



## NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

### HAPPY HOLIDAYS from BEATS!!

What a year it has been! We are thrilled that in the continued decline of the economy and with the never ending cuts in insurance, we continue to grow and are proud of the services we are providing. This year we "hired" three new ambassadors - Jolly and Jumper, the colts from Cavalia that are in training and doing great; and Munchkin, our new little miniature horse who is just the cutest thing possible, has jumped into his role perfectly. We also brought in two new instructors, Michelle Roth and Chelsea Hunsberger, who have both proven to be great additions to our staff. I am always humbled by the new volunteers that give so generously of their time and we welcomed many new faces this year as we have grown! Our Special Olympics team made us all so proud as they competed again at the state games! It was a great year! Thank you and we wish a healthy and happy New Year to our dedicated volunteers, our wonderful families and clients, and everyone who supported BEATS through donations of time, money, services and tack. We appreciate every bit of support!



The 2011 BEATS calendar is in and as adorable as ever!



They are being sold for \$10 each with all proceeds going to our scholarship fund. Thank you to our sponsors for making production possible! Please check out their links on our web site and support these businesses that support BEATS

A huge thank you to the 108 4-H'ers from around the country that came out to the barn during their National Conference this November. These amazing teenagers and their chaperones finished clearing our therapy trail, pressure washed our wash stalls, decorated the lounge for Christmas, cleared the colts' paddock, moved rocks out of the gelding pasture and picked up trash and debris on the property - all in three hours!!!! We are so thrilled to have the therapy trail ready to go once the weather allows! The horses got to try it and had lots of fun!

By now most of you have heard about the theft at our barn, Mariposa Farms. A tack room was burglarized and several saddles were stolen including two that had been given to BEATS to sell for money to go to our scholarship fund. An article in the Cherokee Tribune led to a story by Channel 2 news. Thanks to many astute people in the area, we received several calls that helped us identify the person involved. The publicity also led to the return of our saddles which had been sold to a local consignor. During this ordeal, several people commented on the "state of society", focusing only on the theft. But what we saw was quite the opposite. We found the support of our community and then some. We received

donations of several saddles and other tack as well as financial support. From the change collected by the sweet children at Kids R Kids #43 to a generous donation by actor/producer and local philanthropist Tyler Perry, BEATS saw just how good our community is. One woman drove down from Rome to watch our Saturday sessions and left a donation that covered a year of lessons for our newest scholarship recipient who we had originally planned to sell the saddles for. Even after the saddles were returned, the support continued - literally too many to mention here but every one appreciated more than words can say.



THANK YOU from everyone at BEATS!

At the NARHA state conference last month, Ed Dabny and Dan Burle presented a motion analysis program that they developed called Equinetec. This software can allow us to video tape sessions and show progress or areas that we are working in hippotherapy and therapeutic riding which can then be evidence for insurance, doctors, etc. There are also unlimited other uses including training for volunteers, helping our vet or farrier assess our horses who may be a little off, analyzing skills off the horse, etc. I'm so excited to start using this software in the coming year!

## RIDER OF THE MONTH

Jake came to me for hippotherapy years ago and returned last year. He is now 9-years-old, an age when many people think kids with developmental delays won't make much progress; but Jake is making huge strides! He is just starting to take independent steps and will walk the length of the barn just holding the horse's leadrope! Meanwhile, he is saying more words! Many times when a child is progressing in one area, other areas stagnate or sometimes



even regress a bit. Not Jake! He is a multi-tasker and does it all with a huge grin. What I love most though is his little mischievous personality that he reminds us of as he plays jokes on me and his volunteer helpers who all absolutely adore him! Jake really loves any horse he rides but his favorites are Phantom, Reinbeau and Pico.

Jake lives in Canton with his mom, Michelle, Dad, Trent, and siblings Payton, Sam and Savannah. He loves to be pulled around in his wagon, a word his mom reports he says very clearly!! He loves to climb on playgrounds and go down slides, swing and play

## PHANTOM'S CORNER

The recent flurry of donations have given us enough security in scholarships for the coming months that I believe we can finally dedicate our efforts to capital campaigning! We have four major projects we are working towards:

1. The clinic - we have received estimates on converting the storage area at the end of the ring into a clinic where we can do more comprehensive treatments, see children preparing to enter our hippotherapy program and maximize sessions during inclement weather.
2. A horse handler - Our goal is to hire a professional horse handler to go back to long lining our sessions which is the most desired way to lead horses in therapy. The horse handler would also be someone to help exercise and stretch our horse partners to keep them in their best condition!
3. Footing - due to the health concerns of many of our client and comfort of all our families and volunteers we hope to invest in dust-free footing for our indoor arena.
4. Land - we hope to purchase the foreclosed land in front of the barn that we use for our therapy horses so that it would legally be ours and would allow us to grow and perhaps get our aquatics program going again!



with balls. He is in the 3rd grade at Bascomb Elementary School.

We are so proud of you Jake!!!

*Please nominate a rider who has worked extra hard or met a new goal!! Riders of the Month receive their name on our plaque, certificate and gift from BEATS*

## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Pat Cleveland has been a consistent volunteer and supporter of BEATS for several years! I believe she has been on the same afternoon since she started!! She is always willing to do whatever is needed and has worked with every horse, several therapists/instructors and pretty much every child that has come on Wednesdays! She is a great leader and encourages each child to do their best. She welcomes new volunteers and shows them the ropes.

Pat and her husband own a medical supply store in metro Atlanta!

Thank you Pat for your dedication to BEATS!



*Please nominate your favorite volunteer and let us know why they are special! Volunteers of the month receive their name on our plaque, a certificate and a gift from BEATS.*

Meanwhile, we continue to welcome the support of our community on all levels! Some items that would help us focus on our long term goals:

Rope (LOTS of it as we constantly need to re-strand the borrowed pastures until we can do permanent fencing!

Wheel barrows - large ones for mucking stalls and using for strengthening activities!

A laptop computer with large screen to be able to view videos using the motion analyzer on the spot!

An all-in-one fax, copier, printer

Toilet paper/paper towels - you just can never have enough!

water/gatorade/hot cocoa for our wonderful volunteers!

Adequan and bute from a vet to help keep our horse partners comfortable!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!



To make a donation, inquire about volunteering, or learn more about BEATS, Inc., Please contact us at 678-494-6616 or check out our website at [www.beats-inc.org](http://www.beats-inc.org).