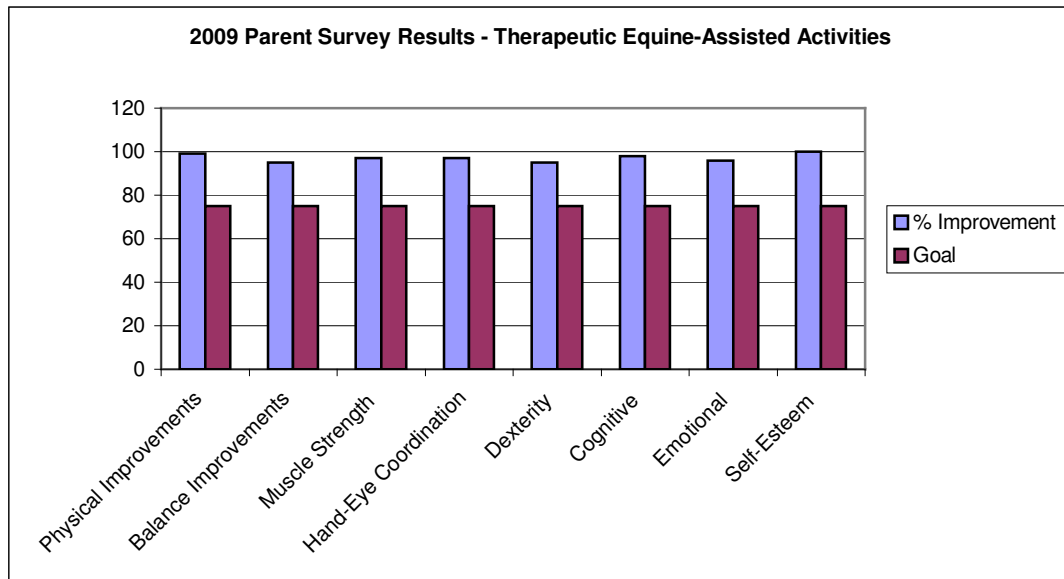
S.A.V.E. (Serving Area Veterans Equally), a new program enhancing the lives of veterans and military families through equine-assisted activities, will begin in 2010.

2009 Year-end Results: Small Miracles is very conscientious of providing quality care for our students. We continue to monitor our effectiveness through both internal and external evaluation methods.

Therapeutic Equine-Assisted Activities: United Way of Greater Kingsport, Palmer Center Foundation, Sullivan South Community Chest, Wal-Mart Community Grants and Waste Management supported our Student Sponsorship and Student Scholarship programs, as well as provided for program equipment.

We served a total of 54 students in our core Therapeutic Program, totaling 1,107 hours of instruction.

These results are based upon a 90% parental survey return rate. Surveys are given to all parents after their child has completed at least two sessions; statistics are collected in-house. Each question with a definitive "improvement noted", "goal maintained" or "no improvement noted" answer is documented. "Not applicable" answers refer to a skill a student does not need to work on or a skill that is not an attainable future goal. "Goal maintained" refers to a student who has reached his or her maximum potential in that skill and our program is helping to maintain that level. "Not applicable" answers do not figure into the statistics. The percentages below are for "improvement noted/goal maintained" replies:



In our parents' own words:

"The program has a synergistic effect when added to her current school/education program..."

"Everyone's efforts at Small Miracles are difficult to express, but thank you for being a milestone in his journey of life... Thank you for giving kids a chance for a vision of success."

"I have certainly noted an improvement in *my daughter's* school performance. She no longer is pulled out of regular classes for resource. None of her grades had to be "adjusted" based on the IEP... she earned outright A's, except for a B in math. I and her teacher are delighted!"

