



# RIDERS UP!

Small Miracles Therapeutic Horseback Riding Center, Inc.  
 1205 J. North Eastman Road, PMB #253; Kingsport, Tennessee 37664 (mailing)  
 423-349-1111 (office); 423-349-8003 (fax)  
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## Students participate in benefit horse show



*Callie and Clown, dressed as Dorothy and The Wizard of Oz, await the judge's decision after a fierce costume competition.*

July 22nd was an exciting day at Mac and Darlene McPherson's Horse Farm and Show Arena in Bristol, Tennessee! Several of our riders showed off their fine equestrian skills in a show held there to benefit Small Miracles.

All in all it was a fantastic day!

A special thank you goes to **Mac and Darlene McPherson** for donating the use of their great riding facility. Small Miracles also appreciates the participation of our students and all of the tireless volunteers for their generosity, time, and dedication during the show.

We hope to see everyone at next year's show!



*"Hey! I heard that! What do you mean I'm dressed like a girl?! I didn't sign up for that!"*

The morning's events began with a great crowd for the ETHJA-rated jumping competition. Then the day really heated up with some fierce competition between some Small Miracles students. They competed in events such as the egg and spoon race and a hilarious costume class. (Yes, the horses wore costumes, too. Don't tell Buster that he was really dressed up as girl!) Members of our staff and board of directors got into the action as well, showing off their horsemanship skills and beautiful steeds.



*Buster awaits his rider for the costume class. (Just don't tell him he's wearing a poodle skirt!)*



*Callie*



*Laura*



*Abby*



*Jared*

# A personal note from our executive director

I wish to say a personal thank you to everyone who has helped make 2007 into what has already been a banner year for Small Miracles! In preparation for writing this newsletter, I perused our last one from June. It was filled with articles of “upcoming events” and hoped-for accomplishments. We were getting ready to take a step—no, a leap of faith—in beginning our Phase 2 Capital Campaign and were looking forward to a fun, safe, and prosperous Benefit Horse Show at McPherson’s Arena.

Our prayer chapel was to arrive soon, after multiple hours of work, loving craftsmanship, and generous donations had gone into it. Arrangements had been made with Wayne and Angie Michelli to host our Benefit Dinner at their beautiful Riverfront Seafood Company Restaurant.

As the summer season passed too quickly and too hotly, I now reflect in awe on the accomplishments made in such a short amount of time. Small Miracles not only reached

its foreknowledge goals, but also accomplished even more through the creativity and generosity of some truly wonderful people within our community! Please join me in reflecting upon these successes and, as ever, looking ahead to where we are going.

Thanks and blessings to every one of our Small Miracles families!

—Gwen Keeling

## Congratulations to Deborah Ferraro!

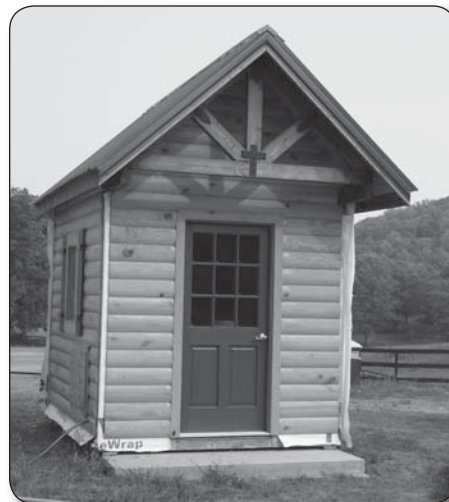
Small Miracles is very proud of Deborah Ferraro. Since being featured in the Autumn/Winter 2006 issue of *Riders Up!*, she has earned her NARHA (North American Riding for the Handicapped Association) instructor certification. Becoming a NARHA certified instructor requires a meticulous riding test and a great knowledge of horsemanship, disabilities

and the most effective way to treat each disability utilizing horses and different tack. NARHA certified instructors keep our facility running smoothly with the highest standards of safety and quality lessons. Deborah now works as a volunteer instructor for us at Monday nights. We are proud of you, Deborah, and thank you for your commitment and dedication to Small Miracles!

