

Seen and Herd Newsletter  
Spring 2015



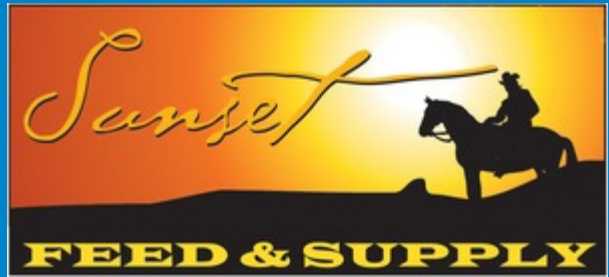
Whispering Manes

Therapeutic Riding Center

Building Abilities. Empowering Lives.



We would like to thank our Special Olympics Sponsors -



Other News

Program Notes

In January, we proudly started our pilot program for the visually impaired thanks to a very generous grant from The Miami Foundation. Robin and Erin spent much of the summer and fall learning from orientation and mobility specialists, as well as a PATH consultant in order to safely and effectively develop this program. The pilot program provided funding for 6 people to participate in a 10-week therapeutic horsemanship and horseback riding program. So far the results have been great and the students are happy with their new skills and horse friends! As we move towards completing the pilot program and the grant, we are seeking ways to continue funding this valuable program for those who are partially or completely blind. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in sponsoring a scholarship for a visually impaired rider, please contact Erin or Robin. New participants to this program are welcome!

Meet Kaden

Kaden is the first rider to participate in the pilot program for visually impaired and blind riders funded by a grant from the Miami Foundation. This 10-week program combines both horsemanship and horseback riding. When Kaden started the program in January it was quickly apparent that he is a natural. On February 28th, Kaden participated in the Special Olympics, and took home two blue ribbons.



Upcoming Events!

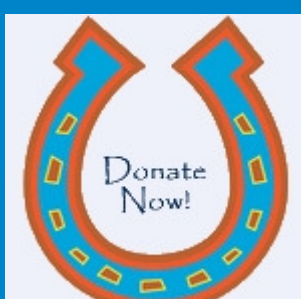
3rd Annual Ride for the Roses Student Horse Show at Whispering Manes  
Sunday, May 3, 2015

We're having a raffle!!

We're raffling off a package of ten therapeutic riding lessons. Tickets - \$10 each, or three for \$20. The drawing is on Sunday, May 3, at the Ride for the Roses horse show! Buy your tickets at the barn today!



Can you help Roxie find her rider?



Big Changes Are Coming for Whispering Manes

If you've driven down 125th Avenue on your way to visit us recently, you might have noticed a beautiful new barn and covered arena being built on the property next door. Thanks to an extraordinarily generous donation from Nancy Hector, we are extremely proud and grateful to announce that this incredible property now belongs to Whispering Manes. We've started to move our offices into this new space, but will continue to operate the program from the old property (6208 SW 123rd Avenue) until we have completed all of the necessary County paperwork. Please don't come to the new property to ride yet! We're not ready for you, but if you would like a tour, please let Erin or Robin know and we will be thrilled to show you around our incredible new facility!

Amazing Turnout for the Special Olympics Equestrian Games!

On Saturday, February 28, 2015, Whispering Manes hosted the Special Olympics Florida - Area 11 Equestrian Games. This marked the second year in a row that we have hosted the Miami-Dade County games.

We had over 20 Special Olympic athletes who have been in training with a certified Special Olympics equestrian coach for at least 8 weeks prior to the event. The perfect day was interrupted by 5 minutes of rain towards the end of the event. Family and friends were treated to an exciting event as they watched the riders demonstrate their new and improved skills in equitation and trail classes. The bleachers were full of fans eager to cheer the riders on in each event.



Contributing to the day's spectacular success, were our special guests, judge Charmaine Blatchley Desmeules and ringmaster Isabella Claveria. Our amazing team of dedicated volunteers and horses made certain everyone had a great time as the riders showcased their skills!

A special thank you to Zoo Miami for providing admission passes for our raffle. Congratulations to Matthew Torres who had the winning ticket!

Learning Links Students Visit Whispering Manes!

Twenty students from Learning Links came to Whispering Manes to enjoy a day of working with Sunny and Chloe, our miniature horses, in our therapeutic horsemanship program. A great day was had by all, even Sunny and Chloe, who were thoroughly painted and then bathed by the children.



Mentoring Program with FIU Occupational Therapy Students

This winter we welcomed two students from FIU's Occupational Therapy program. Angelica and Frank completed two weeks of fieldwork at Whispering Manes. It's been great to have them and we wish them well in their next internship.



Introducing WhisperTours!

Interested in learning more about our program, or do you know someone who would love Whispering Manes?

Whispering Manes is now offering private and small group tours to those who would like more information about our programs. Please call or email us for information.

Calling all volunteers!

Are you, or do you know anyone who is interested volunteering in classes or around the barn? Be a friend, share our contact information!

Tel: 305-596-4202



Web: [www.whisperingmanes.org](http://www.whisperingmanes.org)  
Email: [info@whisperingmanes.org](mailto:info@whisperingmanes.org)

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