



*Spring 2011*

*Kent Special  
Riding Program*

## **West Michigan Brain Injury Network Donates 16 New Helmets**

The Kent Special Riding Program is the proud recipient of 16 brand new Troxel SEI certified equestrian helmets. They were donated by the West Michigan Brain Injury Network organizations: Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital, Hope Network Rehabilitation Services and Spectrum Health Neuro Rehabilitation Services. This will give us a wider variety of helmet sizes to protect all of our riders comfortably. We thank them for their generous donation!



### ***Valuable Volunteers!***

Keeping KSRP going takes a lot of work by a lot of dedicated volunteers. Each person finds a niche that is well-suited to their interests and abilities. Most of our volunteers help out with our riders during classes. They function as horse leaders and sidewalkers, and without them, our classes could not happen. Other volunteers fill other needs. Vince Impellizzeri cuts the grass and helps with general property maintenance. Deb Schumacher also helps with property maintenance and horse care. Sue Heft provides assistance with payroll for our Instructors, Aides and Horse Feeders, and the taxes the program is responsible for, and every year she washes all of our saddle pads. Kit Kolenda makes an effort to visit every class at least once every session to take pictures of riders who have a photo release on file. She makes those pictures readily available to family and friends who may not be able to be present when the riders come to ride.

Elsie Pissott is another of our dedicated volunteers. Elsie works all year long, contacting various businesses, telling them about KSRP, and requesting donations of prizes for our annual Ride-a-Thon. These prizes can be anything from gift certificates to goods of any kind. Riders and hikers at the Ride-a-Thon look for colored disks and pumpkins along the trails and trade them in for door prizes. The prizes are tagged with the business name and information, and each business receives recognition in our post-event newsletter. Elsie became involved with KSRP when she discovered that a friend's daughter was a rider in the program. She wanted to be able to contribute to the success of KSRP. Elsie says that it is rewarding to her to gather prizes for the Ride-a-Thon and it gives her pleasure knowing that her efforts contribute to bringing happiness to others. