

Bits
SPURS
about



Merry Christmas from SPURS!

We hope and pray this Christmas is filled with His wonder and joy!

HORSE

The HORSE is such a gift to so many. Doesn't matter what kind of therapy is needed...spiritual, mental, emotional, physical...their unconditional love goes beyond words. Their forgiveness and compassion is an example we can all follow.

What is it about the HORSE that helps us so much? Their intuition that tells them what we need without our saying a word? Their ability to meet us right where we are without judgement? Their power to challenge us to be stronger, more compassionate, and courageous people?

Tell us what it is about our horses that has changed your life. Email your stories to gaerinsplace@gmail.com. We are working to publish a collection of stories for our newsletter and website.

The HORSE is the best kind of therapy.

Christmas Wish List

- 🐾 Horse Treats
- 🐾 Pyranha or Farnam Endure Fly Spray
- 🐾 Paper Towels
- 🐾 Toilet Paper
- 🐾 Stamps and Envelopes
- 🐾 Lysol
- 🐾 Copy Paper
- 🐾 Hand soap
- 🐾 Rider sponsorships
- 🐾 Horse sponsorships
- 🐾 Corporate sponsorships
- 🐾 Big orange traffic cones
- 🐾 Hay trap feeders
- 🐾 Gravel for west entrance driveway
- 🐾 Salt blocks
- 🐾 Leather New Cleaner and Conditioner
- 🐾 Quest Plus or Zimectrin Gold dewormer
- 🐾 26" and 28" cinch- not neoprene

From the Director

What a year it has been! We just ended the last of our four sessions for 2018, with a handful of new individual riders, a new Kindergarten class from the Lincoln Enrich program and for the first time ever, Simmons Jr. High brought a group of students. It was a full session with over 80 riders. Our instructors, volunteers and horses put in a lot of hours! The end of this year marks the retirement of our long-time instructor, Mary Lund. She has been with our program for 25 years and has been instrumental in the success of our program. She has been working closely with and mentoring our assistant instructor, Dani Multhaupt, over the past year, to eventually ease her into that position. We will all miss having her as an instructor but are looking forward to having her volunteer with us. As we begin to plan for next year, we can't help but think about how blessed we really are. We couldn't be more thankful for the wonderful community that we live in full of incredibly generous people and businesses. Without them, we simply could not exist.

We hope to see you all in 2019

~Becky Fischbach~



Barn Dance

In September, we held our annual barn dance and benefit auction. Our barn was packed full of kind and generous people out to have a good time for the evening and show their support of our program. With over 500 people in attendance, this was by far, our largest fundraising event to date. None of this would be possible without the support of all the kind and giving people and businesses in our community and the communities that surround us. We are so thankful to our amazing volunteers who came together to help with not only our program but with our fundraising as well. We couldn't be more blessed.

We hope to see you September 21, 2019 for another great evening in our Big Red Barn!

Lori Westby

Barn dance chair



Boot Blizzard

I was just returning from the Equestrian Special Olympics in Huron and had noted that some of the riders could use a nice pair of cowboy boots. My thoughts turned to my closet and the unused boots there. IF I had some, then surely there were others with MORE. So I put a post out on my Facebook page for my fellow AAHA members to check their closets. AAHA (Aberdeen Area Horseman's Association) picked it up and posted it on their Facebook page and we had us a Boot Blizzard brewing. After we collected a majority of boots, a few of us got together at Pearl Holt's place to clean and polish the boots. Pearl Holt, Heidi Williams, Paula Fogarty, Sandy Dobberpuhl, JoAnn Williams and myself. Next trip for the freshly cleaned boots was SPURS. Hopefully at the next Equestrian Special Olympics our riders will be well shod, too. And if they have extras they can have a boot blizzard there, too, for the other riders.

~Wendy Guthmiller ~

Christmas at SPURS!

Merry Christmas and thank you to all who came and enjoyed the Bake Sale and Photo Shoot that was held here at SPURS on December 2nd. There was much yummy goodness shared and many came for their family Christmas photos. Thank you so much for your generosity! It was fun to see so many happy faces! Many blessings on you this Christmas season!

Volunteer Corner

2018 has been a great year of growth with our volunteers. Weekly we had over 50 volunteers helping with classes Mon-Thu. These individuals are a vital part of our daily classes. We had one volunteer put in over 200 hours this year, that's helping with at least 95 classes and attending Special Olympics. Every volunteer is a vital part of our daily classes. So many of them go above and beyond. Answering our plea for help at all hours of the day, night and even at below zero temps. We are grateful for one hour of volunteer time or 200 hours. Each volunteer makes a huge difference. We appreciate all of your helping hands and feet.

May each of you be blessed for all you do. See you in the Spring of 2019.

~Julie A. Kumpf, Volunteer Coordinator



Fundraiser

Corner Hello! I'm excited to start with SPURS as the Fundraiser Coordinator. My husband and I moved here this past June from Northern AZ. I'm originally from Northern Minnesota and my husband is from north of Timberlake, SD.

~Lisa Gebhart~

Instructor's Corner

SPURS riding season has come to a close with the onset of an early winter. We have enjoyed our returning students, as well as meeting new students who have come to SPURS to receive the many gifts that our 20 horses have to offer. These gifts include:

- Freedom of movement for whom movement is difficult or impossible on their own.
- Empowerment from being able to make choices and guide or control a 1000-1500 lb horse.
- Balance: Riding horses works every muscle in your body.
- Communication for students with speech difficulties or who are non verbal, giving them reason to talk.
- Sensory integration: so many new sensations, sounds, smells, and for some, just touching a live animal.
- Fun and friendship with the horses, class mates, and the volunteers who help them.

Thank you to all who helped make this year possible. As this was my last year as an instructor, and I pass the reins on to the next generation of dedicated instructors, I can only say thank you to the students, the many volunteers and the horses who have shared this journey with me. ~Mary Lund~



Hello! I am currently the assistant instructor here at SPURS. I'm originally from Watertown, SD. I have a degree in Equine Management from LATI and a certification in Equine Massage Therapy from Black Hills School of Animal Massage. I am in the process of getting PATH certified for Therapeutic Riding. ~Dani Multhaupt~

Did you know?



On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you are prompted to select a charitable organization from our list of eligible organizations. You can change your selection at any time. To change your charitable organization:
Sign in to smile.amazon.com on your desktop or mobile phone browser. Go to **Your Account** from the navigation at the top of any page, and then select the option to **Change your Charity**.



Nonprofits can receive funds from Thrivent to support their needs. If you are a Thrivent member, see your agent to direct your Thrivent Choice dollars to SPURS.

#livegenerously



- 3M employees and retirees are eligible
- Volunteer 25+ hours at one qualifying nonprofit organization between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31
- Receive a \$500 match from 3M to the same qualifying organization

If you are a 3M employee, please check with your supervisor about participating in this great program.

Mission Statement

SPURS provides opportunities for growth through horse-related activities for individuals with special needs.

Upcoming Events

- March 8, 2019 ~ Volunteer Appreciation with the Wings!
- March 22, 2019 Spring Dance
Details in the near future!

SPURS TRC

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Email

Would you like to be on our email list? Visit our website: SPURSAberdeen.org and sign up!