## Chapel is here!

Our long-anticipated prayer chapel has arrived and has been placed on its foundation! The chapel is an absolutely beautiful log cabin, which will be completed with stained glass windows and air conditioning. It will be a wonderful place for needed respite and prayer for all members of the Small Miracles family. We hope that it will serve also as a daily reminder of who our foundation is—God, Himself.

Thank you to Wesley, Kent, and Margi Anderson for completing this project with such tender care. This was a privately funded project and we’d like to express our great gratitude, again, to those who so generously gave in time, skill, and donations for this endeavor.



*Our beautiful new prayer chapel! Our deepest appreciation goes out to everyone involved with this project. May God bless you for your care and generosity.*



### *Riders Up!*

is a publication of  
Small Miracles Therapeutic Horseback  
Riding Center, Inc.

*Editor:* Letitia Perri

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*Small Miracles Therapeutic Horseback Riding Center, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation founded through love to enhance the physical, emotional, and cognitive growth of persons with disabilities through therapeutic horse-related activities.*

For address changes or more information about Small Miracles and therapeutic riding, please contact us at 1205 J. North Eastman Road, PMB #253; Kingsport, TN 37664; 423-349-1111.

*Web site:* [www.small-miracles.org](http://www.small-miracles.org)

*Email:* [smiracles@charternn.net](mailto:smiracles@charternn.net)

*The Small Miracles logo is owned by Small Miracles Therapeutic Horseback Riding Center, Inc. Permission must be obtained from Small Miracles before using the logo. Also, all fundraising events must be approved by the Executive Director before taking place. If you have questions, please contact our office at 423-349-1111.*



## Annual Giving Campaign



Please be watching your holiday mail for this year's Small Miracles Annual Giving Campaign letter. Small Miracles has had a blessed year, but this campaign is still a great necessity in order to fulfill our mission!

No gift is too small. Combined, all gifts make a great difference in reaching those with disabilities in our own communities! Every gift is tax-deductible and can be made in honor or in memory of a loved one.

Thank you to everyone who gives to Small Miracles, not only at this time, but throughout the year!

## 9th Annual Christmas Tree Sale set for Thanksgiving weekend



Our highly anticipated Christmas tree and wreath sale is coming soon! Our North Carolina mountain-grown Fraser Fir trees and wreaths are hand-selected so you can decorate your home with the very best. All profits from the sale go directly to support our student program.

Be sure to check your mail for our Christmas Tree Sale flyer. Or you can

request a brochure—or order directly—by calling our office at 423-349-1111.

The ordering deadline is Wednesday, November 21. Trees may be picked up during our Student Christmas Party on Sunday, November 25.

Please stay for some refreshments and games, and to meet some of our students. Santa will also be on hand to hear Christmas wishes!

Thank you to Grant, Denise, and Allison Murray for sponsoring this event again and for all of their hard work each year to make this such a fun event!

## Volunteer sponsors benefit horse show

On September 1st, *Alice Hathaway*, a student at Virginia Intermont College, held the Journey's End Farm Open Fun Horse Show to benefit Small Miracles. The show had over 100 participants competing in various disciplines. There was also a used tack sale with 10% of the proceeds donated to Small Miracles. The horse show and tack sale raised over \$1,000! We sincerely thank Alice for all of her hard work, along with *Lisa Baker*, owner of Journey's End Farm, who donated the use of her beautiful riding facility.

## Support Small Miracles by using GoodSearch.com and GoodShop.com

Small Miracles recently registered with GoodSearch and GoodShop—two new and creative ways that *you* can support our program, simply by using these two Web sites!