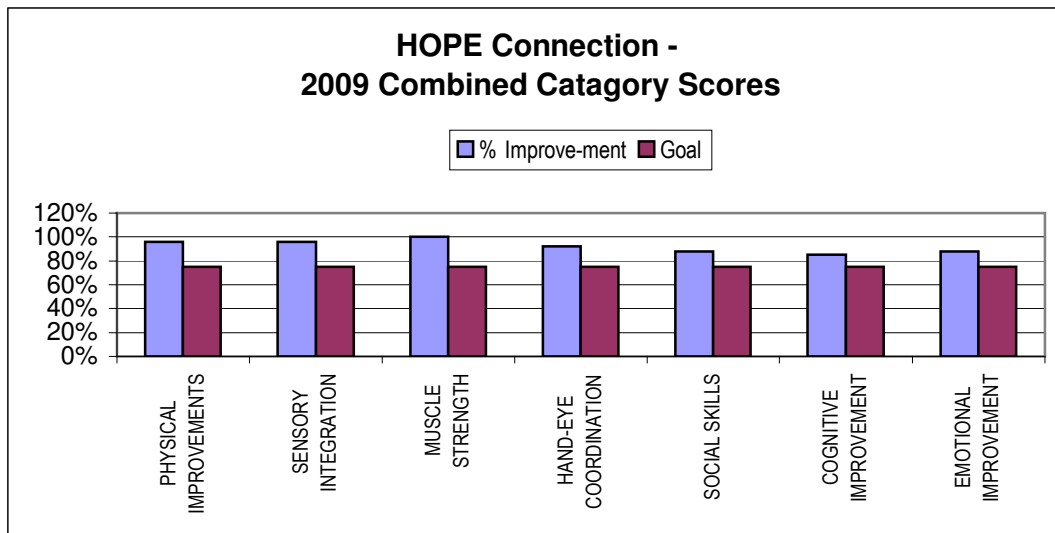
Hope Connection (Based upon 94% return of parental surveys.) The Friends Program outcomes are also included in these statistics as prior HOPE Connection students were able to graduate from private lessons to group peer-based lessons.



Daisy shares a learning moment with Shannon on the indoor Sensory Trail



George's thick mane provides a wonderful tactile sensory experience for students.



HOPE Connection parent comments:

“My son’s self-confidence has improved since his lessons have started. He’s proud of himself and able to concentrate on the task at hand.”

“Chad has been showing concern for people....”

“Your program really increases self-confidence after class and improves concentration for that night to complete homework faster and with less complaining.”

Positive Youth Development Programs United Way of Greater Kingsport, East Tennessee Foundation, Best Buy Community Grant and the Junior League of Kingsport provided funding for these programs in 2009.

The outcome measures include baseline and weekly rubrics collected in-house derived from observable behavior; program feedback is also requested from the referring agency.

Our first goal for each of these students is to exhibit increased self-esteem, which includes the better treatment of others. Secondly, is for each student to begin learning how to handle crisis situations in a positive manner, rather than participating in delinquent or anti-social behavior. Thirdly, is for the students participating in our school-based programs to show improved school performance in both grades and behavior.



Self- Esteem, Teamwork, Cooperation and Creative Problem Solving are just some of the life skills learned in our Positive Youth Development Programs.

Small Miracles served **219** students in our Positive Youth Development Programs in 2009 for a total of 1,760 direct service hours. We do not charge any of the students for our services. Our students came from local schools and youth service agencies.

Comments from our 2009 Positive Youth Development students:

“...I feel I can get over *any problem*... when you come to a problem, get to know the problem, then fix it.”

“*The biggest lesson I learned at Small Miracles*: it is great helping people that need help and work with the community.”

“I love working with Buster, because when I’m mad, sad or upset, he makes me feel a whole lot better....”

“I have learned a lot of patience working with horses, which gives me patience with others and it has shown me to care and to not give up.”

And Comments from our Positive Youth Development referring schools and agencies:

“Small Miracles staff has gone above and beyond to provide unforgettable, creative, engaging and experiential learning opportunities that focus on the academic and behavioral challenges of each student.”

“Our staff have seen many of the clients resolve problems with one another after their group time at your facility.”

“Your program was an amazing program for the boys that had anger issues. Your staff taught the boys patience, self-control, respect of others, and simply how to manage their anger.”

“Benefits from the participation of our students include but are not limited to: an increase in self-efficacy and motivation, the development of cooperation and teamwork skills, and improvements in attention span, organization, following directions, and listening skills.”

Work Based Learning Program Small Miracles, with funding partially provided by the Harris Fund of Washington County, made opportunities available to the special education students of Daniel Boone High School Work Based Learning Program to enhance their job skills for future application. This included enhancing their overall development by utilizing the horses to provide opportunities for basic horse management and general learning skills, as well as sequencing, cause and effect, social skills and self-esteem. Twenty-six percent of the students had moderate to severe developmental delays and the others’ needs ranged from LD to ADHD and at-risk of failing in their school environment. We provided a program with opportunities for inclusion, mainstreaming and pro-social skills such as appropriate communication and mentoring opportunities with fellow students.



