

# Seen and Herd Newsletter

January 2016



**Whispering Manes**  
Therapeutic Riding Center

Building Abilities. Empowering Lives.



## Other News

### In the Spotlight - Hello and Goodbye

#### Welcome to our herd!

**McKensey**, an 18-year old retired hunter, joined Whispering Manes' herd to help fill the role of a "big guy" who can be used for our adult riders. McKensey has a great personality and has settled in very nicely spending most of his days in the paddock with Jake, his new best friend.



**Wizard** is a 12-year old, black blanket appaloosa, adopted from the South Florida SPCA. Wizard is a sturdy, large pony who has seemed completely at ease since the first day he arrived.



At this time, we also want to say farewell to **Cochise**, the high-energy mustang who joined us in January 2012. Cochise loved his job as caretaker, and he did it well, but a sore back forced him into retirement. Cochise has been re-homed with a woman who owned him many years ago. Thinking it was a miracle that she found him at Whispering Manes after so many years apart, Jennifer had been anxiously awaiting the day we would retire Cochise. Cochise is now living the good life of retirement with an owner who loves him and his antics. We miss Cochise, but are grateful he found his happy and well-deserved retirement home.



## Upcoming Events!

Special Olympics  
January 23, 2016

## Successful Efforts!

On Thursday, November 12, the Miami-Dade County Zoning Commissioners heard Whispering Manes' petition to re-zone our new property as a riding academy. Thanks to our zoning attorney, Felix Lasarte of the Lasarte Law Firm, and over a dozen neighbors, volunteers, parents, and one of the riders in our program, the commissioners heard our case and voted unanimously to re-zone the land so that Whispering Manes can now operate as a riding academy (meaning we can finally start teaching) at our beautiful new facility. This night was the culmination of 11 months of hard work and brings us one step closer to truly calling the new barn home. We have to be patient for just a little longer while all of the paperwork goes through the right offices and gets signed by the right people, but we hope to start teaching under the roof of our new arena with the start of 2016!



Thank you to all of our supporters who came to the zoning hearing, signed our petition, and took our petition to their schools, offices, and friends. We ended up with over 300 signatures of support!

## Your Generous Support!

November is always a big month for Whispering Manes, and this year was no exception. Not only did we succeed in having the land re-zoned, but on Thursday, November 19 we enjoyed another great **Give Miami Day** event hosted by **The Miami Foundation**. This year we raised over \$33,700, had 109 donations (our new high), and just over 35% of the donations were made in honor of or in memory of someone special. All of us at Whispering Manes are incredibly grateful for the gifts given to us during Give Miami Day. Your contributions help us continue to provide high quality care for the horses that are the cornerstone of our program and help us to underwrite the costs of providing equine assisted activities to our neighbors with disabilities. Thank you!

### Incredible Gifts

Whispering Manes has been given an incredible gift to end 2015. **Ultimate Software Group, Inc.** chose Whispering Manes as the beneficiary of their end of year fundraising event. Held entirely by Ultimate Software Group employees, the company raised over \$38,000 to donate to Whispering Manes! Thank you Ultimate Software for your extremely generous gift!



### The Year in Review

As 2015 comes to a close and we look forward to 2016, we thought it would be fun to share some of the past year's achievements. None of these things would have been possible without your support!

- we now serve over 50 participants per week
- we started offering Saturday classes and welcomed Charmaine Blatchley Desmeules as our Saturday instructor
- we added 2 new horses to help accommodate the extra work
- we installed new equipment to accommodate wheelchair-bound riders
- we provided over 400 hours of equine assisted activities to school children with disabilities through grant money received
- we moved into a state-of-the-art 12 stall barn with a covered riding arena that was donated to Whispering Manes by Nancy Hector, our founder and most ardent supporter
- we have made many new friends and have enjoyed becoming a part of the Horse Country community

## Congratulations!

In our last newsletter the Spotlight was on two young artists whose artwork is decorating the very white walls of our new barn. One of the artists, Rachel Olin, recently received a very special invitation in recognition of her art. Rachel's Calla Lilly watercolor, which had been hanging in the conference room, was chosen by the University of Miami-Center for Autism & Related Disabilities as the artwork for the invitation to their Tropical Nights gala and Rachel was selected to be a featured artist. Rachel's painting will be auctioned at the fundraiser to benefit UM-CARD. This is an amazing achievement for Rachel and we are so proud that her artwork was selected for this honor. Way to go Rachel!

## Take a WhisperTour!

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!

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