



M.A.R.E. THERAPEUTIC RIDING CENTER

BEHIND BARN DOORS



FALL/WINTER 2007

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

To Our Supporters, Friends,
Volunteers and Riders

The fiscal year 2006 / 2007 brought many rewarding hours spent in the arena working with M.A.R.E. riders. We provided services to an average of 90 special equestrians a week over the course of the 10-month riding schedule—almost 3,000 equine assisted activity sessions.

The Board of Directors drafted and approved a three-year business plan, and approved a \$321,000 budget for the fiscal year of 2007/2008.

M.A.R.E. participated in the Magical Forest, Kern Kiwanis Pro-Am Golf Tour-

namment, Active 20/30 Festival of Beers, Taft Sportsmen Show, the Beautiful Bakersfield Awards, and the Day of Caring.

The annual fundraiser, An Evening at the Races, raised \$64,556 in support of M.A.R.E. programs.

In April, three riders participated in the 20th Annual California Network of Equestrian Therapy Horse Show for riders with disabilities held at the L.A. Equestrian Center. On June 30, 2007, M.A.R.E. hosted its own horseshow at the facility which was attended by 25 riders and 20 vaulters. It was a fantastic day – enjoyed by riders and

their families.

There are no words really that can express our appreciation and gratitude when it comes to thanking our donors and volunteers. On behalf of the M.A.R.E. Board of Directors and Staff, please remember that whatever contribution you have made—whether it is monetary, in-kind or your time—your on-going service and commitment to M.A.R.E. and its participants provides joy, hope and pride for not just our riders but for their families as well.

With Gratitude,

Diane Hopkins

President

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FUNDRAISING



Pennies for Ponies

Did you know American's loose change may add up to more than \$1 billion dollars?

Common Cents, a New York-based group, has raised \$6 million for children's charities over the last ten years by collecting pennies and loose change!

During October and November, look in the M.A.R.E. barn for a large collection box to donate your loose change and pennies (large bills okay, too)!

Empty your pockets, break your piggy banks, clean out your car, or just pick up any change you find, use it to help M.A.R.E.

Let's see how much of the \$1 billion we have!



eScrip Log in to www.escrip.com

1) select "• Group ID," enter M.A.R.E. ID#5694972; 2) enter your name, address; 3) enter Grocery or Community Card information (e.g. Vons, Safeway, Food 4 Less); 4) enter credit/debit cards (e.g. Visa, MasterCard, AMEX, Discover ATM, Diner's Club); 5) select the "Confirm" button; 6) you will be issued a Supporter ID No. then will enter a password for the next time you log on to eScrip. **VERY SIMPLE! LOG ON NOW!**

Albertsons' Community Partners

Link your Preferred Savings Card to M.A.R.E.

1) www.albertsons.com, 2) enter zip code 92130, 3) click on "IN THE COMMUNITY" at the bottom of the page, 4) click on the Albertsons Community Partners (blue & red logo on the right side of the page), 5) click on Shoppers [login or register with your Preferred Savings Card first](#), 6) under the "sign in:" section, enter your card number along with your phone number, 7) click on ⇒ LOGIN, 8) click on "MY ACCOUNT," 9) click on "ADD A PARTNER," 10) enter M.A.R.E.'s ID No. **49000104968**, and 11) select "ADD A PARTNER"

RIDER SPOTLIGHT — MANDIE O'BRIEN



Nominated for the NARHA Independent Adult Equestrian of the Year 2007

Mandie is a joy to have as a student. Her “can-do” attitude and commitment to always do her best and try her hardest makes our time spent together very productive. The success and progress that Mandie has achieved in her riding abilities are an example to her fellow students, our instructors and volunteers of

what a positive outlook can accomplish. When asked what her goals are her reply is “I want to be the best rider at M.A.R.E. and I want to learn how to canter.” Mandie is currently our most advanced rider, showing at the USDF Introductory Level but working diligently towards Training Level One.

