

NATURE'S EDGE

Nature's Edge Therapy Center, Inc. 2525 14³/₄ Ave. Rice Lake, WI 54868 Phone: 715-859-6670 Fax: 715-859-6669

Visit us on the web at: www.naturesedgetherapycenter.org.

Summer 2008

Nature's Edge In the News

Summer has come and gone in the blink of an eye. Soon, children will be heading back to school, and the leaves will start to turn as our warm summer days fade, and we are forced to greet the cooler, crisper, autumn season. Our summer at the Center has been busy, as usual, and we are grateful for yet another fun packed summer full of activities, smiles, hard work, and great helpers.

In June we had 24 riders with various disabilities, and abilities, participate in our Exceptional Riders Program. This was made possible through the sponsorship of Mastercraft Industries and TJ's Trophies. Therapeutic riding is different than Hippotherapy in that it teaches riding skills to people that have a disability. We were very pleased with the number of participants, and helpers, who made the Exceptional Riders Program fun for all involved.



Exceptional Rider participant Blake shows off his ribbon.



On June 27th, Nature's Edge Therapy Center held our 4th Annual 18-hole Golf Scramble at Turtleback Golf Course in Rice Lake, WI. This fundraiser assists in providing scholarships to therapy patients utilizing Animal Assisted, Horticultural Therapy, and Hippotherapy (treatment with the help of a horse). There were many door prizes, hole prizes, flag events, and a delicious brunch! Of special interest were several hole-in-one chances for new vehicles, a spa, and a Club Cadett mower. Thank you to hole sponsors: Gilbert Motors of Sand Creek, Don Johnson Auto Group, Home Oasis, and Baribeau Implement.

We will be hosting our annual trail ride on Saturday, September 27th, 9 a.m. at the Therapy Center. This is a wonderful fall event where those attending get a chance not only to raise money for the center, but enjoy some beautiful scenery, great people, and horse back riding. Contact us at 715-859-6670 to obtain your pledge sheet for the ride. Collect pledges between now and September, then come to the Center for a day of food, games, carriage rides, and the 4-hour trail ride through scenic trails.

Youth of Promise

We were pleased to have 17 youth participate in our Youth of Promise program this summer. Participants completed many projects which included: planting a vegetable garden, creating a new perennial garden by the barn, putting together a picnic table and bench, making two new mounting blocks and personalizing them with handprints, repairing and painting the goat pen and house, and many other projects with the animals. The youth completed a plant sale where all funds received went directly back to the youth for spending money during a reward trip to Valley Fair on August 4th. Special thanks to all the wonderful donors & sponsors who made this trip possible. The Youth of Promise program would not be possible without the support of our community. The lives of 17 individuals were enhanced because of this program, and Nature's Edge staff would like to thank all those involved in making this program such a wonderful success.



Youth of Promise group after a morning of gardening.

Upcoming Events

***Annual Trail Ride:** Saturday, September 27th, 9 a.m. Nature's Edge Therapy Center. A four hour trail ride plus food, games, and a carriage ride that is accessible for all. Rain date of Sunday, September 28th, at 8 a.m. Call the Center at 715-859-6670 for more details.

***2009 Evening in Elegance:** Tickets will be available starting in September. This is an extraordinary event for all who attend. The cost is \$50.00 per person for a night that includes a social hour, a 4-course dinner, dancing to the Dean's List Orchestra, a silent and live auction with auctioneer Mac McDowell, photography sessions with Photography by Jane, and the chance to win a diamond! Mark your calendars now for Friday, January 9th, 2009, at Turtleback Golf, Dining, and Conference Center in Rice Lake.

***Hippotherapy: Business Development and Administration Course:** Friday, February 27th, 2009 through Saturday, February 28th, 2009 Radisson Hotel, Bloomington, MN. This is the most comprehensive seminar of its kind! This course will take you from the basics of getting started, to ideas for streamlining your operations and enhancing your revenue. Call the Center today at 715-859-6670 for more information.

Wish List

Riding Lawn Mower
Good quality drag for the arena
Copy Paper
Business & Manilla Envelopes,
Printer Ink (Black, Color, & Laser Jet)
Woodworking Tools/Drills
A horse for Hippotherapy
Skid Steer
Tractor with Brush Mower and Bucket
Gardening Supplies (Pots, Garden Soil, etc.)
Arts & Craft Supplies

*More Great Volunteers!
No donation is too small!*

**Please visit our website at
www.naturesedgetherapycenter.org , or call
the Center for a detailed list of needs at the
moment.**

Testimonials

Donald Davis, and his two children, flew in from New York to volunteer at the center for almost three weeks. Donald and his children were excellent volunteers who helped complete some major projects at the center which had been on hold. Donald wrote the following testimonial:

"This is a great place to volunteer, because the results of your work are so immediately tangible. The clients and patients work very hard to achieve, and respond to so much as a smile and work that much harder. The horses and other animals seem to know that they have a higher mission in life. How can farm animals be so gentle, even the mischievous goat? This is a well-managed operation, and the staff is hard-working. The successes here are large and small."

