



SPIRIT'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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FRIENDS OF SPIRIT THERAPIES

Spirit Therapies' volunteer staff have been helping individuals with special needs in the Las Vegas area since 1995 through its therapeutic horseback riding program and has been a successful independent program since 2003. Many local individuals with special needs have gained physical and mental benefits through our special blend of horseback riding and physical therapy. Our program is the only existing program in the Las Vegas area that allows individuals with special needs to enjoy and benefit from the special bond between horse and rider.

Therapeutic horseback riding is much more than just riding around an arena.

NEED YOUR HELP—VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS

Spirit Therapies needs volunteers in various capacities: office clerk, data entry, web site, board members and officers, cleaning stalls, grooming horses, leading horses, side-walking horses, cleaning tack, training horses, and miscellaneous other jobs.

Spirit Therapies hosts several

It is a way to discover a whole new world of adventure, freedom, responsibility, dignity and excitement. More importantly, it provides an overwhelming sense of accomplishment for everyone involved—riders, volunteers, caregivers, parents, and instructors.

Spirit Therapies is accredited as a Premier Therapeutic Horseback Riding Center for Individuals with Special Needs through NARHA (North American Riding for the Handicapped Association, Inc.).

We would like to invite you to visit our center, meet the officers and volunteers, and even become involved as a volunteer, sponsor an

individual with special needs or a horse, or to become a donor.

We guarantee it will provide an overwhelming sense of accomplishment.



Executive Director (702) 219-1728.

As you can see by the picture below, we have a place for anyone! Have fun-Volunteer!



For more information in this regard contact Laurie Willmott,

MACY'S



We would like to thank Macy's for allowing Spirit Therapies to participate in the "Shop for a Cause" October 16. "Shop for a Cause" gives non-profit organizations the opportunity

to raise money for their organization by selling their coupon promotion for \$5.00 each. The non-profit organization retains the \$5.00. We raised over \$500.00. We

would also like to thank Jeannie Watts and Rosie Wasson for manning a booth in front of Macy's on the day of the "cause". We are looking forward to participating again next year.

GOODSEARCH.COM



All non-profits count on their generous donors and sponsors to sustain their programs and Spirit is no exception. We recognize that in times of economic uncertainty that many personal and business donations get put "on hold". But, everyday life goes on and there are everyday activities that will support Spirit through tough times. Please think about how these pennies can add up to help our riders.

At the computer: You can earn pennies for Spirit every time

you search the internet or shop on line. www.goodsearch.com is a search engine to the internet that allows you to name Spirit Therapies as the charity you want to support. Sign on to the site, fill in Spirit Therapies (Las Vegas, NV) where it asks "who do you goodsearch for?" and you're set to go. There is an option to make www.goodsearch.com your home page, so if all you do is check your e-mail, just typing a few more characters in the search bar earns money for

Spirit. GoodSearch provides donations to Spirit for purchases you make on the internet. There are hundreds of stores that participate, and GoodSearch takes you directly to their website. You shop exactly as you normally would, but because you entered the store site through GoodSearch, Spirit will receive donations for a percentage of your purchases—some as high as 30%. "Check out the stores—they are the places you are already shopping".



PUBLIC SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS



Laurie Wilmott, Executive Director was invited to make a presentation about the Spirit Therapies' and Horses Healing Heroes' programs to the

following organizations:

Summerlin Lion's Club,
Boulder City Sunrise Rotary,
Rotary Club of Henderson,
Rotary Club of Las Vegas

Fremont and Helen J. Stewart School. Laurie would like to thank these wonderful organizations for this opportunity.

ORGANIZATIONS THAT PARTICIPATE IN SPIRIT

Spirit Therapies and the following organizations participate in therapeutic horseback riding group sessions. They learn to groom, care and feed the horses, and all aspects

of horsemanship. The participants team up with a Spirit Therapy volunteer, therapeutic horse, and are supervised by the individual organization leaders and their

volunteers:

Opportunity Village
Tiger Cubs Troop #129
Girl Scout Troop #18



TROT UP FOR SPIRIT 5K RUN/1MILE FUN WALK/RUN

Spirit Therapies is proud to host our 2nd ANNUAL TROT UP FOR SPIRIT 5K RUN/1 MILE FUN RUN/WALK on Saturday January 15, 2011. We wish to thank the Las Vegas Track Club for continuing to assist us with this event. We would also like to thank the Red Rock Running Company who will be hosting the 2011 Packet Pick Up.

The event will be held at the W. Wayne Bunker Family Park,

corner of N. Tenaya Way at W. Alexander Road, Las Vegas NV.

