



Free S.P.I.R.I.T. Riders, Inc.

Special People in Riding Therapy

September 2003

5th Annual Raffle Prize Winners

1. \$500 or "Daddy" miniature horse colt or \$500 Bill Brill, Mt. Calvary
2. 9.9 Horsepower motor-Mercury Marine Pat Kohlman, Eagle River
3. Self propelled walk behind lawn mower-John Deere Karen Martin, Fond du Lac
4. Hand Made Picnic Table Set-Dave Meyer John Gardner, Markesan
5. Super photo session- Equine Design Photography Luanne Romuald, Fond du Lac
6. Electric Thunderbolt Welder Stick-Miller Electric Dr. Linstrom, Iron River WI
7. 3 Month Family Membership-FdL YMCA Eric Radke, Campbellsport
8. 4' X 5' western quilt-Rose Butzen Barb Beck, Montello
9. One Free Night Lodging- Econo Lodge Kenn Rahn, Horicon
10. Floating cooler, AM/FM radio and beach ball-Binner pools and spas Ken Hoefs, Beaver Dam
11. \$50 Gift Certificate - Schmidt Acres Paul Gneiser, Fond du Lac
12. \$50 Savings Bond-US Bank Calvin Cartwright, Fond du lac
13. \$50 Savings Bond-National Exchange Bank Rick Heisler, Campbellsport
14. \$50 Savings Bond-American Bank Linda Bratcher, Theresa
15. \$50 Savings Bond, M & I Bank, Fond du Lac Paul VandeBerg, Waupun
16. \$50 Gift Certificate towards reservation-AmericanInn, Ripon Jordana Gerlach, Oshkosh
17. Two Timber Rattlers tickets Emma Loehr, Fond du Lac
18. \$25 Gift Certificate D-R Bar Stables and Saddle Shop Kathy Ludwig, Oshkosh
19. \$25 Gift Certificate D-R Bar Stables and Saddle Shop Jesse Schultz
20. \$25 Gift Certificate-Personal Touch Flowers and Gifts LLC Penny Hathaway, Fond du Lac
21. \$25 Gift Certificate-Gilles Tom Clausen, N. Fond du Lac
22. \$25 Gift Certificate-Gilles Vickie Schlieger, Hawkins, WI
23. \$25 Gift Certificate-Gilles Kathy Buton, Minocqua
24. Full Service Car wash-Jet Stream Sue Pershing, N Fond du Lac
25. Full Service Car wash-Jet Stream Lauren Bouvat, Plymouth
26. One Riding Lesson, Ginger Schinktgen Linda Bratcher, Theresa
27. One Riding Lesson, Cindi Anderson Bonnie Krug Fond du Lac
28. 1 \$15 Gift Certificate - Loehrs Meat Service, Inc. JoAnn Guell, Campbellsport
29. 1 2-Hour Pass-Do-It-All Sports Arena Paul Barnes, Fond du Lac
30. \$15 Gift Certificate Horse Shoe Spring Tack Shop Marlene Wix, Oakfield
31. \$10 V.I.P. Pass-Larson's Famous Clydesdales Tours Ena Rose, Green Bay
32. \$10 V.I.P. Pass-Larson's Famous Clydesdales Tours Lisa Weadge, Neenah
33. \$10 V.I.P. Pass-Larson's Famous Clydesdales Tours Will Behnke
34. \$10 V.I.P. Pass-Larson's Famous Clydesdales Tours James O'Brien, Eden
35. \$10 cash, Jean Lawrence, FSR Board President Audrey Balthazor, N Fond du Lac
36. 1 lb. Box Hughes candy Allison Westemeir, Campbellsport
37. 1 lb. Box Hughes candy Dick Anderson, Fond du Lac
38. 1 lb. Box Hughes candy Kim Schommer
39. 1 lb. Box Hughes candy Jessica Buettner
40. 1 lb. Box Hughes candy Juanita Scott
41. 1 Eaton's Pizza coupon Bonnie Lebal, Catawba WI
42. 1 Eaton's Pizza coupon Dean Osborn, Fond du Lac
43. \$5 Gift Certificate- Schreiner's Restaurant John Gardner, Markesan
44. \$5 Gift Certificate- Schreiner's Restaurant Katie Mahler, Oshkosh
45. \$5 Gift Certificate- Schreiner's Restaurant Connor McBride, Fond du Lac
46. \$5 Gift Certificate- Schreiner's Restaurant Brenda Post
47. FSR T-shirt Earl Freund, Fond du Lac
48. FSR sweatshirt Bruce Orvis, Brandon
49. FSR Cap Dennis Comeaux, Fond du Lac
50. FSR Marionette Harvey Jannette, Manitowoc
51. FSR Stick Pony Mary Roltgen
52. FSR Apple Cookbook Sandy Sullivan, Oshkosh

