



# Hoofbeats

WINTER 2011  
2011

WWW.SCSTARS.ORG

A publication of  
The Special Troopers Adaptive Riding School

## 2nd Annual WINTER MELTDOWN Benefit Auction



Help change the lives of children and adults with physical, cognitive or emotional disabilities on Saturday, March 5, 2011 for the 2nd Annual S.T.A.R.S.' Winter Meltdown Benefit Auction. All proceeds from this event will benefit the S.T.A.R.S. programming.

The evening will be a chance to break out of the winter time blues with a "Margaritaville in Siouxland" fun, food and live music provided by "Premium Draft." The event will be hosted at the Marina Inn at 5:30 p.m. with time to preview the great auction items, music and social hour with hors d'oeuvres, dinner at 6:30 and the live auction beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Come casual and prepared to kick off spring. Tickets are \$75 per person or \$500/table of eight and are available by calling S.T.A.R.S. at 712-239-5042. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW.**

## Meet our new Director...Mike Jefferson



Dear Friends,  
In 2011, S.T.A.R.S Inc. will celebrate 27 years of service in Siouxland and as the new Executive Director; I am thrilled to be a part of journey. I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself, and thank you for your commitment to S.T.A.R.S.

This year we are excited to take the S.T.A.R.S. organization to the next level. The Board of Directors and S.T.A.R.S. staff have exciting plans this year that will be implemented and developed. This will promote more diverse programs and opportunities for the community to better serve individuals with physical, cognitive, and emotional disabilities.

On behalf of the S.T.A.R.S. Inc., I want to personally say Thank You. All of your time and contributions helps make one of the oldest animal assisted programs in the country a huge success. Donations of any size make a tremendous difference, and every contribution is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely Yours,  
Mike Jefferson

**Points of Interest**  
**and**  
**Upcoming Events**

- 2nd Annual Melt Down Benefit Auction—March 5th
- Meet our new Director
- Gill's Hills 8K-3K Walk/Run—Recap
- A Call for Volunteers
- K-9 Corner—Volunteer
- Rider/Student—Highlight
- A Volunteer Story
- S.T.A.R.S. Calendars
- Wish List

**Visit the website, follow S.T.A.R.S. on Facebook and Twitter and read the new blog to stay current on all the exciting things happening in 2011!**

**Mission Statement**

**The purpose of the Special Troopers Adaptive Riding School, Inc. is to provide persons with disabilities with an animal-oriented therapeutic, rehabilitative and recreational program that will contribute to their physical and emotional health.**

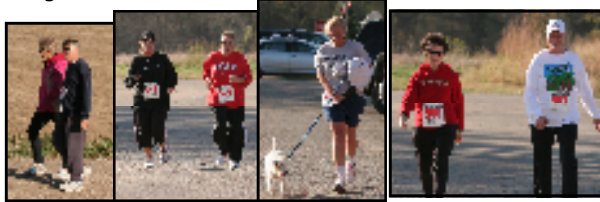
S.T.A.R.S. welcomes Mike Jefferson as our new Executive Director. He is no stranger to S.T.A.R.S. as he has been a parent of a rider for the past three years. His appointment as Executive Director comes with much excitement from the Board as his passion and dedication to this organization will be a wonderful asset. **WELCOME ABOARD Mike!!!**

Just so you know.....we still have on staff, Jessie Christopherson who has stepped down as Executive Director to continue her passion of being a certified instructor here at S.T.A.R.S. Jessie has been with S.T.A.R.S. for six years and the Board of Directors would like to say "Thank You Jessie", for your continued dedication and devotion (past and present) to this wonderful program.

## GILL'S HILLS 8K OR 3K WALK/RUN—Recap

On **Saturday, October 16, 2010** a crowd of 55 enthusiastic runners came out for a 8K or 3K walk/run to benefit S.T.A.R.S and raised monies to insulate the barn and indoor arena. 100% of the proceeds from this event has gone directly to this project. The improvement will enhance the winter programming and help to make them more consistent, comfortable and therapeutic.