Teamwork, Prosocial Skills



Staying on Task
Independent Work Skills



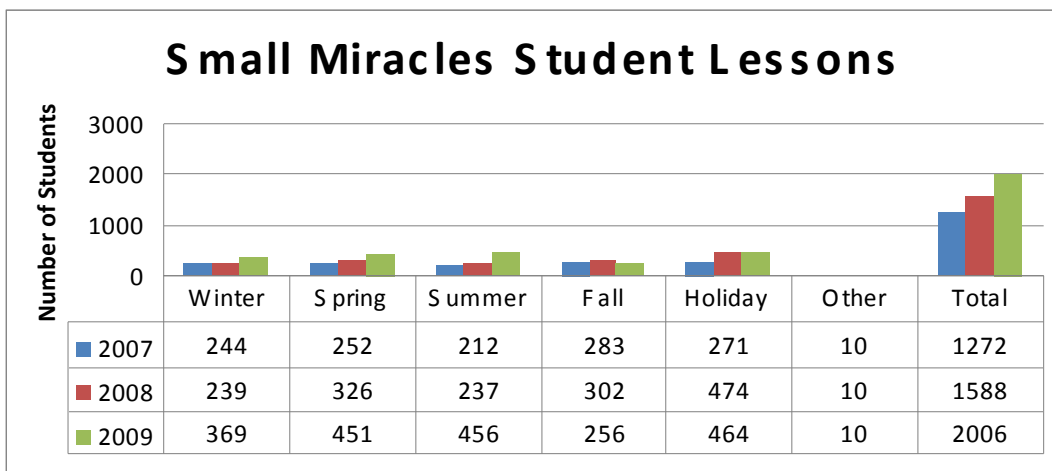
Problem Solving, Creative Arts

“...I especially noted that a student with lesser disabilities would carefully work with a student with more severe disabilities to be sure they did not get hurt....Also, the students improved their teamwork skills.”

“As students computed the amount of dollars needed to care for these horses for a day, month or years, students worked on real-world problem solving, mathematical ideas, and arithmetic operations to compute these numbers. The instructors had the students use inductive and deductive logic....Students were encouraged to work in teams and communicate... Following directions was stressed by Small Miracles staff.” J. Smith, DBHS Spec. Ed.

Who we helped:

Small Miracles served a total of 273 students in 2009, providing over 2,006 therapeutic lessons. The **special needs** represented by our program were: ADD/ADHD, Ataxia-telangiectasia, autism/Asperger’s Syndrome, Sensory Integration Processing Disorder, cerebral palsy, charge syndrome, developmental delay, Down’s syndrome, hydrocephalous, stroke, partial blindness, post traumatic stress, slow fine and gross motor skills, social disorders and children and youth at-risk.



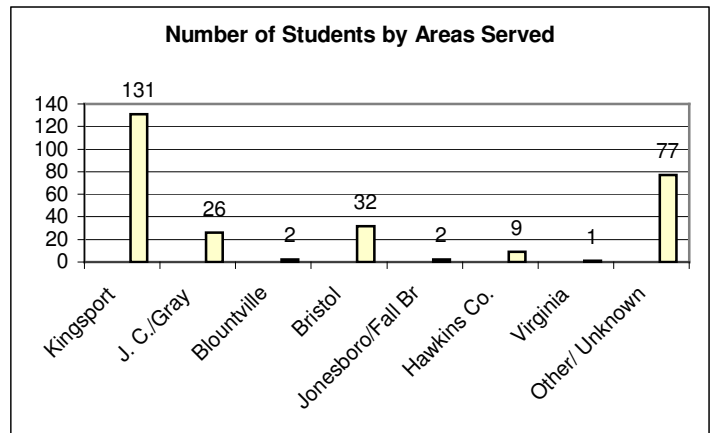
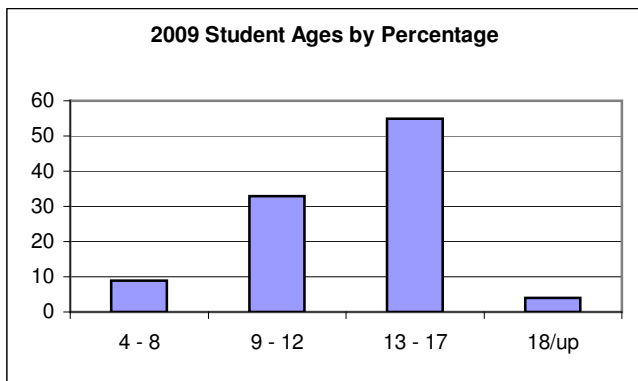
How we help