F

rom your
Director

As with many businesses and agencies, FSR is feeling the results of a slow economy. To address this issue 'in our arena' the Board of Directors of FSR has voted unanimously to increase in rider fee from \$15 to \$20 per 45 minute session effective January 1, 2004.

The founders of FSR made a commitment to keep our fees as reasonable as possible. We charged \$10 per lesson until 1994 (or for 7 years) when the fee increased to \$15 per lesson. So the last increase was 9 years ago! We still will offer the possibility of rider ships for those who would not be able to ride because of the fee. Of course, the number of rider ships available depends on the donations we receive for that purpose.

We continue to encourage all who are eligible for funding through their county's Family Support Program, Care Management Organization, Community Options Program or Community Integration Program to apply for any of those programs as they will fund our services.

As always, if there is a problem with paying for our services, I am available to look at other alternatives for you or your rider to participate and receive the benefits of therapeutic riding!

Mary Narges

To Give Away: adjustable prone stander and child's wheelchair with tray. Call Sharon at 920-922-1308, or cell no. 920-251-6097.

FROM THE RIDER'S PERSPECTIVE

Michael Berger from Oshkosh began riding with FSR just last year. Michael is 24 and has a dual diagnosis of Rubella Syndrome as well as Fetal Drug/Alcohol Syndrome. Michael is profoundly deaf, legally blind and has severe cognitive disabilities.

Michael came to live with the Berger family when he was 2 ½ years old as a foster child to attend the Special Ed. Program in Oshkosh.

Michael was 8 when he and his mother, on their way to Oshkosh, were in a severe accident. His Mother was killed but Michael, thanks to his car seat restraint, sustained only a broken leg. After recuperating with the Berger's and becoming even more a member of the family the decision was made to adopt Michael. Michael's adoptive family consists of Dad (Paul), Mom (Pat), one sister, two brothers and at this time 3 nieces and 3 nephews, all living in Oshkosh. There are 4 family pets, two dogs and two cats.

Michael graduated from North High and is now employed part-time at Lakeside Packaging Plus, he and Pat spend the rest of the time involved in various activities including riding his three wheeler, exercising the dogs, swimming and of course riding at FSR. He also helps with picking up litter along the highway at FSR. Michael's biggest challenge right now is his battle with Glaucoma, which threatens to take what eyesight he has left, and undergoes laser treatments every two months at U W Madison hospital.

Michael seems to enjoy his time with Magic and has shown promise in learning to whoa, go and turn with the reins. Michael is unable to communicate through speech or his limited signing ability so we judge much of his activities by his smiles and relaxed behavior which we have seen plenty of at FSR. Michael and Mom were both impressed by the sidewalkers this year. The gentlemen from DACC were excellent, very caring and interested in learning how to assist Michael. THANKS GUYS !!!!! And to all who give of their time, talents and money to support this awesome program THANK YOU ALL.



What do these have in common?

Wisconsin State Horse Council, Semenas Excavating, News-Talk KFIZ; US Bank; WalMart; Rodeo City Riders, Inc.; Osborn and Son Trucking; McBride Dental S.C.; Wausua Insurance; Dodge County Horse Association; and Timblin Transport Incorporated??

