



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

# RIDERS UP!

Small Miracles Therapeutic Horseback Riding Center, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 6429, Kingsport, TN 37663 (mailing); 1026 Rock Springs Drive, Kingsport, TN (facility)  
 423-349-1111 (office); 423-349-8003 (fax)  
 Web site: [www.small-miracles.org](http://www.small-miracles.org); Email: [smiracles@chartertn.net](mailto:smiracles@chartertn.net)

## Student Spotlight



*With his big smiles and wonderful attitude, Clay is a pleasure to have in lessons.*

Small Miracles is pleased to introduce **Clay**, a fifth-grade student at Fall Branch Elementary School. He has been riding on Saturday mornings at Small Miracles for about 1½ years under the guidance of Katie. Clay works very hard during each lesson and is always smiling and has a positive attitude—especially when teasing Katie!

An avid animal lover, the horses are a few of Clay's favorite things. Clay is very kind to the horses and has been bringing them apples every Saturday. He loves to feed them and wants to eventually groom all of them! He also likes to choose his own riding pace as well as some of his lesson activities for the day. Shooting basketball from horseback is one of his favorite games. Did we mention that he

loves to tease Katie?

It is important to note that playing games, such as basketball, from horseback are not just fun. The games provide improvements in fine and gross motor skills such as grasping, along with other benefits. Katie has also noticed that Clay has become much more verbal since he started riding. His parents have noticed improved balance and strength in his trunk area. Clay's pediatrician believes that therapeutic riding is one of the best activities Clay could participate in.

In addition to developing some excellent equestrian skills by riding at Small Miracles, Clay participates in a lot of other sports as well. He is on the Challenger League Baseball Team and he enjoys swimming, riding his bike, and playing basketball and video games at home. He proudly represented his school twice recently by participating in the Special Olympics. He brought home two gold medals in April and two silver medals in October!

The great love within Clay's family is always evident. His twin sister, older brother, and parents are all often seen in the observation area cheering him on during his lessons. Clay's parents and his brother, Tyler, have attended our volunteer training program so they can help with Clay's lessons if we are shorthanded.

Clay loves to roughhouse with his brother and dad, and they certainly keep things lively for Katie as they playfully torment each other throughout his lessons!

Clay's parents say that he really loves Small Miracles and that they love to watch him ride. As always with our extraordinary students, the pleasure is all ours!



*Clay enjoys playing a variety of games during his lessons—and he's very good at them!*

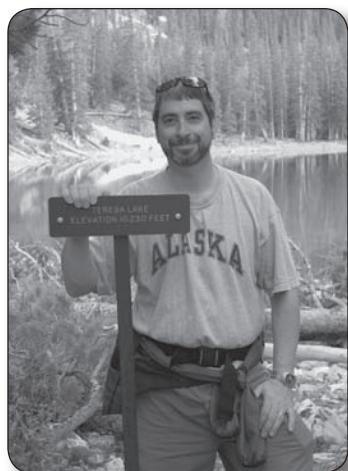
### **We're not moving, but. . .**

Please note our new mailing address:

*P.O. Box 6429  
 Kingsport, TN 37663*

Our previous address will be honored through the end of the year, but please update your records now.

# Volunteer Spotlight



*Steve has served as our Board Chairman since 2004. He will be resigning from this position at the end of the year, but he will continue to serve on our board of directors and in other capacities.*

**Steve Perri** has been a valuable member of the Small Miracles family for many years. He has been serving as Chairman of the Board for Small Miracles since 2004 and has served our program in many capacities throughout the years.

Steve has been a tremendous asset to our program; he is a true ambassador for Small Miracles! His integrity has always been an inspiration to everyone who knows him. Steve constantly sees his projects through to the end, and whenever an event or project comes up, his first response is always, "What do you need?" Steve is always just a phone call (or e-mail) away, even when his job takes him out of the country.

His respect for others, fairness, and caring attitude have made tremendous impacts on the lives of our board of directors, staff, volunteers, and students. Steve's overall contagious enthusiasm and dedication, as well as his various talents, have made him a valuable member of our family.

Steve has participated on all of the board committees and helped with most of our fundraisers and special events. He is always willing to volunteer his time and talents in any capacity that

is needed, from leading a meeting or writing grants to repairing and building fences. Steve has been instrumental in bringing in new volunteers and groups for service projects. He also works hard to obtain materials and funding for our program.