Therapeutic Equine-Activities: Physical Benefits are received because the rhythmic, three-dimensional movement of the horse closely simulates normal walking motion to the rider. Even for people who have difficulty exercising in other ways, horseback riding improves posture, strength, balance, mobility and function in a fun manner.

Scientists and educators recognize the cognitive benefits received from the whole brain integration that comes from using both sides of the body at once as in the three-dimensional movement of horseback riding. People with visual, aural or spatial learning disabilities (as well as Attention Deficit Disorder, developmental delays or autism) succeed in focusing, participating with others, relating cause and effect, and finding self-esteem on the back of a horse. Our students learn to groom and handle their horses on the ground, too. These concrete, repetitive experiences build a model for better relationships that carries over into everyday life.

Trust, communication, teamwork, responsibility, respect and compassion are some of the emotional and social benefits learned directly through horsemanship. Through mastery of consistent techniques, they learn to effectively control 1,000-pound animals, even though they may lack control in other areas of their lives. This success builds confidence and interpersonal skills that apply in other areas of life as well.

Equine-Assisted Learning Activities: Equine Assisted Learning (EAL) is experiential learning that works with the horse as a member of the teaching team. Small Miracles EAL programs are created to provide students an opportunity to be successful through creative activities that fully engage their bodies and their minds. We create a program that focuses on the learning objectives and outcomes needed for each group or individual. Our EAL therapy horses engage our students creating a pathway for improved academic standards, developmental assets, and life skills.



Facility Growth

A dream of Small Miracles became a reality this spring with the building of our **HOPE Connection Arena**. The new arena covers one third of the existing outdoor riding area and houses the new portable Sensory Integration Trail. This opportunity came about when our local ABC affiliate WKPT announced its acceptance of nominations for exceptional volunteers from their viewing area to receive gifts of \$5,000 with a matching gift going to the winner's charity of choice. Small Miracles immediately thought of Cecil Oaks. Not to our surprise, Mr. Oaks was the winner.

As Cecil's charity of choice, Small Miracles received \$5,000 that became the seed money necessary to begin building. Besides providing space for our trail, the HOPE Connection Arena also assists our students in other ways. This open-sided arena maintains a cool temperature even in hot weather and shades the eyes of light-sensitive students. In addition, we now have the capability to conduct simultaneous lessons and expand our student base. On May 16th over 100 volunteers came together to build and light the arena, as well as complete other much-needed projects. In celebration of the HOPE Connection Arena, the grounds of our facility were given a beautiful park-like setting, as well. A tremendous heart-felt thank you goes to all who have made this possible!



Outdoor Arena "before"



Clay and Dunny enjoying HOPE Arena's water mister on a hot day



"Surprise Box" with bicycle bell assists students with tactile and auditory processing

2009 Fundraisers: Each of our fundraisers served a vital part in ending the year successfully. 2009 fundraisers brought in a total of \$47,665.

- 13th Annual Benefit Auction
- Valentine's Tea Party
- Miracle Miles and Relays at Bristol Motor Speedway
- Student Horse Show
- Buy a Bale for Your Favorite Horse
- Christmas Tree, Wreath and Nut Sales
- Food City Cards and Merchandise Sales

Horse Program

The horses of Small Miracles are definitely a beloved part of our family! Small Miracles gives our horses a wonderful way to continue enjoying a productive life, while receiving the best of care. In fact, Small Miracles has given a wonderful second chance to horses in need of homes after their competitive equine sports life comes to an end. Our horses with a painful history are especially effective with students who are hurting.



Dunny, American Quarter Horse & Former Roping Competitor shows his "softer side."