They were the financial supporters of our 13th Annual Ride-a-Thon. Because of their financial support of our 13th Annual Ride-A-Thon, all the pledge money raised goes directly into our program needs! No pledge money was used to offset the cost of the event. Be sure to give our sponsors a BIG thanks you when you get the chance!

New Members Of The FSR \$1000 Club

We congratulate **Maddi and Casey Stark** (Honorary Co-Chairs of this year's Ride-A-Thon) on becoming members of our \$1000 club. How did they become members? They each collected more than \$1000 in pledges/donations for the 13th Annual Ride-A-Thon! They join Amy Jo Marquard, Jordy Gerlach, Barbara Gardner and Mary Narges, all previous initiates to this elite club.

They Got Trophies!

The following trophies were presented at the Ride-a-Thon on August 16:

- ????Rider who raised most pledges: Shared by **Casey and Maddi Stark**
 - ????Rider on the waiting list who raised most pledges: **Amy Jo Marquard**
 - ????Female volunteer with most pledges: **Jordy Gerlach**
 - ????Male volunteer with most pledges: **Dan Fall**
 - ????Board member with most pledges: **Kari Butzen**
 - ????Horse who traveled the farthest:
1st place "**Red**" and "**Toby**" Hawkins WI.
2nd place: "**Granite**" from Weyauwega, WI.
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To Give Away: 3 office chairs with wood arms, upholstered seat and back.

Used Riding Helmet For Sale, black, \$20. Call 920-921-6047

Garden Visitors

On Tuesday, August 12, 8 members of the **Department of Community Programs Day Treatment Hospital** brought bag lunches and ate their noon meal while sitting in the Gazebo. These individuals are disabled through their chronic mental illness and live independently in the community with supportive services. They attend day programs that include crafts, socialization activities, activities of daily living training, education and community outings. They smelt the herbs and guessed what foods they are used in, they tasted the spearmint and smelled the flowers while awed by the colors. After walking through the garden and naming plants we went to the barn for a tour.

Those who grew up on farms loved the smell of the tack room and the feed room. Some time was spent watching the horses at play and then they returned to the center. The kittens were a big hit and enjoyed the visitors as much as the visitor enjoyed them!

What a Family!

Emma Loehr is the younger sister of **Jakob Loehr** who is one of our riders. When she had her birthday party early last summer she told her friends to give gifts for FSR to use, not gifts for her. And we were pleased to receive those gifts in her behalf.



The entire Loehr family and Grandpa and Grandma Hodorff planned a fund raiser for FSR at The Little Farmer On August 30 and 31. They worked the concession stand for 2 days straight, for Jakob's favorite charity! Thanks also to all others who helped with this fund raiser in any way: **Elaine Pirsig, Shelly and Klara Hokenson, Cindy Staggs, Mae and Corrin Koscuik**. Mae decided 'you can't have a brat stand without relish' so left to get some! Thanks to program volunteer **Wilma Hamilton** for stopping by and also **Cindy and Natalie Armstrong**.

A Definition of Blindness

Most of us are familiar with the generally accepted legal definition of blindness: visual acuity of not greater than 20/200 in the better eye with correction or a field not subtending an angle greater than 20 degrees. Not exactly a definition, rather, a way of recognizing in medical and measurable terms something which must be defined not medically or physically but functionally.

The literal definition of blindness is not an inability to see. A person who could see light but who could not see objects—a person who would bump into things unless using a cane, a dog, or some other travel aid and who would, if they depended solely on the use of eyesight, walk directly into a telephone pole or fire plug is considered blind.

A person is blind to the extent that they must devise alternative techniques to do efficiently those things which they would do with sight if they had normal vision. An individual may properly be said to be "blind" or a "blind person" when they have to devise so many alternative techniques—that is, if they are to function efficiently—that their pattern of daily living is substantially altered. The alternative techniques employed by the blind person need not be inferior to visual techniques. In fact, some of them are superior. The usually accepted legal definition of blindness already given is simply one medical way of measuring and recognizing that anyone with better vision than the amount mentioned in the definition will likely not have to devise so many techniques as to alter substantially their patterns of daily living. On the other hand, anyone with less vision than that mentioned in the legal definition will usually need to alter their techniques in ways that quite substantially alter their patterns of daily living.