Please visit www.active.com to register online and/or obtain your registration form, or you may pre-register by mail: Make checks payable to Las Vegas Track Club, Attn: Trot Up for Spirit, P. O. Box 30134, Las Vegas NV 89173-0134.

If you would like to become one of our 2011 Sponsors,

please contact Laurie Willmott, 702-219-1728.

Come on out and have a good time! All proceeds benefit the Spirit Therapies' and Horses Healing Heroes' programs and are tax deductible.

Spirit Therapies is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization Fed Tax ID# 51-0436828.

Put on your running/walking shoes and "Come on Down!"



MY "SPIRIT" HORSE by Christopher Canaris

At horse therapy there is a horse named Harmony. She is a really nice horse too. When I see her it makes me smile.

Harmony is as white as snow. She is white and has black spots! Her mane and her tail are white too. She is

big as the other horses. She has blue eyes and always wears a saddle.

Harmony does not like flies on her. She shakes them off. She stays still when they get on her. Harmony is always happy to see me. I think she

is really nice. She is not fast so I would say that she is a good walker. Harmony listens to me sometimes and when she does she takes it nice and slow.

Come see me and Harmony in action!



TESTIMONY—CAMERON MILLER by Glade



We brought our 5 year old son Cameron to Spirit Therapies simply hoping it could help to strengthen his core and improve his balance and walking. By our 3rd visit, his school teacher, Physical

Therapist, Occupational Therapist, family and friends could see many more improvements. Along with the physical gains, Cameron's confidence, focus, social behavior, and attitude have

greatly improved. We must thank the wonderful staff and of course Cameron's new best friend Pablo (Spirit Therapies' therapeutic horse) for the incredible growth we see in Cameron.

HARMONY AND ME by Steven Fernandes



It was a sunny day with a few clouds outside; there was a small breeze blowing and it was relatively cool. We had just gotten a new horse at the stables. She was a rescue from a slaughter house in Arizona. I was in charge of making sure that all of the waters and feed buckets were full. I started at one end of the stalls and moved ever so slowly to the right, when I finally reached her stall. She pinned back her ears and was bucking her head. I ignored it as I had been around horses long enough to know that she was telling me to back off. But because I did ignore it, I made the mistake of putting my head inside her stall. She saw her chance. All I wanted to do was check the water levels in the bucket and she had struck. She nipped a good piece out of my head, I didn't notice it right away, however when I got into the tack room and blood dripped onto my shirt. After that day I had been very timid around her, whenever I went into her stall she would buck. Or if I put a halter on her she would buck at

me. Until about a week later my friend had told me to take charge and show her who was boss. At first, it was small things, like brushing her, leading her with the halter on, and cleaning her stall more. Finally, after about a week or so, I was taught on how to train her. Almost every day I would go out to the ranch and do training with her. Everything from doing lunging to giving respect. After almost a month of training with her, we had built a bond. Soon, I was able to leave her lead rope off and she would just follow me everywhere I went. Finally, after about two and a half months of her being at the ranch, I was the only one that she would buck her head about two times then would prick her ears up and just watch me. We had not only a trusting bond, but we both had respect for each other. Whenever I would say to do something, like back up, trot on, whoa, or even turn around in a circle, she would do it. I learned that we could work as a team and I think she also learned how to work in a

team as well. Not only was I able to conquer my fear of her, after she nipped a good size out of my head, but I was able to grow a companionship with her. Whenever I work with her she follows me, works with me, and even once in awhile she will actually help me in what I'm doing. I am the only one who she really lets mess with her while she is in her stall. She will let me crawl all over her, mess with her ears, and just do what I need to do with her. Whether its putting a bridle on her, or a saddle on her. She has learned that I am her friend and I think that I have also learned that she is my friend as well. We have formed such a close relationship that once in a great while she will actually do what I want her to do with out me even saying anything. Its like we have interlinked brainwaves.

Note: Steven is 16 years old and has volunteered for Spirit Therapies for three years. He is a great asset to our facility and we thank him for being who he is!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT—CHARLA GLIMP

Article by Christy Sherwood

Recently, one of Spirit Therapies' volunteers, Charla Glimp, was nominated for the Humana Starlight Foundation, Senior Volunteer Award. She was selected as one of the finalists and also received Media coverage from Channels 8 and 13. Charla has been volunteering at Spirit Therapies since January, 2006, after she retired from UNLV as a Contract Administrator/Purchasing.

While at Spirit, Charla has held many positions, including being a member of the board.

She has also been involved in many committees including, Equine, Wine Taster, Grants, Fundraisers, Media, Trail Ride, and any other committee we can form so we can receive her help! Charla's favorite horse at Spirit Therapies is Dusty, but she has a special love for all of the them.

