

SOUNDS OF STIRRUPS 'N STRIDES

Quarterly Newsletter December 2011

Volume 4 Issue #14

A Chat with Betty Gray

During the month of November, it is a recognized holiday to give thanks. That is why I am starting this fall newsletter giving thanks to all of Stirrups 'n Strides volunteers & Sponsors. As you continue to read this newsletter, you will be able to see what we, as a team have accomplished this fall. With your time, help, and dedication, you have made our riders dreams come true. And with that, you should feel very proud!

With multiple fund raisers in a row, horse shows, and riding lessons it has made for a very busy fall! I want to start off saying THANK YOU for how hard everyone worked to make all of these events a huge success! Without all of the dedicated Volunteers and Sponsors this program would not be possible.

I need to brag just a little on our trip to Kansas City & the UPHA Exceptional Challenge Cup Finals which was held at the prestigious American Royal Horse Show on November 18th. Our 2 riders Krista Koch & Lauren Andrews made the trip this year along with our wonderful horses Barney & Stewart. Congratulations go out to both girls on taking a Championship & a Reserve Championship! See more details on the next page.

I would like to welcome a new **Sponsor** to Stirrups 'n Strides "The Back Office". The Back Office offers services in Bookkeeping, Payroll, Accounting, Business Coaching, Marketing & Print Services to name just a few. If you need someone to help get you, your Company or Organization back on track, give Dave Winters a call at 904-347-1707 or you can visit their web-site at www.TBO4You.com. Thank you Dave, Dee & Lee Winters for all you have done for Stirrups 'n Strides.

We are on face book!! Stirrups 'n Strides now has a face book page & I encourage you to go to face book, put in Stirrups 'n Strides Therapeutic Riding Center & when our page comes up click on "like". This is a great way to keep in touch with what is going on at Stirrups 'n Strides. There are great pictures of the Country Hoedown on face book & a lot about our trip to Kansas City for the UPHA Exceptional Challenge Cup. Hope to see your comments on face book.

Our Christmas Party is on Monday December 5th. It is at the Ag Center on 200A next door to the Livestock Pavilion & it starts at 6:00. Hope everyone will come for a great time. It is a pot luck dinner, so bring your favorite dish to share. There will be music & singing, lots of raffles, Santa of course & other surprises. See you at the Party. Oh, by the way, please bring a can of food if you would like to participate in "Let Fate Dance Food Drive" sponsored by Catherine Sears. It will help put a Christmas dinner on the table for our needy people in Ocala.

Again, a big "Thank You" to everyone for making the fall season such a success. Our riders are excelling & having fun, our fundraisers have been a huge success & volunteers; you are the backbone of our program along with all our sponsors making it possible for us to provide these proven & invaluable services.

Betty Gray

352-427-3569

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

We started off the fall with volunteer orientation on September 17th for our new and returning volunteers; it was a wonderful day with many new volunteers joining Stirrups 'n Strides. We are going to hold a refresher volunteer course after riding classes in January, please speak with Maddy Graham or Sandy Donaldson about the dates and attending. It is always good to just refresh everyone's mind on proper procedures. Please try & stay after classes when we schedule the refreshers.

SPORTABILITY

Sportsability is a program that showcases various sports that are available for people with disabilities. They had basketball, bocce, scuba diving, arts & crafts & the list goes on. We took 3 horses to this event on September 29th, & rode 60 riders in one day! Needless to say, we were the most popular sport of the day! Our horses were fantastic! Thank you to all the volunteers that helped to make this possible!

REGION 3 DRESSAGE SHOW

As you know, Stirrups 'n Strides was a beneficiary of the Region 3 Dressage Show held at the Hits Show grounds in October. We had several volunteers that donated their time to help at the 3 day show and everyone had a great time in the process. It was truly a learning experience for all, from scribing, to checking bits, to being ring stewards; and the volunteers got to see some of the top dressage horses & riders in the country. What a tough trade off! Thank you to all that helped.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Our next big under taking was our Golf Tournament on October 8th. I need to give an extra special bit of thanks to Jim Olson along with Laney McGivern for organizing such a wonderful tournament! All 14 spots for teams were taken! We were so lucky the rain held off in Dunnellon, I think it rained all around the area. The lunch was excellent that Rainbow's end Golf Club supplied, making the whole day perfect. There were a lot of great prizes for our silent auction & raffle along with many sponsorships. It was a successful fundraiser, raising over \$6400.00!