Tucker, Thoroughbred Former Racehorse & Jumper Instills confidence and is a wonderful "mirror" of behavior



The ponies are especially good at teaching persistence and conflict resolution



Students can find their story in Daisy's eyes

Our 2009 herd was comprised of eleven horses. The breeds represented were/are: American Quarter Horse, Pony of Americas, Percheron, Thoroughbred, Welsh Pony, Farnley Welsh Cobb and a horse/pony cross. Our Horse Sponsorship Program is another way people can get involved and support our program by supporting our horses!

Volunteers

Small Miracles has a continual active volunteer base of approximately 150 people. Our volunteers assist with student lessons, horse care, and maintenance. Many others are involved with fundraising, media presentations, public speaking and various office tasks. **These volunteers gave over 4,000 hours in 2009.**

Small Miracles works with local colleges and high schools for Service-Learning opportunities. Local youth organizations, such as the Boy Scouts and Eagle Scouts carry out service projects and earn badges. The alliances we have made with these organizations have proven to be an excellent source of volunteers, thus saving money, and in creating community synergism and an awareness of therapeutic equine-assisted activities nationwide.

2009 Governing Body and Staff

Small Miracles wishes to thank our voluntary Board of Directors for their continued dedication, hard work and wise council. We are also proud of our staff who continue to love our students, care for our horses and strive for excellence.

Board of Directors

Stan Johnson, **Chairman**
 John Green, **President**
 Wendell Keeling, **Vice President**
 Mary P. Smith, **Secretary/Founder**
 Tom Lane, **Treasurer**
 Steve Perri, **Past Chairman**
 Dwain Arnold
 Linda Bacon
 Stacy Edwards
 Melodie Head
 Martha Helvey
 Ed Moore
 Lettitia Perri
 Curtis Salyer
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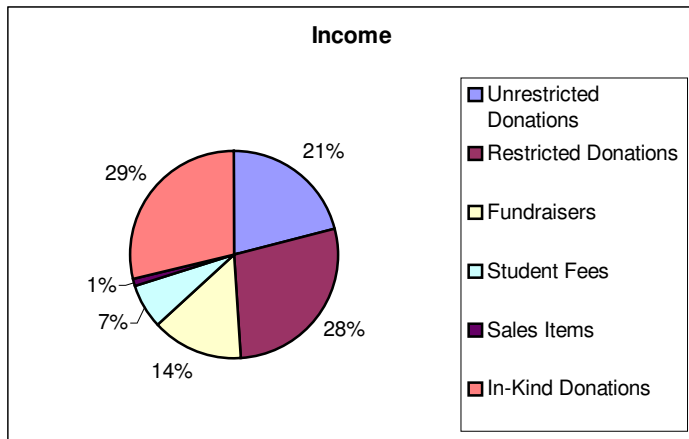
Staff

Gwen Keeling, **Executive Director**
 Sherri Russell, **Program Director**
 Kim Ladd, **Program Development**
 Gary Benton, **Facility Manager**
 Kelly Davis, **Volunteer Coordinator**
 Deborah Ferraro, **Instructor**
 Dianne McGeough, **Instructor**
 Natalie Swanner, **Barn Manager**

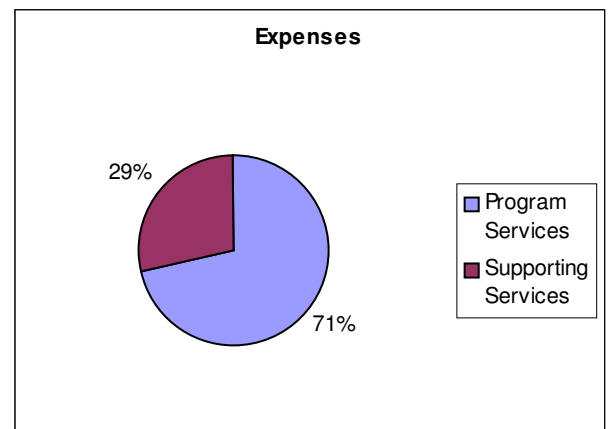
Advisory Board

Phil Elsea, D.V.M.,
 Kent Blazier, M.D.
 Andrew Wampler, Attorney

2009 Budget Highlights



In-Kind donations include: Office, facility and program supplies and equipment; veterinary and farrier goods and services; Desktop publishing and accounting services.