Steve's tireless efforts, vision, leadership skills, and strong advocacy have inspired us all. His involvement with other organizations, such as United Way, Meals on Wheels, Red Cross, The Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and the Eastman Hiking Club demonstrates his commitment to our community as well as to Small Miracles. In April Steve was one of six individuals from Sullivan County selected to receive a 2008 Outstanding Character and Civic Responsibility Award, sponsored by First Tennessee Human Resource Agency!

We are truly blessed to have such a dedicated and caring person at our helm. We have grown tremendously during his tenure as Chairman. Steve has prayerfully decided to step down as Chairman at the end of 2008, but will continue to serve on our executive committee as



*Yes, this is our fearless leader! Steve's sense of humor is always refreshing. While participating in a golf tournament that Christ Fellowship Church hosted for Small Miracles, Steve was caught on camera wearing a ladies' wig after purchasing an opportunity to play from the ladies' tee. He has graciously endured much teasing from this photo!*

Past Chairman, as well as on the facility committee. We're quite sure we'll be seeing him at our various events, too!

Thank you, Steve, for all of your dedication, hard work, and true commitment to our program over the years! And remember, you can run, but you cannot hide! We know where to find you!

(Steve's photo was hard to find as he is always the one *behind* the camera! So, we simply *had* to use the infamous wig shot one last time!)

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## **Riders Up!**

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

*Editor:* Letitia Perri  
*Chairman of the Board:* Steve Perri  
*President:* John Green  
*Vice President:* Wendell Keeling  
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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 individuals with special needs through equine-assisted activities.*

For address changes or more information about Small Miracles and therapeutic riding, please contact us at P.O. Box 6429; Kingsport, TN 37663; (423) 349-1111.

*Web site:* [www.small-miracles.org](http://www.small-miracles.org)  
*Email:* [smiracles@chartertn.net](mailto:smiracles@chartertn.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.*

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## Phase 2 finished during Week of Caring!

Due to generous gifts from The Eastman Foundation, Tennessee Electric, and private donors, our new classroom and observation area were completed ahead of schedule and on budget! These great new spaces accommodate our Equine-Assisted Learning programs, as well as provide space for meetings and training seminars.

The funding raised over the last two years has done much more than



provide aesthetic improvements for our facility. We are now serving twice as many students than we were last year! We want to thank everyone who so generously gave

of their time and resources to help us bring our dream to fruition!

Much of the work was accomplished during this year's United Way Week of Caring. Employees from Eastman and Tennessee Electric worked diligently outside cutting weeds, painting fences,

powerwashing the building, excavating for drainage, and completing new horse enclosures. Indoor activities included installing ceiling tile, cutting  
*(continued on p. 4)*



## Annual Giving Campaign



necessity in order to fulfill our mission!

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

No gift is too small. Combined, all gifts make a great difference in reaching those with special needs in our community! 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!

## 10th Annual Christmas Tree Sale set for Thanksgiving weekend



Our ever-popular Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale is going on now! 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 programs.

We have several new items available this year, including premium pecan halves and assorted other nuts and candies, as well as candles, Food City gift cards, and handmade bows for

your holiday decorating. You should have recently received our Christmas Tree Sale flyer in the mail. If not, you can request a brochure—or order directly—by calling our office at 423-349-1111.

The ordering deadline is Wednesday, November 26. Trees may be picked up during our Open House/Christmas Party on Sunday, November 30.

Enjoy refreshments and games, meet some of our students, and see our latest facility improvements!

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!

## Milligan College to host benefit concert

Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 7—the date reserved for this year's Community Christmas Concert, hosted by the Music Department of Milligan College! Small Miracles has been chosen as this year's concert beneficiary and we will receive all proceeds from the concert!

For the past several years the Music Department of Milligan College has hosted a special Community Christmas Concert. No admission is charged, but a donation of \$5 to benefit Small Miracles is suggested.

The concert is set for Sunday, December 7 at 7:30 P.M. in Seeger Chapel on the Milligan campus. The concert features many of Milligan's music ensembles, includes a scripture reading, and ends with a beautiful candle lighting service.

Come out and enjoy a lovely evening of Christmas music while helping Small Miracles!



# Miracle Mile and Relays event a big hit!



Lauren (on the right), a student at Small Miracles, takes a victory lap with fellow walkers, Audrey and Janelle.

Our first Miracle Mile and Relays fundraising event, held on August 30 at Bristol Motor Speedway, was a huge hit and enjoyed by many! The event began at 8:00 A.M. sharp and runners from around the Southeast gathered for an opportunity to leave their shoe prints on the track at BMS. The high-profile and unusual location drew participants from throughout the region.