Mandie has overcome considerable obstacles to become the wonderful, adventurous, young woman that she is today. As a child, Mandie was delayed in her ability to speak, very withdrawn and shy. It was difficult for her mother to leave Mandie even for brief periods as she was very dependent on her mother and extremely fearful of any new situation. Mandie had a lot of difficulty during her school years due to deficits in reading and mathematics. Mandie has worked diligently to minimize her

weaknesses, her reading is much improved due to her devotion to scripture and her faith. She learned to use a calculator and balances her own finances. Mandie has learned to rock climb and rappel down. She loves to go to the mall and shop by herself, babysit and work in the nursery at her church. Mandie’s ultimate dream is to work in a preschool and to have a family of her own. Mandie is a tenacious, determined, loving spirit that is always striving to become the “Best That She Can Be.”

By Deborah French Durkan



EQUINE SPOTLIGHT — RUN BARS ELVIRA (ELLIE)



Nominated for the NARHA Equine Recognition Award 2007

Elvira is a 24-year-old race bred Quarterhorse mare. She was raced as a two- and three-year old at Bay Meadows, Hollywood Park and Los Alamitos. Her best finish was 2nd so her owners decided that Elvira was not the racehorse of their dreams. Elvira then went on to become a saddle horse. Since her race days, Elvira has had training on cattle, beginning reining and dressage. She has also spent many hours out on the trail. Elvira’s attitude and temperament add another dimension to our program as

she is very sensitive and somewhat of an over-achiever. She is a sensitive horse with the uncanny ability of telling on her riders the second they become frustrated or upset. Elvira is obedient and is very easy to focus when given confident, purposeful leadership by her handlers. Elvira is very light in the bridle and to the aids making her very easy for students to direct by giving minimal cues and having clear intention.

Elvira is a sensitive, light horse who requires only the slightest pressure to yield to the leg or rein. She has been used in the past when backriding was commonplace for many of M.A.R.E.’s severely disabled children. Her lightness and athleticism make her a challenging mount but also a horse to aspire to. Her obedience and responsiveness make her very easy for riders with an inability to grasp the reins properly to control and direct.

Anne came to M.A.R.E. with one last wish to ride again before a brain tumor

took her life. Anne was 80-years old at the time — her tumor clearly visible protruding from under her thin white hair. However frail Anne looked that day, she was all duded up in new wrangler jeans, western shirt and cowboy shoes. During Anne’s ride Elvira stepped lightly around the arena in time to Glenn Miller’s greatest hits. The ride was a complete success and everyone involved in the experience was moved to tears as Elvira nuzzled, smelled Anne, going over every inch of her, but lingering for what seemed like ages over the tumor, as if to give comfort and healing through her horsey breath. As if this precious interaction were not enough, Anne then helped lead Elvira to the pasture from her wheelchair. Elvira’s typical turnout behavior is a cursory thank you with a swish of her tail as she walks away, but this day she stayed only turning to go after we did. It really was amazing.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT — VICTOR MUNGARY



Victor Mungary is a native of Bakersfield, an East High Graduate, an Air Force and Naval Reserve Veteran, retired jockey and treasured M.A.R.E. volunteer. Victor came to M.A.R.E. after a 30-year career at CSUB where he worked as an audio/visual and electron-

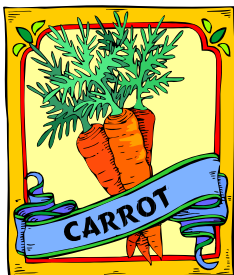
ics specialist.

Victor is a man of many talents and we consider the day (Jan 10, 2005) that Vic got involved with M.A.R.E. to be one of the highlights of the organization and a day that will go down in history!

Victor commits a minimum of 30 volunteer hours a week to M.A.R.E. Vic assists in the management of the facility, participates in most of the riding lessons as a horse leader and serves on the M.A.R.E. Board of Directors.

Victor can repair anything! He also has a creative side as demonstrated by the beautiful and unique jewelry that he

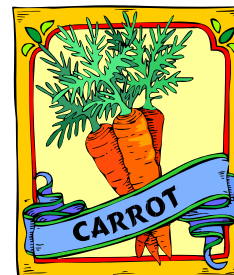
creates. We could write a book about Victor's many talents and virtues, but space is limited. The best way to really appreciate Victor is to come out to M.A.R.E. and meet him. Many thanks to Patty for sharing your husband with M.A.R.E. and Victor, we love you!



