

Seen and Herd  
Newsletter  
December 2014



**Program News**

**New Pilot Program**

Thanks to a grant from The Miami Foundation Community Grants program we will start a pilot program for visually impaired and blind individuals. Six people will have the opportunity to participate in a 10-week pilot program that will include mounted and unmounted activities. We look forward to starting this program in January.

**Therapeutic Horsemanship**

In November we started a 10-week therapeutic horsemanship program made possible by a generous grant from the Junior League of Miami. Five women from a local transitional housing project are participating in this program. By the end the women will not only learn horsemanship skills, but will build confidence and a close bond with their horses.

**Welcome Cinnamon Girl**

Cinnamon Girl, "Cinny", arrived on December 1. This 10-year old buckskin mare is also Nutmeg's mom and their reunion was amazing. Nutmeg knew her mom was on the trailer, whinneying before the trailer even got down the driveway. Thanks to Becky Mayes, and Sophie and Tom Petri, for sharing your horses with our program.



Cinny's first class

**Spotlight - Sara Sancho**

Meet Sara Sancho, one of the indispensable volunteers at Whispering Manes. Sara is a senior at Felix Varela High School and started volunteering with our program in December 2012. Even though she moved out of state for 6 months, Sara has still put in over 160 volunteer hours. Sara is one of our many go-to volunteers at Whispering Manes, always willing to go the extra mile to help with a class, support our fundraisers, and guide new volunteers.



Sara, Robin and Jake

**Angel Trees**

There is still time to include our horses in your holiday giving. Stop in at Sunset Feed & Supply or come by the barn and choose an ornament from the Angel Tree and help make the holiday season special for our horses.

**Amazon Smile!**

Remember to support Whispering Manes each time you shop at Amazon. Click on the AmazonSmile logo and remember to bookmark the page. Same great Amazon products, prices, and service, but a portion of the price is donated to Whispering Manes by Amazon.



**Upcoming Events!**

Special Olympics Equestrian Games  
February 28, 2015

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

**A Busy Autumn at Whispering Manes!**

The fall has been a very exciting time for Whispering Manes! Keep reading to see all of the things we have been doing over the last few months...

**THERAPEUTIC RIDING AND HORSEMANSHIP PROGRAMS**

It's always fun for us to restart our school year programming. We are happy to welcome back Villa Lyan and the Down Syndrome Association of Miami, partners that have worked with us since our opening in 2012. This fall we were also fortunate to welcome back students from the Carrie Brazer Center for Autism and The Learning Experience School. We owe a huge thank you to the Batchelor Foundation for the scholarships they provided to support The Learning Experience students. Veterans from the Miami VA Medical Center also continued riding thanks to scholarships from Brooks Brothers Golden Fleece Foundation and BNI Dadeland.

**COMMUNITY EVENTS**

On Sunday, November 2 Linda Peterson and Helen Picard co-hosted the second **Shoe Fairies Garden Party**. With their committee of nine women, Linda and Helen created an absolutely wonderful afternoon for shopping and socializing with friends. There were local vendors, a silent auction, a fashion show by Cocoa Couture, and delicious snacks by Relish. Together this group of fabulous women raised almost \$10,000 for Whispering Manes! Plans are already in the works for next year, so if you missed us this time, be on the lookout for next year's event.



Shoe Fairies 2014

In honor of Veterans Day, Whispering Manes hosted a documentary screening called **Riding My Way Back** on November 13 at FIU. The documentary is about one veteran's struggles with PTSD and traumatic brain injury. The film focused on the challenges the veteran faced every day upon his return home and how his involvement with a therapeutic riding program like Whispering Manes, and one particular horse, helped save his life. We were honored to have Alan Coffmen, an 8-year Army veteran who deployed to Sadr City, and Alexis Rossi, a mental health therapist at Atlantic Shores Hospital, join Robin, our therapeutic riding instructor, in a lively panel discussion following the film. The staff of Whispering Manes is grateful to those who serve our country, and we will continue to host events that help raise awareness of the healing power of the horse for those who have sacrificed for our nation.



Riding My Way Back

And finally, writing about our fall events would not be complete if we did not express our deepest gratitude to those who have given so generously to support Whispering Manes on **Give Miami Day**. On November 20, The Miami Foundation hosted their annual 24-hours of online giving event to raise money and awareness for Miami-Dade's nonprofit organizations. The Miami Foundation's goal of improving the sense of community by encouraging philanthropy has been a remarkable example of what people can do when they focus and organize their efforts. You helped Whispering Manes raise almost \$33,000 for our programs in 24 hours! Thank You!

**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.

**Help Us Fill our Barn with Hay!**



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: 305-909-4343



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

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