Blindness can best be defined not physically or medically but functionally or sociologically. The alternative techniques, which must be learned, are the same for those born blind as for those who become blind as adults. They are quite similar (or should be) for those who are totally blind or nearly so and those who are "partially sighted" and yet are blind in the terms of the usually accepted legal definition. In other words, the complex distinctions which are often made between those who have partial sight and those who are totally blind, between those who have been blind from childhood and those who have become blind as adults are largely meaningless. In fact, they are often harmful since they place the wrong emphasis on blindness and its problems.

The usual characteristics of someone who is vision impaired is insecure posture, lack of visual memory, anterior center of gravity fearfulness and developmental delay.

The benefits of therapeutic riding for those with visual impairment (moderate to total loss of sight) include the stimulation of spatial awareness, proprioception, posture and coordination. Therapeutic riding also provides a social outlet, structured risk taking and freedom of movement.

United Way

When approached by your employer to contribute to the United Way Campaign, remember FSR is a Fond du Lac Area United Way agency. Your contributions will help us continue to put smiles on faces and hope in hearts. And don't forget you can designate that all of your United Way donation goes to FSR, simply state that intent on the sign up card.

What's that you say—you don't live or work in the Fond du Lac area? You can still designate that your donation go to FSR. Your community's United Way agency will forward all designated donations to the Fond du Lac office and then to us!

We are just one of 17 local agencies that benefit from the generosity of the community and United Way. Be generous!

VOLUNTEER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Barb Hennig learned about FSR through an article she saw in the paper. This is Barb's fifth year as a volunteer and most recently she volunteered at the morning classes, but has been having unexplained problems with her hands that has limited her volunteer time this year.

Barb has lived her whole life in Mayville. She married her high school sweetheart, John, after his 4-year stint in the service. They will be celebrating their 39th wedding anniversary on Halloween. They have two children, Susan and Michael and 5 grandchildren: Brandon, 13, Aaron, 10, and Kayden, 7; Sadie, 12, and Kelsie, 9. Although Barb's dad has passed away, her mother resides at a nursing home in Mayville and questions her sanity for wanting to be around the horses ("You can get hurt you know."). Barb is the oldest of three children; brother Gary lives in Baraboo and brother Glenn lives a block away.

Barb is an EMT with the City of Mayville and really enjoys her job. She does admit that it can be a difficult job when the emergency call involves sick, injured or suffering children. It does give her a good feeling knowing that she can help. Her family has been very supportive of her work, as there have been many missed meals and holidays. She credits that support with helping her to continue helping those in her community.

In her spare time, Barb enjoys antique shopping, going to Flea Markets, flower gardening, reading and, most importantly, spending time with her grandchildren. Sometimes she has all five at once, sometimes she makes special one-to-one time with each grandchild.

Barb has always liked horses and can remember standing at the fence as a small child watching the workhorses. One of her fondest memories is riding bareback and double with a friend on the back of a workhorse.

When asked, Barb stated that her favorite FSR therapist was CJ. She really enjoyed working with our rider Carol Horton. She enjoys watching the faces of the riders light up as they lose the initial fear of the horse and begin to enjoy their time. Barb finds her time with FSR is relaxing. She has volunteered every Monday morning.

Barb is hoping to soon rejoin the ranks of active volunteers as she misses everyone – riders, therapists and instructors.



"Barb Hennig with CJ at Neon Farm."



