

Small Miracles Staff
2011

Executive Director – Gwen Keeling holds a Bachelor's degree in Education and has over 20 years experience working with children and youth. Gwen has successfully and passionately served the mission of Small Miracles for thirteen years. Under her leadership Small Miracles continues to thrive and serve the special needs community. Our students love to find their way to Gwen's office for a warm hug and word of encouragement. Email: smiracles@chartertn.net

Program Director – Sherri Russell, L.P.N., is a Registered Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor with PATH, International. Sherri has worked for many years in the non-profit sector as a steering committee member and counselor with high-risk teens and in Equine-Assisted Activities & Therapies programs. She also has a beloved sister with Down's syndrome, which gives Sherri a personal perspective on the care and advocacy needed for families with a member who has a special need. Sherri incorporates her prolific horsemanship and artistic skills into every program, creating an exciting adventure for all of our students. Email: sherrism13@gmail.com

Program Development Coordinator – Kim Ladd holds a Bachelor's of Social Work degree from E.T.S.U. She has over twenty years experience in social work and program development. Kim, a veteran horsewoman, enjoys taking an occasional break from her desk job to assist in program activities and assist with our horses, as well as being our in-house photographer. Away from work she enjoys reading, art and spending time with her husband and horses.
Email: smallmiracles_kim@hotmail.com

Instructor – Dianne McGeough is a Registered Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor with PATH, International. Dianne relocated to Northeast Tennessee from Buffalo, New York. She has a strong retail background and is a veteran horsewoman. Dianne is wonderful at making our students laugh, while taking her riding instruction. Dianne enjoys her time off by gourmet cooking with her husband and pampering her Thoroughbred, Adonis.

Instructor – Deborah Ferraro is a Registered Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor with PATH, International. Retired from Eastman and extremely educated, Deborah has earned her B.S. degrees in Animal Science and Chemistry and a Masters Degree in Education. Our resident snow bird, Deborah utilizes her vast knowledge not only locally during her Small Miracles lessons and volunteer work at the Gray Fossil Site, but also in Florida where she is an Instructor at another therapeutic equestrian facility and volunteers at a wildlife refuge. She and her husband are avid travelers.

Equine Assistant & Barn Manager- J. R. Russell is a recently retired Federal Agent with the U. S. Customs and Border Protection in Florida and has many years of experience working with high-risk youth. Passionate about giving our wonderful equine herd the best care, visitors often comment how J.R. keeps the cleanest barn they have ever seen. A wonderful role model, together with Sherri, his wife, J.R. assists with our Positive Youth Development, Mentoring and Horses 4 Heroes Programs.
Email: jrsmiracles@gmail.com

Facility Manager – Gary Benton is a US Air Force Veteran, and served our country in Viet Nam. He is a graduate of Trident Technical College and holds an Associate Degree in Commercial Graphics. Gary is responsible for our facility, website management, and I.T. Gary is talented with an artist's brush, as well as with a hammer. Email: gabenton@gmail.com

Volunteer Coordinator – Kelly Davis is the friendly voice handling all of the volunteer recruiting, training, and scheduling. Her tireless efforts keep our lessons flowing smoothly, as she manages our database of over 150 volunteers. Kelly is a strong advocate for children with Autism and she and her husband are the proud parents of three children. Email: kellydavis34@hotmail.com