Portions of the event were certified by the USATF for Tennessee state records. Mark Skelton, from Skelton

Law Racing, presided as Race Director and was assisted by his wife, Joanna, and their son, Todd. A huge thank you goes to this trio for all of their dedication and hard work!

We would also like to express special thank you's to Bristol Motor Speedway and Food City for their significant contributions to the event. We also greatly appreciate our additional event sponsors and participants! Because of their generosity and support, we raised more than \$10,000, which will directly benefit our students! Thank you to everyone who helped make this event such a success!

## Event Sponsors

America Choice by UnitedHealthcare	Great Body Company
Arby's	Mark Skelton Law Offices
AVI	Matthew Studholme (official)
Bank of Tennessee	Panera Bread
Bristol Motor Speedway	Riverfront Seafood Company
Chick-Fil-A (Stone Drive/John Tingle)	State of Franklin Track Club
Church Hill EMS	Tri-Cities Baptist Church
Culligan	Walgreens
Dobyns-Bennett High School	Washington Elementary School
Food City	
Grace Place	

## Volunteer Picnic enjoyed by many

This year's Volunteer Appreciation Picnic and Open House was sponsored by Indian Path Medical Center and held at Small Miracles. Employees from Indian Path arrived early to set up and then prepare grilled hamburgers and hotdogs for our volunteers, students, and staff. Numerous side dishes and desserts were supplied by our guests. This year's

award T-shirts were also provided by Indian Path Medical Center.

A record 36 volunteers qualified for a Volunteer Appreciation Award! A lot of hard work and at least a full year's participation are required to earn this award. Special recognition goes to O.J. Cain, who has qualified for a Level-4 Award! He has been with Small Miracles for five years and has volunteered over 300 hours since we began the Volunteer Appreciation

*(continued on p. 6)*

## Phase 2 finished *(continued from p. 3)*

out windows for the new observation room, painting the new expansion, and laying carpet—while first having to move some very heavy furniture! Thank goodness for Brenda Forbes who laid out a fabulous lunch feast!



Learning classes and will see a lot more use during additional classes, meetings and conferences.

Sunnyside Baptist Church's youth group also

joined us for a day of hard work. Our facility now has great curb appeal thanks to their landscaping efforts. Inside, the offices sparkled after getting a good once-over.

The total savings to Small Miracles, including the donated labor and materials, was more than \$15,000! We are truly thankful to everyone who gave of their time, resources, and money. Thank you so very much to all!

Tennessee Electric's spirit of giving and volunteerism has been immense. They have done a wonderful job wiring our Phase 2 expansion for light and sound. Their employees pitched in to buy and install a great surround sound and projection system in our conference room! This new system has already been used during our Equine-Assisted

## Our Vision

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

## Our Mission

Small Miracles Therapeutic Horseback Riding Center, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation founded through love to enhance the physical, emotional, and cognitive growth of individuals with special needs through equine-assisted activities.



# Thank you to all Small Miracles supporters!

*Contributors for February through September, 2008*

*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

Mr. Brian Addington  
Ms. Tamara Andring  
Mr. Charles Akard  
Ms. Patricia Amadio  
Mr. Carl Archer  
Mrs. Charlotte Bellamy  
Ms. Deb Benton  
Mr. & Mrs. Herschel Blessing  
The Tom Bowman Family  
Ms. Lauren Brooker  
Rachel Burdine, Mrs. Kingsport  
Mr. Jim Caines  
Ms. Lynn Carmichael  
Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Carter  
Mr. David Case  
Ms. Ann Cassel  
Dr. & Mrs. John Chapman  
Ms. Betty Clavier  
Dr. & Mrs. John Collins  
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Collins & Mikeal  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Connell  
Mr. Brian Cross  
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Todd & Michele Vogel  
Mrs. Kent Waldo  
Mr. and Mrs. John Webb  
Mrs. Amy Wenk  
Willy & Sandra Williams  
Mr. Harvey Wilmer  
Mr. and Mrs. David Woods  
Mrs. Jack (Sande) Woolley



