



# RIVER VALLEY RIDERS REVIEW



**RIVER VALLEY RIDERS**  
THERAPEUTIC RIDING PROGRAM

WINTER 2011-2012

## Letter from the Director



Dear riders, drivers, parents, grandparents, volunteers, donors and friends,

The **dream** of expansion into Afton has become a reality!

Think of your **dream**, does it involve horses riding across rough terrain with ease and beauty? A horse's sweet nicker welcoming you to join them in adventure, learning and fun? For our participants RVR is their **dream** come true.

The next step towards this **dream** is year-round programs in an indoor arena. This will be a large step. Once there we will offer year-round riding/driving, classrooms for education, a herd of glorious horses and a chance at that **dream** for so many more individuals.



In 2012 RVR will be engaged in discussions to incorporate feedback from our many supporters to create a concise vision of RVR's program expansion. I am excited for the future when many more children and adults will benefit from the development of the Afton site. Believe in the **dream** of RVR because **dreams** do come true through hard work and dedication.

Sincerely,  
*Joan Berg*



River Valley Riders thanks the following individuals and businesses for supporting the Round-Up Dinner and donating items for the silent and live auctions:

Lake Elmo Inn and Event Center  
A Little TLC  
Advanced Dermatology Care  
Afton Alps  
Anonymous  
Avalon Tearoom  
The Backberg Family  
Bar La Grassa  
Bayport Printing House  
Bearz Sport  
Joan and Roger Berg  
Bibelot  
Bill's Ace Hardware  
Baxter Black  
Chris Bothke  
Jayne Bradford  
Brave New Workshop  
BNSF Railway Company  
Tommy Burnevik  
Cafe Latte  
Canterbury Park  
Chicago Dogs  
Crystal Ball Farms  
Sally DelGiudice  
Ann Delmont  
DeMori's Italian Food  
Kathie Dybdal  
Fladeboe Auctions  
Flat Earth Brewing Company  
Ryan Foss  
Beverly Gerth  
Nick Gerth  
Grand Casino  
Guthrie Theater  
Haskell's - The Wine People!  
Heritage Makers  
Holiday Inn Express  
Dennis Kane  
Ann and Elmer Kasperson  
Keys Cafe  
Kwik Trip  
Lake Country Booksellers  
Lakeshore Players Theatre  
Bonnie Linquist

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## Stormy—PATH International Region 6 Horse of the Year

Stormy, an impressive 26 year old Arab/Quarter Horse gelding was nominated and won the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International - Region 6 Horse of the Year for 2011. Stormy has volunteered for many years with his owner Cheryl Holt, giving his riders the best experience possible.

During the 13 years that he has been a therapy horse, we have truly enjoyed working with him, as it is obvious he loves his job. He is a kind horse who allows the most physically involved riders the opportunity to ride.

Over the years, we have seen him stand quietly for long periods of time at the mounting ramp patiently waiting for his rider to mount. In fact, because of his patience at the mounting ramp, he is used in the program's volunteer training sessions to teach new volunteers the procedures when mounting from the ramp. During the lessons Stormy calmly goes through the exercises and patiently waits while instructions are given.

Not only has Stormy been a safe, reliable partner in the program, but he has been a source of amusement as well. He has a knack for untying quick release knots and has done so while his owner was standing next to him! When the riders decorate him during lessons using glitter, stickers, and clothespins he seems to enjoy the attention.



During our annual Halloween party, Stormy wears his costumes well and poses for pictures with the riders and volunteers. At 26 years old, he sometimes acts goofy like a much younger horse, yet does his job safely without fail.

He is the perfect example of a horse that loves what he does and in return is loved by riders and volunteers alike because he is kind, patient, clever and amusing.

## Kathy Jo Hanson—PATH International Region 6 Volunteer of the Year



Kathy Jo Hanson, long time RVR Board Treasurer received the award for the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International - Region 6 Volunteer of the Year for 2011. Kathy Jo is the volunteer every Executive

Director should be blessed with. It is amazing the amount of time and work she gives to the program by donating her talent to our organization.

She came to us with many hidden skills. She began as a sidewalker performing that job with fantastic success, then as a substitute horse leader. After being asked to take a position on the board as a Treasurer her numerous other skills emerged.

She began her term on our board by providing our first comprehensive detailed budget and constructed our five-year and ten-year business plan to fit our dreams. This being accomplished she decided to help with our website, learning the system and doing most of the updates. Over the years she has become a successful grant writer beginning with a grant for software and later a \$50,000 grant to assist RVR in purchasing our acreage in Afton, Minnesota. Knowing how important it is for every rider to participate, but how sometimes the family struggles for funding, she began the Scholarship Committee. She celebrates our riders' accomplishments by capturing their smiles in wonderful pictures.

