



THE GIFT HORSE



Exceptional Horseback Riders of Saginaw County

Equine partnerships for exceptional people.

Winter 2011

Who's In The Saddle?

President

Joanne Krzywosinski

Vice President

Nancy Bondar

Treasurer

Tina Bennett

Secretary

Theresa Pratt

Board Member

Judy Ann Rau

Nena Magalski

Michelle VanAmburg

Shana Fruk

Parent Volunteer

Lori Ackerman

MSU Extension

Jan Wendling



Cards for Kids

Are you tired of buying fundraising items that you don't want or need? EHRSC is now a member of the **Great Lakes Scrip Program!** A fundraising program for non-profit organizations that lets you purchase what **YOU** want. If our friends and families purchase name-brand retailer gift cards through us (instead of buying them in stores), we get % cash-back rebate on cost of the card from GL Scrip, while you use the card for its full face value.

It's a Win-Win for both of us !

Example:

Buy a \$100 Staples card from us. Staples offer a 5% rebate. Your card is worth \$100 and we get \$5 back! With 50 people participating on a regular basis, little amounts can add up quickly.

- Think of where you regularly shop...groceries, gas, department stores, and dining out.
- Pats Food Center is a participant

Cards can be ordered by

- Contact an EHRSC member or email our Scrip coordinator, Lori, at lackerman5445@charter.net for order form and further instructions.
- Visit www.shopwithscrip.com to create a family account, view participating retailers, and order cards on-line. **Important:** In your account you must enter our enrollment code **D4L22E1C3L177** to designate EHRSC as your non-profit
- Payment can be made by traditional check made out to EHRSC and mailed to PO Box 29, Freeland, MI. 48623 OR use the on-line *PrestoPay* feature (electronic transfer from your checking account). We must receive payment before orders can be processed. Thank You.

INSTRUCTOR'S CORNER

What a great year!

Our year included:

7 week spring & fall riding session, Garage Sale, summer session Pig raffle, 10 week driving program and our Halloween party.

Our program could not exist without all of our wonderful volunteers. It takes a lot of people just to make one class happen let alone 3 classes in one night.

I would like to say a very special "Thank-you" to a group of ladies that come every week thru out the year. Joann and Judy Ann for their help in all the administration work, Nena for her time bringing in horses when the weather turns bad and for helping with cleaning their stalls. Gail for helping Nena when possible and for donating Sabbth's honey and vinegar for her breathing problem. And for Lori, my right arm when I need help with anything at all she is there. For all the scrip orders she takes and delivers, all the great pictures she takes for the program and for all the little things she does behind the scenes. I have been blessed from God for all these people in my life and I can not "Thank-You" all enough for your dedication to our program. I hope you all enjoy your picture in this newsletter because your smiles tell it all.

God Bless

Tina Bennett



EHRSC MISSION

We, the Exceptional Horseback Riders of Saginaw County Inc., believe that all children/adults with any disability will benefit from therapeutic horseback riding with improvements in physical, cognitive, and emotional areas. We believe in providing a safe, fun riding environment that enhances self-esteem and encourages independence in riding skills.

Contact: Tina Bennett
EHRSC at P.O. Box 29
Freeland, MI. 48623
(989) 274-5466

Who's in the EHRSC Corral?



By: Gail Loesel

SABBTH

Sabbth came to our program in 2008, a retired Standardbred Pacer with an unusually spelled name that was engraved on her halter when she was donated. She has a lovely personality and is always willing to please, walking slow and steady at "walk on," stopping and standing quietly at "whoa," but when it's time to trot, she PACES! The trot and pace are both rapid, two beat gaits but the difference is in how the legs move. In trotting the forefoot on one side and the opposite hind foot (diagonal) strike the ground at the same time and when pacing, the front and hind foot on the same side (lateral), start and stop together. The pace produces a swinging, rolling motion for the rider, not bouncy or springy like trotting. Sabbth does not get excited at faster speeds like some horses and sometimes decides after a few paces to slow back down to a walk, but that's OK, she's our Sabbth. She enjoys her job as our therapy horse and loves all the attention from her riders and volunteers. Walk on, Sabbth!



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Now that 2011 is coming to a close and plans are being made for the upcoming 2012 year, I would like to take this time to sincerely thank everyone who so generously support the EHRSC with their contributions of time, talent or funding that provides the opportunity for so many to benefit. I am stepping down as president, but wholeheartedly support its mission, and will do my best to assist the new officers as they continue the management of the EHRSC. The countless lessons I have learned from our rider's, their families, our volunteers and the many people who provide what they can to help us keep on going, never ceases to awe, inspire and humble me.