Ann and Joe Ricci, parents of Jonah, who has speech delays which affect every aspect of his life, had this to say:

"We are seeing progress with the much-needed additional therapy once a week at Nature's Edge Therapy Center with lots of homework, and fundamental speech building activities. These sessions are teaching our family what to do to help Jonah be as normal as he can be. Making him a happier boy at home, and school, because he is learning to communicate better, we can understand what he wants and what he is saying. It is a process, which is constantly on going. We do not know what we would do without Becky MATCCC/SLP at Nature's Edge Therapy Center. This is something our son Jonah truly needs to thrive in this world."

If you would like to experience the joys of volunteering first hand, please call the center today at 715-859-6670.



Welcome Aboard

We are pleased to welcome Patti Siem, who has joined our mission as our Office Manager. Patti is a wonderful addition to the staff, and we look forward to working with her.

Nancy Frank, former founding director for two non-profit organizations in southern Wisconsin, joins Nature's Edge to assist in financial development and animal care. You may recognize Nancy from the twenty years she spent on public television's *Outdoor Wisconsin*, or from hearing her speak on behalf of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. She currently owns a llama farm near Ridgeland, home to ten llamas, one alpaca, five sheep, a variety of birds, and her two dogs, Zeke and Jesse. Welcome, Nancy!

Thanks to the Robinson family who recently donated our new Chinchilla, Hemi. Hemi will provide our patients with many learning opportunities, as well as provide a cute & mischievous face to admire!

Thank you Barron County Humane Society for their donation of two kittens, Zulu and Gracie.



Nancy and Patti share a moment with Hemi.

Farewell

We are saddened to announce that our Norwegian Fjord horse, Freja, was returned to her previous owners due to a rare eye disease causing her to become blind in one eye. This condition deemed her unsafe for therapy use. Freja will be fondly remembered by all her friends here at Nature's Edge. We are also sad to report the loss of our chinchilla, Moose, who passed over the rainbow bridge this summer, leaving many a footprint on the hearts of those who knew him.

We are currently in search of a new horse to add to our therapy team. Qualities we are searching for include:

- ❖ a quarter horse
- ❖ 7 to 13 years old
- ❖ healthy and sound
- ❖ well-trained - walk, trot & canter
- ❖ trail wise
- ❖ ideal height between 14'3 to 15'2

Our center guarantees our mission of maintaining three national animal wellness guidelines. If you, or someone you know, may have a possible candidate for an equine partner, please contact the Center ASAP at 715-859-6670. All equine donations are tax deductible.

ABC Retreat Center

Progress continues towards our goal of making the ABC Retreat Center a reality. Thanks to the generosity of the Otto Bremer Foundation and Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation, our land has been secured. Nature's Edge Therapy Center now owns the ten acres of land where work will begin in 2009. A civil engineering design, a rough grade, and perk testing will be the first steps. If you would like to help, or find out more about this endeavor, please call!

The ABC (Autism, Brain Injury, and Cerebral Palsy) Retreat Center has a unique, family-centered mission to provide a setting where families can receive intensive, interactive therapy from licensed therapists, and assistants, using horticulture, and animal assisted therapy to reduce on-going out-patient therapy, and achieve successful rehabilitation into home, school, community, and work life.

Volunteers

Thank you to all of our volunteers for this quarter: *Ali Schissel, Angela Stellrecht, Atley Crawford, Becky Lundeen, Cayla Neuser, Chance Losey, Chase Smith, Courtney Lundeen, D'Ann Fletcher, Davis Harari, Donald Davis, Emma Stellrecht, Hannah Stellrecht, Heidi Viebrock, Jacob Sandmann, Janie Harari, Jenna Wozniak, Jennifer Frye, Jennifer Hudspeth, Jim Lundeen, Katina Hodgson, Kaylin Block, Kelly Ellenberger, Kelly Rombach, Kris Hilgart, Kristen Zuzek, Larry Fortier, Lois Miller, Lucas Anderson, Mark Javner, Mason Block, Mindy Wiseman, Mitchell Demers, Patti Siem, Peter Neuser, Rob Thompson, Roy Mortenson, Sally Stewart, Samantha Stearns, Sandy Chady, Sandy Lampert, Sarah Lampert, Steve Clark, Steve Litzkow, Talya Etheridge, Terry Block, Travis Lundeen, Tyler Etheridge, and Wendy Kolzow*