**GoodSearch** is a search engine powered by Yahoo!, so you'll get great search results. Each time you do a search, GoodSearch makes a donation to Small Miracles! They donate 50% of advertising revenue to the nonprofits and schools selected by users.

**GoodShop** is a new online marketplace that will also donate a percentage of your online purchase to Small Miracles! You can choose from hundreds of popular online merchants (such as Amazon, Best Buy, eBay, and

Nordstrom, to name just a few) and the experience of shopping through GoodShop is the same as going to the retailer directly.

Be sure to check out these sites and then tell your friends about this innovative way to help Small Miracles. You can make GoodSearch the homepage on your computer (see [www.goodsearch.com/GetInvolved.aspx#homepage](http://www.goodsearch.com/GetInvolved.aspx#homepage)) and/or download the GoodSearch toolbar (see [www.goodsearch.com/toolbars.aspx](http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbars.aspx)).

We will be adding links on our own Web site to GoodSearch and GoodShop, so you can access them from there also.

## Our Wish List

The following items are always needed at Small Miracles. And remember, no donation is too large or too small! If you can help, or if you have any questions, please contact us at 423-349-1111.

- ❖ Dry cat food (dry food only, please; no cans or packets)
- ❖ Clear plastic storage containers (approx. 5-gallon size and larger)
- ❖ Postage stamps (.41)
- ❖ 10 × 12 envelopes
- ❖ 1" × 2½" mailing labels
- ❖ Color copier paper
- ❖ Tack cleaning supplies
- ❖ Manure rakes
- ❖ Horse show and riding clothes (various sizes)
- ❖ 4-wheel drive half-ton (or larger) truck
- ❖ Paper towels
- ❖ Riding lawnmower
- ❖ Large-scoop shovel for shavings

Small Miracles is a nonprofit, tax exempt 501(c)3 organization and all donations are tax deductible.



## Riverfront Seafood Company hosts capital campaign benefit dinner



*Hungry diners arrived early in anticipation of the great meal they were about to enjoy!*

Wayne and Angela Michelli have truly opened their hearts to Small Miracles. They donated all of the food and the use of their beautiful restaurant to offer a wonderful dining experience during our Sensational Seafood for Small Miracles Benefit Dinner. Our



*Dining to the sounds of Papa Joe Smiddy and the Reedy Creek Band. A good time was had by all!*

Small Miracles student hosts—Abby, Andrew, Aaron, Callie, Jamie, Joanna, and Kenny—greeted the diners. They were seated at tables decorated with beautiful pictures of our students and horses. Our appreciation goes out to

Denise Murray for capturing these lovely shots that truly reflected the special bond that exists between our students and their

horses. The Riverfront Seafood Company staff of waiters and chefs all donated their time and talent while cheerfully serving the guests as Papa

Joe Smiddy and the Reedy Creek Band provided entertainment for a truly fun atmosphere. Tom Lane provided a virtual tour of Small Miracles through his PowerPoint presentation that played throughout the evening. The dinner was truly a feast for the senses!

While everyone was having a thoroughly enjoyable dining experience, they were also making a huge difference for Small Miracles. This event raised \$10,000 for our Capital Campaign! In addition, Small Miracles received a matching grant donation of \$10,000! These monies, along with those provided by our other generous Capital Campaign donors, are the reason Small Miracles remains debt-free, yet able to enjoy the benefits of our facility addition. What a miracle!!

## Making miracles at Wal-Mart

**Deb Benton**, a manager at Wal-Mart's West Stone Drive store, spearheaded a huge carnival event to raise funds for Children's Miracle Network and Small Miracles. The children had a wonderful time playing carnival games and aiming hard at the dunking booth, while the bake sale and silent auction provided amusement for the adults. Local celebrity Robbie Spenser entertained the guests, while they ate hot dogs and cotton candy.

Small Miracles wants to offer a hardy thank you to Debbie and all of our volunteers for their very hard work. Thanks to all of their efforts, Small Miracles received a donation in the amount of \$430.