Charla also volunteers at Best in the Desert with her husband of 49 years, Jim. She has been volunteering with Best in the Desert since 1983 and helps with the registration for the races, and is also a course

marshal. Where she finds the time and energy to do both are extraordinary! Charla is a wonderful mother of two grown boys and Grandmother to three "great" grandkids.

At the Taste of Spirit Wine Taster Fundraiser, Charla was awarded the Volunteer of the Year award from Laurie Willmott, Executive Director. Charla is a wonderful lady and a very hard worker. If any volunteer ever needs help with anything, they know they can always ask her. Thank you Charla for ALL that you do! We appreciate it and YOU!



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT—OLIVIA AND MARCO FURLAN

Article by Christy Sherwood

Olivia and Marco Furlan started volunteering with Spirit Therapies July 2010, and have been outstanding new volunteers. They took to the program immediately and were welcomed by all. When I asked them when they decided to volunteer at Spirit, Marco said this, "Olivia heard about Spirit from an acquaintance last February and she thought it would be great for both of us to get involved since I was recently deployed overseas and there is the military program. Olivia has LOVED horses as long as she can remember. Plus we both wanted to volunteer with an organization that we believed in."

I also asked Olivia and Marco what they liked about Spirit and

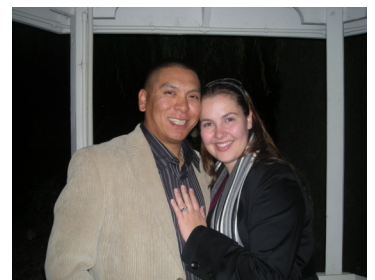
what made them come back. They replied with "Kids, horses, and the wonderful people that we work with. It is definitely something that we look forward to every time we go. Once you become attached to a horse, the kids, and the purpose of Spirit, it is only natural to come back and spend time with people we WANT to work with." When asked which one thing they liked best about Spirit Therapies, their answer was, "One" thing cannot do justice for why we love Spirit. But to name a few: smiles from the kids, great hearts from the volunteers, inspiration from the parents, and spending time with the horses." Olivia's favorite horses at Spirit are Harmony

and Buddy; and Marco's favorites are Oliver and Pablo.

Marco and Olivia have been married for 3 1/2 years, and are currently expecting their first child which they affectionately refer to as "Skittle". They are both Civil Engineers, with Olivia being an Infrastructure Engineer and Marco being a Structural Engineer, even though he says that he is a "Male Gigolo". LOL.

They both have been a "great fit" with Spirit Therapies and we are lucky to have them as volunteers. When asked for anything else they could possibly think of, they replied with "We love Christy!", (Ahh, thanks guys!

I love you too!!) We so enjoy spending time with people from all different walks of life, different perspectives, different beliefs, different backgrounds, and different stages in their lives, but we all have the riders and the horses in common." Perfectly said!



NORMAN JOHNSON MOVING TO ALABAMA



Spirit Therapies volunteer, Norm Johnson, 83 years young, has moved to Alabama. He is a veteran from World War II, retired as a 2nd Class Petty Officer in the Navy. He spent 2 years in the Pacific during World War II. Norm was an avid supporter of our programs and had been volunteering for 3 years. Norm was very excited

when Spirit Therapies created Horses Healing Heroes for our active military/Veteran Heroes.

Norm married his high school sweetheart, Cindy. They have been married 63 years and he states that this year he won his first argument! His hobbies are Spirit Therapies, fishing and was water-skiing when he was 67 years old.

Spirit Therapies held a going away party for Norm, July 2010 and gave him a picture of himself and his favorite therapy horse, Strawberry. All of the staff and volunteers signed the matting.

We will miss Norm very much and look forward to his coming for a visit!

VOLUNTEERS ENJOY WILD HORSES



Spirit Therapies staff and volunteers have taken two road trips to Wheeler Pass HMA and Spring Mountain Recreation Area to view the many wild horse bands roaming the area around Cold Creek. We were lucky to have the company of one of our Veteran Heroes, Major Anthony Jones with us on one of those trips.

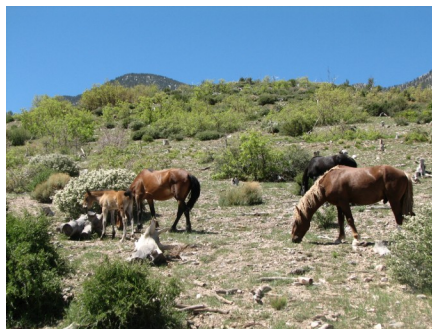
On the first trip we were accompanied by Krystal Johnson, BLM Wild Horse and

Burro Specialist and Connie Canaday, President of the National Wild Horse Association. They both gave us some insight about the annual round-ups, why these round-ups were being held, and a brief history of the wild horses and burros of Nevada. And sorry to say, advised us that we should not feed or pet the wild horses and burros for their own safety (due to people hand feeding them poison or their wondering on the roads to get

handouts and getting hit by vehicles) AND for your own safety. Their web site is www.blm.gov; follow their menu to Wild Horses and Burros.