Support Services include: Administrative Salaries, Office Supplies, Annual Report/Filing Fees, Bank Service Charges, Postage and Printing Costs.

* Restricted donations include: Student Scholarships/Sponsorships, Horse Sponsorships, and Capital Campaign contributions.

Small Miracles wants to thank **everyone** who gave so generously to our program in 2009. At this time, Small Miracles wishes to acknowledge our supporters which stem from the public sector. Our individual donors have been previously acknowledged, both privately and publicly through the publication of our newsletter. Our individual donors are certainly no less important to us, but due to time and space constraints, have not been listed in the following:

Civic, Corporate Church, Club & Private Foundation Donations

Alpha Delta Kappa	Fogleman Construction
American Electric Power Service Corp	Food City
Appalachian Ironworks, Inc.	Foot RX of Johnson City
Appalachian Girl Scout Council	F & S Construction
AppRidge International, LLC	Function Better Therapy Services, Inc.
Bank of Tennessee	Grace Place Church
Best Buy Children's Foundation	Gray Farm & Garden Supply
Bill Ball Moving Service	Great Body Company
Blountville Community Chest	Hamlet Dobson Funeral Homes
Bob Evans Restaurant	Harris Fund of Washington County
Bristol Motor Speedway	Hawley Farms/Sara Riggins, Farrier
Bug Tussel Landscaping & Nursery	Holiday Inn Express
Chapman Construction Company, Inc.	Holston Medical Group
Chick-Fil-A	Holston Valley Broadcasting Corp.
Christ Fellowship	Honey Baked Hams
Church Hill EMS	Holtzclaw Guttering
Citi Foundation Volunteer Incentive Program	Impact Marketing/ABC Extreme Home
Citizens Bank	Indian Ridge Animal Hospital
Culligan of the Tri-Cities	Insurance Professionals of Kingsport
Dent K Burke Associates, PC	Ingle's
Domtar	Jersey Mike's
Downtown Kingsport Association	Junior League of Kingsport
Eastman Chemical Co/Technology Support Services	Kilby
Electragraphics, Inc.	Kingsport Community Foundation
Elizabeth Chapel United Methodist Church	Kingsport Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Academy
East Tennessee Forest Products	Kingsport Times-News
East Tennessee Foundation	Kiwanis Club of Gray
East Tennessee Natural Gas	Kiwanis Club of Kingsport
East Tennessee Saddlebred Association	Knights of Columbus
ETSU College of Arts & Sciences	Kresege Krew
Fall Branch Community Chest	Kroger
First Broad Street United Methodist Church	Mac's Medicine Mart
Friends of Civitan Evening Club	Marcum's Pharmacy

McCarty Veterinary Clinic
Mickey Smith Motor Company
Mountain Empire Large Animal Hospital
M & M Farms
Newcomers Club of Johnson City
Old Kingsport Presbyterian Church Women
Omya, Inc.
Outback Steakhouse
Palmer Center Foundation, Inc.
Pal's
Panera Bread
Plantboy
Posteel
Power People Charity Trust
Pratt's Barbeque
Premier Landscapes
Price & Ramey Insurance Agency
Regional Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Center, PC
Regions Bank
Riverfront Seafood Company
Robinson Middle School FCA, PTSA, Staff & Students
Robinson Tree Farm
Rotherwood Stables
Sabre Printers
Scott County Regional Horse Assoc.
Sertoma Club
Southeast Deuces
Spectra Energy Corp
Speedway Children's Charities
Standard Core Drilling Company
State of Franklin Healthcare Assoc.
State of Franklin Track Club
Stir Fry Café
Sullivan County Tractor & Engine Assoc
Sullivan South Area Community Chest
SunTrust Bank/My Cause Program
Tennessee Electric Company
Tennessee Foundation
Tempura Production USA, LLC
Tony Powers & Associates
Tractor Supply of Johnson City
Tri-City Fence
Tri-Summit Bank
Twin Creeks Log Home Supply
United Healthcare Services, Inc.
United Methodist Met's Group of Elizabeth Chapel
Wal Greens
Wal-Mart
Ward's Feed Store
Waste Management
Western Horsemen of Appalachia
WKPT
Wiseman, Fields & Company, P.C.
Woodland Garden & Art Guild