FAREWELL TO OUR FRIEND JET

We received this message from **Amy Kirmse** who lent us Jet for our program's use. Jet was loved by many of our riders and had been missed since leaving our stable for health reasons earlier this year. Amy writes: "On Friday Aug. 22 we said our goodbyes to Jet. The chiropractics and acupuncture was no longer working. He was in pain and had a defeated look in his eyes. For those of you that didn't know, Jet had spent the last couple months being a companion horse to one of **Mike and Joann Schill's** older geldings. I can't thank Mike and Joann enough for

looking after Jet, with my mom's illness, I really don't know what I would have done. As for Jet, he was a good boy with a heart of gold. He taught us so much. We are confident we did our best for him. He is in Gods hands now, free from his crippling arthritis. We loved him very much. Poco Jetty Boy 2/1/79-8/22/03" *We second that emotion!*

Thanks-Thanks-Thanks

to everyone who contributed to the success of the 13th Annual Ride-A- Thon. We are the fortunate target of support from many in our community.....

????**Action Advertiser** for Sponsoring the space to list our Raffle Winners
????**Horse Shoe Springs** for sponsoring Ride-A-Thon ad in Wisconsin Horseman's News
????**Dave and Mary Sauer** for growing the pig for the Ride-A-Thon meal
????**Craig Thull** of JUST ADD PIG for roasting the pig
????**JoJos BBQ Grill** for the BBQ sauce for the pig
????**Bryan Wood** for organizing parking for bringing the speaker system, and doing the announcing.
????**REACT** for helping control traffic for the 13th year!
????**Shickert's Distributing** for the Nesco roaster of mushrooms and onions, what a treat!
????**7-UP of Oshkosh** for cases and cases of water and soda
????**Ed Markolowski** for the apple sauce
????**Sister Steven** for bringing her petting Zoo
????**Healing Paws** for introducing their animals to us
????**Hope the Clown**-there is always Hope!
????**Deb Kiersten** for brightening up the raffle booth area
????**Phillip Schwartz** for caring for Daddy for the 3 months before the Ride-A-Thon
????**Jim Hodorf** and **Chuck Narges** for transporting the raffle items and mounting block
????**Instructors Cindi Anderson** and **Sara Perry** for insuring the safety of our program riders
????**Vicki Scannell** and **Kristen Mueller** for packing the horse feed and tack
????**Sandy Sullivan** and **Trewins** of J & J Ranch for transporting our horses to the event
????**Annette Marquard, Diana and Jordy Gerlach** for heading up the Foods Committee
????**Jim Hodorf** and his wife **Kathy** for taking photos and keeping a log of what horse, vol.& rider was pictured
????**Cindy Staggs, Ed Margolofsky** and the rest of their team for putting up the cabanas, some 2 and 3 times
????**Dave Twohig** for starting his busy day by putting up the Silent Auction tent at 6 AM
????**Jim O'Brien** for donating his auctioneer talents and his wife for cashier services
????**Bryan Wood** for helping parking go smoothly, for the sound system and being the best emcee
????**Mary Leasa, Melanie Fox** and **Donna Wood** for handling registration so well
????**Jean Lawrence, Vicki Zillhart** and **CM Schmutzer** for their work in the Silent auction booth
????**Delores Jahnke** for tending our sale items booth
????**Thrivent** for matching funds up to \$800
????**Curves for Women** for matching funds up to \$1000
????**Ladies of the DOC-Arc** for helping serve the meal and for clean up duties
????Everyone who donated Raffle items and bought Raffle tickets
????Everyone who brought items for the Not So Silent Auction and placed bids
????Everyone who donated items for Pledge Raiser prizes, and brought tickets
????All the **Side Walkers** and **Horse Handlers** who helped our program participants enjoy the ride
????**Betty Clausen** for helping register ALL our volunteers
????**Guy Repp** for transporting the awards and all the little things he did throughout the day.
????**Hamburger Haus** for the ice
????**Dave and Kathy Twohig** for their help selecting the raffle winners in such an efficient way
????Everyone who raised pledges- we will continue to put hope in hearts and smiles on faces because of each of you!

The worst part about attempting to name those who deserve thanks is that someone gets left out and feels bad. If you were left out, please give us a call and we will do our best to make it up to you!!!