## Yankee Candle sale raises money

Volunteers worked hard during our Yankee Candle sale and sold \$1,160 worth of candles! Heather Fultz sold the most, with a total of \$246. She won our contest and earned a \$25 gift certificate to her favorite store, Hobby Lobby.

One of our students, Laura, came in second with sales totaling \$178. Laura earned an "Even horses need love" T-shirt for her great effort.

Everyone did a super job and we look forward to next year's sale!

## New office update

✓ Mission accomplished! Thank you to everyone who gave so generously of their finances, time, and talent to get our staff into our new offices!

The productivity level from having all of the staff working from a central location has been more than we even anticipated. Our students, parents, and members of the community are also now able to get a much more direct line of communication with our staff. And it is so nice to be able to offer a clean, comfortable atmosphere in which to hold meetings and student interviews!

Small Miracles has always moved ahead only as timing and finances seemed feasible. We are so proud to announce that we are still debt-free! We wish to thank all of our Capital Campaign sponsors who shared our vision of usable office space. As will be seen from some new programs now being developed, their giving will have a direct and positive effect on our students and communities.

Special thank you's go to Jerry Gibson of Fogleman Construction for doing such a great job and for making the project affordable, and to Dick Houser for coordinating and overseeing the project.



# United Way Day of Caring a huge success!



Our facility was stirring with dozens of volunteers from Eastman, Fluor, A & L, and D & Z during the United Way Day of Caring on June 21.

This is an annual event when local corporations join forces with United Way agencies to complete various projects at the agencies. Small Miracles eagerly anticipates this event every year. Whether it be constructing, repairing, or cleaning, our volunteer crew is always willing to do whatever needs to be done—which we greatly appreciate!

Some of this year's accomplishments were:

- Installing our SureHands Lift
- Stripping and building up our stall floors

- Organizing and holding our Treasure Hunt Yard Sale to raise funds for the office addition
- Repairing and painting fences
- Bringing in hay
- Electrical repairs
- Weed cutting, pressure washing, gutter cleaning, and other grounds maintenance

All totaled, considering the hours worked and the materials donated, our volunteers and supporters saved Small Miracles \$16,515! What a difference a "Day" makes!

## Eagle Scout project beautifies our barn

P.J. Miller chose Small Miracles as the perfect place to earn his Eagle Scout Badge. P.J., a student at Sullivan South High School, recruited his father and fellow Scout troop members to panel the inside of our barn with lumber donated by Eastman Chemical Company. This was a huge project that has made the observation area by the indoor arena look finished and cozy. In addition, they built wooden platforms for storage so we can keep our lesson

equipment off of the damp ground.

P.J. spearheaded this whole project, plus raised money to pay for all of the extra building materials needed. There was even some money left over with which to buy office supplies!

Small Miracles is honored to have been chosen by P.J. for this project and to have him as a new member of the Small Miracles family.

Best wishes, P.J., as you go to your Eagle Review Board!

## Horse Sponsorships are real blessings



*Lucy says, "Thank you!"*

Our **Horse Sponsors** understand that Small Miracles' horses are the muscles behind the miracles. The Horse Sponsorship program is an on-going project that pays for the necessary

food, supplements, farrier, and vet care that is specifically tailored to each individual horse.

The staff and horses of Small Miracles say a particular thank you to our Full-Year Horse Sponsors: **Stephen and Annis Evans** (In memory of Peter Miller), **Dr. Carol Dewey**, **The Smith Family** (In honor of Callie), and **Mrs. Sandee Woolley**.

We also wish to thank our other horse sponsors who have given monthly sponsorships or in-kind donations. This drought-ridden summer presented a real challenge for Small Miracles, as it did for anyone needing to provide for their grazing animals. Thankfully, both old and new friends came through to provide quality hay for our horses

through financial or in-kind donations. We are happy to report that all of our four-footed friends made it through the season in fine shape!