Donations

Academic Communication Associates, Inc.
Almena Lions Club
American Excelsior Mill
American Legion Post 194 Pieper
Ancient Journey
Back Country Sports
Barb Slakowski
Barney's Fresh Meats
Barron County Humane Society
Barron Welding
Bernie and Lisa Hassemer
Bona Casa
By Gayle
Callae
Cameron Hair Studio
Cascade Tissue Group
Central Avian & Small Animals
Chibardun Telephone Coop, Inc.
Chix with Stix
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EO Johnson Company
Farm and Fleet of Rice Lake
First National Bank
Fred C. and Katherine B. Andersen Foundation
GLC Direct LLC
Greta Franti
Hair Café' & Spa
Harvey J. Nastrom
Heidi and Randy Viebrock
Hobby Horse Gift Shoppe
Horsetech
Hoyt Rose
Inspired
Jarden Consumer Solutions
Jenkins Realty Inc.
Jeremy and Tawnya Unruh
Jerry's Greenhouse
Jill Brunette
John Bowman
Kadingers
Kathy Thompson
Katina Hodgson
Kenneth and Wendy Kolzow
Ken-Way Services
Kum & Go of Rice Lake
Lynn Dale's Golf
Marsh Agency
Mastercraft Industries
Metropolitan Dodge Dealers
Nan Bertelson
Nancy Stellrecht
Olympic Fitness Center
Otto Bremer Foundation
P. P. Wendt and J. S. Wendt
Packntravel.net S. Gibbons
Pine Crest Golf
Pizza Hut
Rae of Light Photography
Rice Lake Cenex
Rice Lake Hardees
Rice Lake Rotary Club
Ridgeland Chetek Coop

Rod & Gun Sport
Rolling Oaks Golf Course
Roy W. Mortenson
RR Chinchillas
Rusk County Memorial Hospital
S & R Towing
Sandy Chady
Sears of Rice Lake
Simply Sweet
Solid Gold Greatland, Inc.
Swant Motor Company
The Bear Paw Company
The Birds of Fowl Play
The Chronotype
The Picket Fence
Thera- Horse Solutions
TJ's Trophies
Wells Fargo of Ladysmith
Westconsin Credit Union
Wilson
Wisconsin State Horse Council
Xtreme Motorsports

Continuing Sponsors

American Excelsior
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Electrobraid Fencing
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Exhibitor Labs
Gilbert Motors of Sand Creek
GLC Direct
Horse Tech
Kate's Saddle Supply
Kaytee Products
Ken-Way Services
Luitpold, Adequan
Mrs. Pasture's Cookies
P&H Horse and Cattle Company
Ridgeland/Chetek Co-op
RRR Chinchilla's
Solid Gold Dog Food
The Chronotype
Charlie Westman, DVM
Wedgewood Pharmacy
WJMC Radio
World's Best Cat Litter
Xtreme Design Labs, Inc.

******It is through the continued support of our donors, and sponsors, that we can provide rehabilitation services. Please acknowledge their contributions throughout the year with your gratitude, and patronage. Thank you. ******

Meet Our Therapy Staff

Becky Lundeen, MAT/CCC-SLP-HPCS
Director, Speech Language Pathologist

Jim Lundeen
Payroll & Maintenance

Nancy Stellrecht, PT-HPCS
Physical Therapist

Patti Siem
Office Manager

Mitchell Demers
Youth Director

Nancy Frank
Financial Development

Kelly Ellenberger
Assistant Youth Director

Vicki Saraceno
Youth Mentor

Related Memberships

Our professional staff is registered with the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA), and the American Hippotherapy Association (AHA) using horses as therapeutic tools, the Delta Society Pet Partner Program, and People Animals and Nature (PAN). Nature's Edge is a Delta Affiliate Center. The Center is a NARHA Member Center and working towards a Premier Accreditation Center.

Board of Directors

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Gift Giving

___ Yes, I would like to give of my time and talents, or a gift of equipment.

___ No, I am unable to give of my time and talents, but would like to give a monetary donation to Nature's Edge Therapy Center, Inc. I would be happy to give a gift of ___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$500 ___
_____ Sponsorship of a horse ___ \$126/monthly; Sponsorship of a small animal _____ \$40/monthly
_____ Other

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Please send donations to: Nature's Edge Therapy Center, Inc. 2523 143/4 Ave. Rice Lake, WI 54868