A member of the FSR family has passed on to eternal freedom from the challenges that affected everything he did. **James Bleuel**, 7/29/93 -8/13/03 was one of our special riders since 1999. He was a joy to have around and his playful teasing will be remembered by many.



The **James Bleuel Memorial Fund** has been established. Readers can send their donations to: FSR, James Bleuel Memorial Fund, P O Box 1292, Fond du Lac WI 54935-1291 or place their donation in the locked box in the family room at the stable. We will honor his family's wishes for how they wish James to be memorialized at our facility. Please hold James and his family in your thoughts and prayers.



Taylor Torgenson (standing) Eve and Carissa Snider and Maureen Grisch (missing from photo) were a big help at the 1st Annual Shack Volleyball tournament to benefit FSR

Our neighbors at **The Shack** recently held a fund-raiser for our program! Saturday August 9 was a wonderful event that included volleyball, brats and hamburgers, door prizes, dunk tank, face painting, a DJ and fun. Great people and good weather contributed to the success of the day that is termed the 1st Annual Neighborly Benefit for Free SPRIT Riders. Look forward to an even better event next year!

Thanks to the **Chiquita of Oakfield** for the sweet corn, to various Shack vendors for their donation or reduced prices and all our neighbors for the deserts and camaraderie.

Special thanks to **Casara Snider** and **Maureen Grisch** for making and selling love bracelets. And to **Taylor Torgensen** and **Eve Snider** for working concessions and face painting. What a fun group!

VRRRRRM, VRRRRRRRRRRRRRM

Thanks to the Fond du Lac Harley Owners Group (**HOGS**) chapter and to the **Ant Hill Mob Motorcycle Club** of Manitowoc for their recent financial donations. The Fondy HOGS donations have supported our Capital Funds, and now our Debt Reduction. The Ant Hill Mob chooses to support our efforts to acquire appropriate therapy horses for our classes. Thanks Guys!

Also thanks to **Mary Leasa**, **Elaine Pirsig** and her twin grand daughters, **Melissa and Monica Beard**, and **Jean Lawrence** for selling raffle tickets at **Bob's Harley** during the 100th birthday bash. We will be splitting the proceeds with MDA.

Group Participation Awards

Charlie's Angels 8 members, \$2130. FdL County 4-H Horse Project, 7 members, \$700. J & J Ranch 4 members, \$464. Bran Brats 4 members, \$686. Curves 3 members, \$1772.

Thanks to the 26 members of these 5 teams who raised almost \$5,852. Get a team together for next year's event. It's all in the name of putting smiles on faces and hope in hearts!.

Attention all volunteers who wish to move to a higher level of Horse Handling: Call 920-923-4274 to arrange a time to be certified at a higher level.

Thanks to all

who dropped off aluminum cans for our recycling program. We had three large loads to turn in! We will continue to collect cans throughout the year, simply bring them to the barn and place in the empty horse stall reserved for this purpose OR drop the cans off at Sadloff and Rudoy on West Arndt Street, tell the attendant the cans are for FSR and you will get a receipt stating the lbs. of cans you donated for FSR purposes. We will then receive a check for the current Market price plus one penny per pound at the end of the month!



FREE S.P.I.R.I.T. Riders, Inc.

P.O. Box 1291
Fond du Lac, WI 54936-1291

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Fond du Lac, WI 54935
Permit No. 13



DATED MATERIAL

Facility Address:

*W3950 Hwy 23
Fond du Lac, WI*

Mailing Address:

*P.O. Box 1291
Fond du Lac, WI 54936-1291*

Phone 920-924-9920
Email: info@freespiritriders.org
Web Site: www.freespiritriders.org

Therapists

**Tara, Stitch, Duffy, Magic, Sonny,
Sundown, Chevettas, and Duke**

Riding Instructors

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Mission Statement
Free S.P.I.R.I.T. Riders, Inc.
is a non-profit organization
committed to enriching
the lives of children and
adults with disabilities
through safe therapeutic
interaction with horses.