A big **"Thank You"** to **Jean Gill** for organizing the whole event and for her dedication to S.T.A.R.S. Jean is the director of the K-9 S.T.A.R.S. Program and does everything from certifying the therapy dogs to doing visits with her own dogs along with being a board member too. She portrays the true meaning of volunteerism.



## Stay Connected at [www.scstars.org](http://www.scstars.org)

### Twitter, Facebook & S.T.A.R.S. Blog

- Stay current with all of the news at S.T.A.R.S. and find links, articles, new volunteer opportunities, etc.
- You are a valued part of the S.T.A.R.S. family and we want to hear from you! We welcome your comments, questions, and opinions and hope you utilize Twitter, Facebook and our blog to learn more about us and connect with others in the organization and share your experiences.

### YOU WILL ALSO FIND OUR: **Online Store**

- **You can purchase our 2011 S.T.A.R.S. Calendar featuring our riders and horses, T-shirts and sweatshirts too.**

- **If you use GoodSearch.com as your search engine and you choose S.T.A.R.S. as your charity, 1 cent for every search will be donated to S.T.A.R.S. What a way to donate and keep S.T.A.R.S. shining!**

## 2011 S.T.A.R.S. SCHEDULE...subject to change

### Class Riding Schedule

#### Session One (6 weeks)

January 31st to March 7th  
No classes: Weeks of March 14 & 21st

#### Session Two (8 weeks)

March 28th to May 16th  
No classes: Weeks of May 23rd and 30th

#### Session Three (8 weeks)

June 6th to July 25th  
No classes: August 1st to September 9th

#### Session Four (6 weeks)

September 12th to October 17th  
No classes: October 24th

#### Session Five (6 weeks)

October 31st to December 5th

### Schedule of Events

- Winter Melt Down March 5th
- Rider Registration & Parent Orientation March 15th & 17th at 6:30 pm.
- EAGALA Workshop May 12th—14th
- S.T.A.R.S. Charity Golf Classic June 4th at Whispering Creek 9:30 am.
- Awesome Biker Nights June 16th, 17th & 18th
- S.T.A.R.S. Summer Horse Show June 18th
- BBQ & Barn Dance October 1st

### THIS IS A CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!!!!

The need for volunteers is ever-present at S.T.A.R.S. Without the help of so many dedicated people, our therapeutic riding and canine assisted therapy programs don't exist. Orientation takes place the 2nd Tuesday of each month (except for Aug., Dec., Jan. and Feb.) at 6 pm. Volunteers interested need to be at least 14 years of age. No experience necessary (training will be provided). No dogs at orientation.

Please consider helping S.T.A.R.S. be all it can be.

## K-9 CORNER VOLUNTEER STORY...Steve & Debbie Loger



Joining the program has given us the opportunity to expand our volunteer work with our certified therapy dogs to include visits in Sioux City and LeMars.

How can we pick the best part of our work with K-9 S.T.A.R.S? We can't, we love it all including the wonderful S.T.A.R.S. volunteers, staff, clients and their families we have met at the horse show or classes. Visits to Bickford Memory and St. Lukes Hospital are so rewarding. We have met some wonderful people and hope we can do this for a long time.

Thank you Steve, Debbie, Toby and Meeka for all you do for the S.T.A.R.S. K-9 Program and your continued dedication.

# *A Special Thanks to Our S.T.A.R.S. Supporters!*

*The Board, Staff and Clients would like to extend a heartfelt "Thank You" to our supporters for the past year.*

*We are grateful for your continued support of this wonderful organization.*

## **Individuals & Families**

Dave & Connie Aasen

Jerry & Patti Abdo

Robert & Leila Agee

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Marion Arneson

Barbara Baldwin

Blaine & Karen Baldwin

Jean Ballard

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Drs. Mark & Lauri Zink

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Willis Animal Clinic

*If we have overlooked anyone, we sincerely apologize and thank all who make S.T.A.R.S. possible!*

## RIDER/STUDENT.....HIGHLIGHT....Billy Haberman



One of my first memories of coming to S.T.A.R.S. was seeing my first horse, Charmer. I also liked to visit with Billie the cat. I also remember wearing a big belt with handles and volunteers helped me ride until I learned to balance myself better. Now, I can start, stop and steer the horse all by my self. I have ridden the smallest horse (Rocky) and I have ridden the biggest horse Buddy too. Every summer I come back to ride. I like to visit with my friends and work on riding so I can be in the annual Horse Show at S.T.A.R.S. I have a big collection of metals from the Horse Show that I display. My favorite part is when we play games while on the horses.