YARD SALE

Our next big project was the yard sale on October 22nd. All the volunteers came through once again, with help setting up and bringing a lot of items to sell. I want to give extra thanks to Ed Clemmons for arranging and picking up many of the items! And also to Maddy Graham for the time she put in organizing & pricing the items. We brought in over \$2200 at the yard sale!

COUNTRY HOEDOWN & CHINESE AUCTION

Now, on to the newest fundraiser of the year; "The Country Hoedown & Chinese Auction". I do not even know where to begin. I want to give special thanks for the numerous hours Elaine Richter put into this fundraiser and to also Elgin Carelock for being the sponsor of the wonderful BBQ dinner. The evening went from the great desserts, [of course look where I began], to the excellent music & entertainment by our own Catherine Sears, to the over 70 wonderful baskets, getting sponsorships, setting up, selling tickets, my list could go on and on. Once again, the volunteers went above and beyond the call of duty. I am beginning to see a pattern here, thank you once again. The fundraiser was a huge success bringing in over \$6200!

SIGNATURE SHOW SERIES

The key words that come to mind on the benefits of the disabled going to horse shows to compete are: FUN, CHALLENGING, SELF WORTH, GROWTH, & ACCOMPLISHMENT, & that is the reason we all work so hard. On October 30th 13 of our riders went to the livestock pavilion for the Signature Show series. It is quite evident the pride the riders take in themselves, showing what they have achieved. And once again, I want to thank the volunteers for all your help at the show.

UPHA EXCEPTIONAL CHALLENGE CUP FINALS

A BIG CONGRATS TO LAUREN ANDREWS, AND KRISTA KOCH

As you know, 2 of our riders competed in Kansas City at the Exceptional Challenge Cup Finals held at the prestigious American Royal Horse Show. Competing against riders from around the country Krista brought home Grand Champion in the Physical Disability division & Lauren received Reserve Grand Championship in the Non- Physical disability division. What a great accomplishment! We are so proud of Krista and Lauren, you both made considerable progress in your riding ability through a lot of hard work. Way to go Ladies!

WOW! I would sayThis has been one busy and successful fall! You all deserve to give yourselves one big pat on the back!

Fundraising Cruise, February 4th, 2012

There is still time to sign up for our 5 night cruise to Cozumel, and Costa Maya Mexico. Have some "FUN IN THE SUN"! You deserve it! Join us on Royal Caribbean for the time or your life. Every state room booked, Stirrups 'n Strides will receive a donation. Enjoy yourselves for a good cause! For more info, contact: Sheri Mruz at Professional Travel Services 352-732-7849 or email at: Sheri.Mruz@avoyatravel.com.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

December 5th - Stirrups 'n Strides Christmas Party

December 18th - 1st Annual Signature Series Awards Dinner, RSVP by December 10th

February 4th – Cruise

February 25th - Challenge Show

March 24th - Special Olympics Area Games

May 4-5th - Special Olympics State Games

Mission Statement

To provide therapeutic horseback riding and driving to anyone with physical, mental or emotional challenges, and to improve the quality of life for these individuals with the opportunity for emotional, educational and physical growth through horsemanship and competition.

OUR SPONSORS OUR "ANGELS"

Ocala Breeders Feed & Supply, Berrettini Feed, Seminole Feed, Mid West Hay, Cardinal Hill Farm (Norm Casse), Farrier, Jody Schaible, Ocala Equine Hospital (Robert Bloomer, DVM), North Marion Feed, Boomer Rowles, (Equine Dentist), Bryony Anderson (Ortho Bionomy), Mark Barrett (In Motion Productions), Dunkin Donuts, The Back Office (Dave Winters), Elgin Carelock (Diversified Event Productions), Quail Roost Foundation, Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation.



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Please accept my contribution to Stirrups 'n Strides Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc. (a Not-For-Profit Organization)

Name: _____

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Please make checks payable to Stirrups 'n Strides) & send to 4246 W. Hwy 318, Citra, Fl. 32113, or go to our web-site at:

www.stirrupsnstrides.com & make a donation on pay pal.

Contributions from this newsletter will be used to underwrite our Scholarship program.