Of course, good quality, square-baled hay is still a very hot commodity and will continue to be a necessity next season and throughout the future for our herd.

No amount of gift to our horses is too small. Other ideas, such as Mize Farm and Garden gift certificates, allow us to purchase whatever grain or barn supply is most needed.

*(continued on page 8)*



# Thank you to all Small Miracles supporters!

*Contributors for May through September, 2007*

*The following people have generously supported Small Miracles financially or with their time and services.  
A very heartfelt thanks to each of you, for only with your support can Small Miracles happen!!*

## Individual Donations

Ms. Libby Albee  
Anonymous  
Ms. Sherri Anton  
Ms. Linda Arnold  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Arthur, Jr.  
Ms. Linda Bacon  
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Blakely  
Dr. & Mrs. Kent Blazier  
Mr. & Mrs. Herschel Blessing  
Mr. Josh Boggan  
Ms. Jean Bost-Moore  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Bowman  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Byrd  
Ms. Mary Caruthers  
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Dr. Carol Dewey  
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Mr. & Mrs. Brent Edwards  
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Mrs. Jeannie Parish  
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Mr. & Mrs. Mark Wells  
Mrs. Amy Wenk  
Mr. James L. Wilbanks  
Mr. & Mrs. David Woods and Abby  
Mrs. Sandee Woolley  
Mrs. Donna Yeck



# Thank you to all Small Miracles supporters!

*Contributors for May through September, 2007*

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Alpha Delta Kappa  
Ms. Lisa Baker/Journey's End Farm  
Bank of Tennessee  
Mr. Henry Brant/Slemp Brant  
Saunders & Associates  
Mr. Philip Blevins/Sabre Printers  
Cassidy United Methodist Church  
Central Life Services (Farnum  
Corporation)  
Charter Communications/Jon Fuller  
Culligan of Tri-Cities  
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Mary Beth Garland, C.P.A.  
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Horseshoeing By Sara Riggins  
Ms. Valerie Joh/Blue Ridge Properties  
Kentucky Fried Chicken/George Fraley  
Kingsport Civitan Evening Club  
Kingsport Community Foundation  
Kingsport Stained Glass  
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Gymnastics  
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Robert's Appliance/Johnny & Ronnie  
Sullivan County Antique Tractor &  
Engine Association  
UBS/Global Impact  
West Stone Drive Wal-Mart/  
Wilma Morgan

## In Honor

*In honor of their children*

Mr. & Mrs. David Poore

*In honor of Lisa Childress' Birthday*

Mr. & Mrs. Wally Boyd

*In honor of Carolyn Kornegay's Birthday*

Dr. & Mrs. Hervey Kornegay, Sr.