The Story of the Cracked Pot (author unknown), is a message I would like to leave with you, and I hope it may remind you to appreciate ALL the different people in your life.

A water bearer in India had two large pots, one hung on each end of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, and while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the master's house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full 2 years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water to his master's house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect to the end for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do. After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream saying, "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you."

"Why?" asked the bearer. "What are you ashamed of?" "I have been able, for these past two years, to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your master's house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts," the pot said.

The water bearer felt sorry for the old cracked pot, and in his compassion he said, "As we return to the master's house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path." Indeed, as they went up the hill, the old cracked pot took notice of the sun warming the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path and this cheered it some. But at the end of the trail, it still felt bad because it had leaked out half its load, so again it apologized to the bearer for its failure.

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw and I took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my master's table. Without you being just the way you are, he would not have this beauty to grace his house."

MORAL: We're ALL cracked pots, each of us have our own unique flaws, but it's the cracks and flaws we each have that makes our lives so interesting and rewarding. We just have to take each person for what they are, and look for the good in them. There is a lot of good out there, there's a lot of good in us! Please remember we all have something good to contribute in our own way, and thank you for accepting my cracked pot efforts supporting the EHRSC! As always, any support of our program is certainly welcome, see you in the EHRSC corral! *Happy Trails and Peace* Joann*





EHRSC WISH LIST

Volunteers!

- Pasture Maintenance
- Blacksmith

Sponsors:

- Horse (\$150 a month)
- Brochures advertising
- Newsletter advertising

Gift cards for

- Office Max or Staples
- Hemlock Elevator (grain)
- S.V.E.C. (horse vet)
- Printing newsletter
- TSC (wormer, etc)

Article for the newsletter
Tax deductible donations

Our program could not be what it is without the support of our dedicated volunteers!
Thank You Everyone!

Calendar 2012

Mandatory Parents Meeting
Feb 6, 2012 6:30 pm

EHRSC Spring
April 9 – May 21, 2012

EHRSC Freeland Walleye Rummage Sale
April 26-28, 2012

Parents Meeting
June 11, 2012 6:30 pm

EHRSC Summer Riding Session
July 9-13, 2012 5-7 pm

Saginaw County Fair
July 2012

EHRSC Fall Riding Session
Sept. 10 -Oct. 22, 2012

EHRSC Summer Fundraiser -TBD

YES! I want to support EHRSC!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Please accept a donation of\$ _____

My check is enclosed.

Please call me at _____

Please call me about the EHRSC program and volunteering.

My company would like to provide supplies, services and/or volunteers, please call me at _____

Please notify:
Contact: Tina Bennett
EHRSC at P.O. Box 29
Freeland, MI. 48623
(989) 274-5466

Why I've Been a Volunteer For 14 Years

Watching the faces as they get on their trusty steed, sitting up so high, grabbing the reins to take control-all I can say is, it's one of the highlights of my week during the spring, fall and summer programs. I always love being around both the horses and kids. Two of my favorite things! Hearing the laughs as they trot is better than anything a fine symphony could produce. As a speech/language pathologist, I can see the benefits are great. There is a lot of laughter and easy camaraderie between riders and volunteers that makes everything so much fun. And to see the kids make a connection with a 1000 lb. animal is pretty incredible to witness. The horses respond. The child builds confidence. These are all things that make this program so special to me. My family knows better than to schedule anything that might conflict with program days! Short of illness, injury, or emergency, I will be there 14 years, and counting.

By Theresa Pratt



THANK-YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Dr. Steven and Kelli Jensen

Temptation Farm and Staff

Dr. Brad Cumper DVM

Dr. Matt Davis DVM

Saginaw Valley Equine Clinic Staff

Louise Tuller Miller Trust

Johnny Burkes Childrens Foundation

Freeland Lions Club

Knights of Columbus 4232

Clare Auxiliary #3977

Freeland Farmers Market

Saginaw Farmers Market

Community State Bank of St. Charles

Pat's Food Center

Bernthal's Packing

Tomac's Pumpkin Patch

Mike, Nancy and Kim Squanda

Sylvia Bondar

Michele VanAmburg & Shana Fruk

Judy Ann Rau & Gayle Loesel

Jimmy Johns and Wade Family

Jim Dewyse

Susan Welch & Theresa Pratt

Anonymous Donors

Our Volunteer's and Riders' Families who

Contributed to our Barn Sale

Pig Raffle Ticket Buyers & Congratulations to

the Rokosz Family, our 2011 pig raffle winner!!



P.O. Box 29
Freeland, MI. 48623