Our program is successful and our riders are better off having Kathy Jo around to give of her multiple talents.

**Congratulations Cheryl, Stormy, and Kathy Jo!**



# Smiles—Smiles—Smiles





## River Valley Riders

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Web: [www.rivervalleyriders.org](http://www.rivervalleyriders.org)

Locations:  
Rick-A-Shay Ranch  
Scandia, Minnesota

Orphy and John Beattie's Farm  
Scandia, Minnesota  
Carriage Driving

2007 Neal Avenue South  
Afton, Minnesota

Joan and Roger Berg's Farm  
East Farmington, Wisconsin

### About River Valley Riders

*River Valley Riders provides horse related activities including therapeutic riding and driving to children and adults by addressing needs in the areas of physical, sensory, neurological, and/or mental health.*

*River Valley Riders is registered in Minnesota as a nonprofit organization and is a tax exempt, volunteer run therapy program welcoming riders from the greater Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area and Western Wisconsin. Lessons are conducted in accordance with the safety, training and instructional guidelines of PATH International.*

### **2012—SAVE THESE DATES**

April 14:  
Volunteer Training

June 23:  
Walk-Wheel & Ride-A-Thon

November 10:  
Round-Up Dinner

## Round-Up Wrap-Up

This year's Round-Up Dinner and Auction was great fun and a smashing success! One-hundred and eighty people gathered at the beautiful Lake Elmo Inn Event Center on November 5th for great company, fine wines, fantastic food, and a chance to bid on an amazing array of items. This was a perfect opportunity for RVR's new friends and loyal supporters to socialize.

By evening's end, more than \$25,000 had been pledged to RVR's "Fund the Vision" Light Up the Afton Arena campaign—donations dedicated exclusively to helping add an additional riding hour to our sessions.

The evening began with sampling a variety of splendid wines from Oaks Wine and Spirits selected by Nick Gerth. A delicious dinner was followed by an exuberant live auction with Kristine Fladeboe-Duininck calling bids in her energetic manner. "Ears & Tails" and "Tableside Trivia" provided extra fun and prizes.

If you were there, you know what a great evening it was. If not, don't miss out on next year's event—mark your calendars now for Saturday, November 10, 2012.

## RVR Board Members

### Officers

Joan Berg, Executive Director  
Gail Olsen, Vice President  
Cheryl Holt, Secretary  
Kathy Jo Hanson, Treasurer

### Directors

Sally DelGiudice  
Theresa Milligan  
Jenny Sargent  
Mike McLaughlin  
Jill Steeves  
Sandi Prentice

### Advisory Board

Aaron Keller  
Dr. Bruce Oscarson

River Valley Riders thanks the following individuals and businesses for supporting the Round-Up Dinner and donating items for the silent and live auctions:

Jenny Mackey  
Jimmy's Food and Drink  
Jen Jotblad  
Debbie and Steve Johnson  
Linda and Ted Johnson  
Pam Larson  
Mall of America  
Joe Mauer  
The McLaughlin Family  
Toni Meglitsch  
Menard's  
Millhouse Mobile Veterinary  
The Milligan Family  
Mill's Fleet Farm  
Minnesota Orchestra  
Minnesota Timberwolves  
Minnesota Vikings  
Mystic Lake Casino Hotel  
Oaks Wine and Spirits  
Old Log Theater  
Ordway Center  
Osceola Veterinary Service  
Park Square Theater  
Patriots Tavern  
Pearson Candy Company  
Red Balloon Bookshop  
Resource Logistics  
Bonnie and Jan Reyers  
Rivertown Inn  
Roadside Pizza and Wings  
Kim Salmela  
Joe Scheunemann  
Terri Scheunemann  
Vicki Scheunemann  
ShopTeamAlpine.com  
Soaring Adventures  
The Spiropoulou-Peterson Family  
Jill Steeves  
St. Croix Casino - Turtle Lake  
St. Paul Chamber Orchestra  
Judie and Rick Steenberg  
Target  
Theatre in the Round Players  
Bill Tischer  
Trader Joe's  
Sheila-Marie Untiedt  
Jamie Ward  
Washington County Sheriff  
Ron Wench  
White Bear Fire Department  
The Willis Family  
Wild Mountain  
Cindy Wilson

and the dedicated and hard-working Round-Up Committee