# Thank you to all Small Miracles supporters!

*Contributors for February through September, 2008*

## Corporate, Club, Church, and Civic Donations

Arby's/Brian Patterson  
AVI/Garret Harris  
Bank of Tennessee/Mr. Craig Denison  
Bath & Body Works  
Bloomingdale Ladies Ruritan  
Bristol Motor Speedway/Jeff Byrd/  
Crystal Miller/Lori Worley  
Chick-fil-A/John Tingle  
Chris Mullins Co., LLC  
Christ Fellowship/Greg DePriest  
Church Hill EMS/Darrell Mitchell/  
Michelle Hawes  
Covington Detroit Diesel  
Culligan/Michelle Martindale/  
Bill Miller  
Dawson Lumber  
Domtar/Joe Boggs/Dan Wernick  
Eastman Chemical Company  
Eastman Chemical Company  
Foundation/Ms. Wanda Valentine  
East Tennessee Foundation  
Elizabeth Chapel United Methodist  
Women

Exchange Place  
Fall Branch Community Chest  
First Broad Street United Methodist  
Church  
Fluor/James Lozier  
Foot RX-Johnson City/Steve & Allison  
Pastorek  
Grace Place Church  
Great Body Company/Stan Johnson  
The Haggie Shop/Bob & Joyce Grills  
Horseshoeing by Sara Riggins  
Kingsport Community Foundation  
Lighting Trends, Inc./Bobby Davis  
Link House  
Little & Adams, Inc.  
Lowe's/Nathan Lail  
Massengill-DeFriece Foundation, Inc.  
Moore's Pharmacy/Dr. Gina Piney  
Mossy Creek, LLC/Bryan Tilghman  
Mountain Empire Large Animal Hospital  
Mountain Energy Resources  
Newcomer's Club of Bristol  
Palmer Center Foundation, Inc.

Panera Bread/Shannon Burchfield  
PeyBack Foundation  
Rexell/John Green  
Riverfront Seafood Company/  
Wayne Michelli  
Rogersville Eye Clinic/Dr. Eddie  
Abernathy  
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church  
Sabre Printers/Philip Blevins  
Solomon's Temple Missionary Baptist  
Church  
Southern States S.H.O.W. Program  
Sunnyside Baptist Church Youth Group  
Tennessee Electric  
UBS/Global Impact  
United Health Care/Sheren Kirkpatrick  
United Way of Greater Kingsport  
Variety, The Children's Charity of  
Eastern Tennessee  
Walgreens/Nathan Hunt/Lisa Monroe  
Wal-Mart #742 Community Grants  
Program/Deb Benton  
WJCW/Citadel Broadcasting

## Junior Volunteers = big impact!



*Our wonderful Junior Volunteers: (front, left to right) Valerie Blakley, Allison Glynn, Eliza Wampler, Allison Murray, and Abby Smith; (back, left to right) Lindsey Fields, Brett Herron, Kaitlin Glynn, Elizabeth Hale and Shelby Smith. (Not pictured: Laura Metzger and Chandler White.)*

As the saying goes: "Big things can come in small packages," and Small Miracles' Junior Volunteers are excellent examples of that! These young ladies are a fundraising force who have raised enough money for a full year's sponsorship of Little Bit!

Thank you, Junior Volunteers!

### THANK YOU

to Southern Wonders for organizing two motorcycle runs this fall to benefit Small Miracles!

## Volunteer Picnic

*(continued from p. 4)*

Program four years ago!

Special appreciation certificates were also given to organizations and individuals who were instrumental in helping us complete our Phase 2 facility projects. (See *Phase 2 finished during Week of Caring!*, on page 3.)

Of course, we greatly appreciate ALL of our volunteers! We **could not** accomplish our mission without you! Everyone at Small Miracles wants to again thank each of you for all of the tremendous work that you do!

We hope to see all of you at next year's picnic!



# Thank you to all Small Miracles supporters!

Contributors for February through September, 2008

## In Honor

*In honor of all the wonderful and dedicated workers and volunteers of the Small Miracles organization who strive to meet the needs of those who might benefit from their loving care. May God Bless! —Jack Ray & Pat Martin*

*In honor of Jennifer Alley's & Aaron Hiscutt's Birthdays*

Dr. & Mrs. Edmond Alley

*In honor of Mike Beavers*

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Poore

*In honor of Lauren Darnell*

Julie McNeese; Becky Stephenson

*In honor of Bailey Edwards*

Miss Abbie Edwards

*In honor of Lynda Fontaine*

Kingsport Medical Alliance

*In honor of Gwen and Wendell Keeling*

Jack Ray & Pat Martin

*In honor of Wendell Keeling*

Maxine Johnson; the Smith Children

*In honor of Grant and Allison Murray*

Shelley Kudialis; James Lowman; Anne Nichols; Mr. & Mrs. Al Parish; Josephine Paty

*In honor of Mary Smith*

Kent & Margi Anderson

## In memory of Pat Peoples



This issue of *Riders Up!* is dedicated to the memory of Pat Peoples. Pat was an important part of the Small Miracles family for the past 13 years, first as a volunteer, then as a NARHA certified instructor. Pat's professionalism, equine knowledge, and genuine love for our students held her in high regard with everyone whose life she touched.