*In honor of Diane McGeough*

Mr. Bailey Edwards

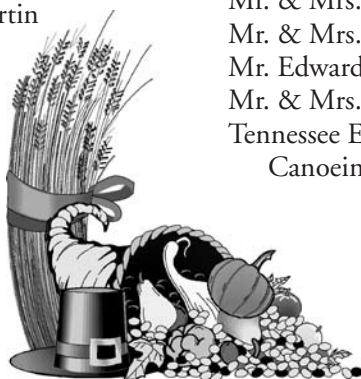
*In honor of Bud and Judy Reeves*

Mr. & Mrs. Grant Murray

*In honor of Mary Parks Smith*

Mr. & Mrs. Danny Martin

Ms. Jennifer Martin



*In honor of Pat Peoples*

Mr. & Mrs. Steven Banks

Mr. & Mrs. V. Collins Chew

Mr. Richard Colberg

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Cunningham

Mr. Joseph DeLoach

Mr. & Mrs. Neil Dotson

Mr. & Mrs. David Dunham

Dr. William Elderbrock

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Falling

Mr. & Mrs. Carl Fritz

Mr. & Mrs. Peter King

Mrs. Barbara Lavender

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Miller

Mr. & Mrs. Darrol Nickels

Mr. Edward Oliver

Mr. & Mrs. Steven Perri

Tennessee Eastman Hiking &  
Canoeing Club



## In Loving Memory

*In memory of Jerry Bradberry*

Mrs. Pat Carmichael

*In memory of Mary Nell Barkley Heape*

Dr. & Mrs. Edward Biller

Central Heights Elementary  
School Teachers

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Ervin

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Heape

Ms. Jane Hultin

*In memory of Charles Helvey*

Ms. Jo Ann Murray

*In memory of J. T. Parker, Jr.*

Ms. Susan Parker

*In memory of Sophie Seltzer*

Ms. Alicia Salzman



This issue of Riders Up!  
is dedicated to

**Mike and  
Jeannie Beavers**

for all of their hard work  
and dedication.

We will miss you,  
Mike and Jeannie!

### Horse Sponsorships (from p. 5)

And don't forget our **Buy a Bale or a Bucket Campaign** that's now in progress! This is an opportunity to support our horses by buying a "bale" for \$5 or a "bucket" for \$8 in the name of your favorite horse. This is actually a friendly competition and the winning horse will be awarded a bouquet of carrots!

A very special volunteer, John Hermes, an Equine Massage Specialist, donates massages to any Small Miracles horse that seems to need it—whether sore or just grouchy!

If you would like more information on our Horse Sponsorship Program, please visit our Web site ([www.small-miracles.org](http://www.small-miracles.org)) or call the office at 349-1111 and request information.



**NOVEMBER**

## Dates to Remember

### Volunteer Training Schedule

Volunteer orientation sessions will be held on the following Saturdays, from **9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**, at the Small Miracles facility on Rock Springs Drive. For more information, please contact the barn at 349-1111. The following dates are subject to change; please call to confirm and RSVP. Additional dates and times may also be scheduled.

**November 3**      **April 7**  
**January 12**     **May 17**  
**March 8**        **June 16**

*Volunteers are a vital part of the success of our organization! All beginning riders require three volunteers to assist with their lessons.* You do not need horse experience to volunteer. The only requirements are that you are at least 14 years of age and are not afraid of horses. Lessons range from 30 minutes to one hour long and are offered Monday through Thursday and Saturday.

We also have volunteer opportunities in other areas such as office assistance and fundraising. If you are interested in becoming a part of the Small Miracles team, please call us at 349-1111.

### Executive Committee Meetings

The Small Miracles Executive Committee meets on the second Monday of each month at 11:30 A.M. at Eastman Chemical Company in Kingsport. These meetings are open to anyone wishing to attend. Please contact the Small Miracles office at 349-1111 to RSVP if you plan to attend.

### Board of Directors Meetings

The Small Miracles Board of Directors meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 6:00–7:30 P.M. at Eastman Chemical Company in Kingsport.

### Other Important Dates

<b>Oct. 23–Dec. 16</b>	Holiday Session
<b>Nov. 25</b>	9th Annual Christmas Tree Pick-Up & Christmas Party
<b>Dec. 17–Jan. 6</b>	Holiday Vacation (facility closed)
<b>Jan. 7–Feb. 23</b>	Winter Session
<b>Feb. 11</b>	Valentine Tea Party at Exchange Place
<b>Feb. 24–Mar. 9</b>	Session Break (facility closed)
<b>Mar. 10–May 3</b>	Spring Session
<b>May 4–May 18</b>	Session Break (facility closed)

**2007**



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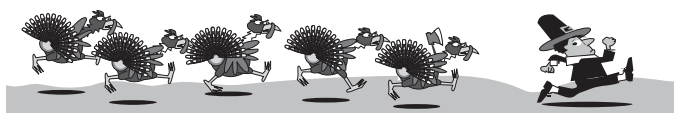
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# Happy Thanksgiving!

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