Partner with M.A.R.E. and Join the New:

CARROT CLUB

**Become a M.A.R.E Pal
Program - Pony - Saddle - Pasture**



When you invest in the Carrot Club with a pledge of \$500 or more, you become part of a unique organization that values differences, believes in potential no matter what the limitation and fosters HOPE for special needs equestrians and their families. "Miracles Happen One Stride at a Time" is the mantra of M.A.R.E.'s students, volunteers, staff and board of directors.

Your contribution can give mobility to a non-ambulatory child with cerebral palsy or spina bifida. Your contribution can give the parent of an autistic, non-verbal child the same joy that we as parents of typical children feel as we watch our son or daughter run the bases at a tee ball game or appear out of the beehive with the soccer ball at their feet and an open field to the goal.

A M.A.R.E. experience is good for the soul — where everyday beautiful, strong horses; kind, caring volunteers; and compassionate, equestrian professionals come together on a little ranch off Johnson Road in Bakersfield, California to bring the spirit and healing power of the horse to disabled children and adults of the community.

M.A.R.E. is in its 17th year of operation. Past M.A.R.E. riders have gone on to have fulfilling, typical lives, marriages, children and employment, and M.A.R.E. has helped encourage them along the way. Some are no longer with us...but when they are brought to mind, the smile on the face of each M.A.R.E. Angel as (s)he rode and sang along with Kermit and Glenn Miller is tremendous comfort as we know that our work has touched and enriched the lives of others.

Your investment insures the sustainability of M.A.R.E.'s services and includes you in the M.A.R.E. Circle of Friends and Family.

Thank you

CARROT CLUB LEVELS OF GIVING

- 24-Carrot\$5,000 and upProgram Pal
- 18-Carrot\$3,000.....Pony Pal
- 14-Carrot\$1,500.....Saddle Pal
- 1-Carrot \$500.....Pasture Pal



M.A.R.E. THERAPEUTIC
RIDING CENTER

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ONE STRIDE AT A TIME"

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept 4 – Fall Riding Session Begins
Sept 8 – Day of Caring
Sept 25 – Board Meeting, Brown Armstrong

Oct 1-Nov 21 – Pennies for Ponies Drive
Oct 6 – Porsche Club Races, Pioneer Village
Oct 14 – Buddy Walk, Golden Valley High School
Oct 21 – Chevrolet Car Club Show
Oct 23 – Board Meeting

Nov 12 – Kern Kiwanis Pro-Am Golf Tournament, BCC
Nov 15-18 – NARHA Conference, Anaheim
Nov 22-25 – Thanksgiving, Barn Closed

Dec 7 – Magical Forest M.A.R.E.'s night TBA
Dec 15 – Christmas Party at the Barn
Dec 20 – Last Day Fall Riding Session
Dec 21-Jan 6 – Barn Closed

Jan 7 – Spring Riding Session Begins
Jan 19 – Board Retreat, Chevron

Feb – Taft Sportsman Show, KC Fairgrounds
Feb 26 – Board Meeting

Mar – Ride-A-Thon TBA
Mar 15 – Last Day Spring Riding Session
Mar 17-23 – Easter, Barn Closed
Mar 24 – Summer Riding Session Begins
Mar 25 – Board Meeting

Apr – CalNet Horseshow, L.A. E.C. TBA
Apr – 20/30 Club Festival of Beers TBA
Apr 22 – Board Meeting

May 17 – An Evening at the Races
May 26 – Memorial Day, Barn Closed
May 27 – Board Meeting

Jun – Beautiful Bakersfield Awards TBA
Jun 24 – Board Meeting
Jun 28 – M.A.R.E. Horseshow
Last Day Summer Riding Session
Jun 30 – Summer Teen Equestrian Enrichment Program



"WHEN WE TREAT MAN
AS HE IS, WE MAKE HIM
WORSE THAN HE IS;
WHEN WE TREAT HIM
AS IF HE ALREADY
WERE WHAT HE
POTENTIALLY COULD
BE, WE MAKE HIM
WHAT HE SHOULD BE."

JOHANN WOLFGANG
VON GOETHE
(1749-1832)