Pat was always willing to lend a hand whenever and wherever there was a need. She was a dedicated and valued member of our family and we will miss her greatly.

## In Loving Memory

*In memory of Kenny Ailshiel Ailshie Stables*

Dr. & Mrs. Phil Elsea/Walnut Creek Farms

*In memory of Gene Clavier*

Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Keeling

*In memory of Sandra Crussell*

Mr. & Mrs. Wendell Keeling

*In memory of Mrs. Celia Foley*

Gwen Keeling; Mary Smith

*In memory of James Morris Gilbert*

Mr. Jon Bowerbank; Mr. Zane Brown; Ms. Valerie Harless; Mr. Charles Harmon

*In memory of Madeline Hanes*

Norman & Pat Lee Harrison

*In memory of Dr. Dan Hammer*

Mrs. Martha Helvey

*In memory of Bruce Haynes*

Dr. & Mrs. Phil Elsea/Walnut Creek Farms

*In memory of Eileen Lindbloom*

Don and Alice Morris

*In memory of Helen Elizabeth Mitchell*

Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Keeling

*In memory of Mary Lou Morton*

Mike and Jeannie Beavers

*In memory of Mrs. Sondra Westby Parker*

Grant, Denise and Allison Murray

*In memory of Pat Peoples*

Mike and Jeannie Beavers; Amanda Chapman; Wendell & Gwen Keeling; Barbara Lavender; J.R. & Sherri Russell; Dr. & Mrs. Eric Smith; Mr. & Mrs. Harry Trent & Carter

*In memory of Larry Poore*

Ms. Joyce Brooks; Mr. & Mrs. Conley Bullock; Mr. Charles Sammons

*In memory of Betty Roberts*

Mr. & Mrs. John Haynes; Ms. Levita Haynes

*In memory of Joe K. Thomas, Jr.*

Dr. & Mrs. Phil Elsea/Walnut Creek Farms

*In memory of Lori Vaughn's Grandfather*

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Siggins

*In memory of Brenda Waters*

Dr. & Mrs. Eric Smith



A special  
**Thank You**

We received the following note from Katie Simerly, one of our dedicated volunteers.

My friends at Small Miracles,

Thank you so much for allowing me to work with you! I have learned so much! You are all kind and caring people who bless all who come in contact with you! The manner in which you treat the children, their families, volunteers, workers, and horses goes far beyond welcoming and kindness! Your willingness to sacrifice your time and energy to help others does not go unnoticed. Thanks again for everything.

May God bless you and the work you do in His name,

—Katie Simerly

**New DVD available**

A new informational DVD about Small Miracles is now available. Please contact our office if you would like a copy. The DVD was produced and donated by

Ethan Frazier and Christ Fellowship Church.



**NOVEMBER**

**2008**

**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 2009 dates are subject to change; please call to confirm and RSVP. Additional dates and times may also be scheduled.

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>January 10</b> | <b>August 8</b>   |
| <b>March 21</b>   | <b>October 17</b> |
| <b>May 30</b>     |                   |

*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 Small Miracles. 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 will meet at 6:00 P.M. at the Small Miracles facility on the following dates in 2008: January 8, April 8, July 8, November 11.

**Other Important Dates**

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Oct. 10–Dec. 13</b> | Holiday Session  |
| <b>Nov. 26–30</b>      | Thanksgiving holiday (facility closed)                         |
| <b>Nov. 30</b>         | <b>Christmas Tree Pick-Up &amp; Christmas Party</b>            |
| <b>Dec. 7</b>          | <b>Milligan College Community Christmas Concert, 7:30 P.M.</b> |
| <b>Dec. 14–Jan. 11</b> | Holiday break (facility closed)                                |
| <b>Jan. 12–Mar. 7</b>  | Winter Session   |
| <b>Feb. (TBA)</b>      | Valentine Tea Party  |
| <b>Mar. 23–May 16</b>  | Spring Session   |



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(Online services generously donated by Charter Communications.)

Return Service Requested



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