The horses were beautiful, healthy, and a lot of the mares had foals. They are truly a sight to behold and treasure!

The day was completed by a great picnic and interaction among the attendees. I'm sure there will be many more trips!



4TH ANNUAL TASTE OF SPIRIT—FUNDRAISER

Spirit Therapies hosted it's 4th Annual Taste of Spirit (Wine Taster/Fundraiser) on October 8, 2010. It was held at the South Point Casino, 9777 Las Vegas Blvd. South, Las Vegas, NV 89183. Michael Gaughan, President and CEO donated the Grand Ballroom for the event. A variety of fantastic beers and wines were served along with a delicious sit down dinner, soothing music by local musicians, fantastic raffle and live auction items. Local celebrity Kevin Janison, weatherman for Channel 3, was our special guest and live auctioneer. Spirit Therapies benefited from the event, a total of \$19,134.00!

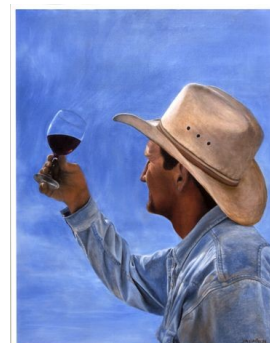
We would like to thank the following sponsors for a very successful event. We really appreciate everything they have contributed because without them, our wonderful therapeutic horseback riding center and programs would not be able to continue.

South Point Casino	Best in the Desert	Dick Krupa	Bob's Happyland	Ahern Rentals
Johnson Controls, Inc.	Stitches by Lou Ann	Ultimate Collision Repair	Statewide Fire Protection	Rochen Heers DVM
Raymond Long LVT/RFT	Advanced Spine & Wellness	Big Dog's	Black Bear Dinner	Cabot Cheese
Mary Kay Cosmetics	Creel Printing	Danielle's Chocolate Popcorn	RC Willey	Body Spa
Doc's Saddlery	Willow Springs Dental	Epona Moon Farm	Ezulwini Game Lodges	Findlay Honda
Gental Dental	Girl Scout Troop 83	Go Deep Diving	Gordon Biersch	Harrahs's Entertainment
IFA County Store	Kellogg Pest Control	Kevin Janison	Kopper Keg	Kurt Busch
Kyle Busch	Lawry's The Prime Rib	Lili Claire Foundation	Linda Q Photography	Marty Sawin
Matt Smith Physical Therapy	Michael Koch	Mountain West Chiropractic	Nancy's All 4 Walls	Nothing Bundt Cake
Pink Jeep Tours, LV	Roy's Restaurant	Ruff Life Ranch	RyRy's Safe Bedding	Sandra Nuttal
FX You Salon	Siegfried & Roy	Sun City Press	The Cheesecake Factories	The View, LVRJ
Tony & Jill Curtis	Tony Cress	UFC Package	Unique Signs	Valley Horse News
Vegas TV	Venetian Hotel/Casino	Vision Holiday	Winspire	Wirtz Beverage Nevada
Kopper Keg	Julianne Crawford	Diane Erickson	Icon Salon & Spa	Shanna Seawolf
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Love Energy Touch Pet Massage		The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf		Ultimate Collision Repair Center
DC Rock Star Ranch and Rabbitry		Daniel M. Antinino, PT, OCS Performance Physical Therapy		



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PLATINUM SPONSORS:

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SPIRIT THERAPIES

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WE'RE ON THE WEB

www.SpiritTherapies.org



Horses lend us the wings we lack.

Help Spirit Therapies by detaching this donation slip and sending it with your donation to the address listed below.



Yes! I want to support **Spirit Therapies Therapeutic Horseback Riding Center** so that it may remain a vital community resource!



Enclosed is my gift of _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ \$500 Other \$ _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail: _____

- This is a gift in honor/in memory of: _____
(include honoree's contact information on the back of this card so they can be informed of your gift)
- My employer will match this gift (include your company's matching gift form with this card)
- Charge my credit card (Visa/MC) Credit Card number: _____
Expiration date: _____ Signature: _____
- Please contact me about volunteer opportunities at Spirit Therapies



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All gifts are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. You will receive an acknowledgement letter. Thank You!