**A note from Billy's mother (Kathy):** Billy has been a student of S.T.A.R.S. for 14 years and, as S.T.A.R.S. has grown and changed over the years, so have Billy's needs. When he first started riding we focused on balance and speech. As Billy has developed, we have worked on following directions and always more speech. As a teenager, riding nights include not only handling more of the grooming, tacking and care of his horse, but also socializing with the friends he has made in class. S.T.A.R.S. continues to change and adapt to his needs which is a big reason why it remains a part of Billy's life today.

There are pictures hanging in the barn showing a cute little boy (Billy) on top of a big horse having lots of fun. Next year I plan to give them a copy of Billy's senior picture to hang next to that "little boy". While he is graduating from High School soon, he won't be graduating from his time at S.T.A.R.S. any time soon.

## S.T.A.R.S. Volunteer Story...by Paisley Conlon



Over the past year and a half I have taken part in one of the most amazing organizations Siouxland has to offer and one of the most respected therapeutic programs in the U.S. I have obtained knowledge as well as experience I could have gained nowhere else. As a volunteer, I can say I am amongst the many who have been forever changed by the S.T.A.R.S. organization. I have witnessed, aided in, and experienced many life changing moments at S.T.A.R.S. The aura that the barn sets is truly breathtaking, no matter who you are, as soon as you step foot in the door you instantly feel welcome. Creating a positive and encouraging atmosphere is a goal of everyone taking part. Every rider, instructor, and volunteer work diligently to improve the abilities and self esteem of everyone involved.

Knowing that every week there are people looking forward to working with you as much as you look forward to the time shared with time with them, really means a lot. Seeing and taking part in what the S.T.A.R.S. program accomplishes everyday and seeing how much the riders enjoy doing things they never thought possible creates a program that never ceases to amaze me. S.T.A.R.S. opens doors to opportunities for improvement and healing that may otherwise be seen as impossible. As a person who believes that with hard work and hope nothing is impossible, there really is no better place to donate my time than here. These are the many reasons why I commit my time and why I look forward to forever being a part of this truly remarkable organization. "Thank You", from the staff, board and clients for your time and dedication to S.T.A.R.S.

## BBQ & Barn Dance—Recap

The weather was beautiful and the night was full of fun, food and music (provided by Nuns On The Run). Another successful BBQ & Barn Dance at S.T.A.R.S. Thanks to all who volunteered to make it happened and came to support this wonderful program.

**A big "THANK YOU" to sponsors of this event.....** Ken Mouw, Sioux Preme Packing Co., Prestige

Collision & Repair Centers, Metal Specialists, Sabre Industries, and Pacific City Graphics.



## 2011 S.T.A.R.S. HORSE CALENDARS

Are for sale for the price of \$15.00. Call S.T.A.R.S. at (712)239-5042 to purchase & pick up your calendars or check out the online store at [www.scstars.org](http://www.scstars.org)

Thank you to all of the sponsors that made the calendar possible!

### Wish List

- Postage Stamps
- Toilet Paper
- Tri-fold Paper Towels
- Lead Ropes & Reins
- Skid loader
- New or used snow blower
- Plastic, multi-colored clothes pins



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**Please help keep S.T.A.R.S. shining by making a donation toward the following:**

- Endowment Fund \$\_\_\_\_\_ or Special Purpose Fund \$\_\_\_\_\_
- \$480 Sponsorship of a riding student for one 6 week session.
- \$2500 Sponsorship of a riding class for one 6 week session.
- \$1500 Care and maintenance of a horse/pony for one year.
- \$25-\$75 Program equipment
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for your  
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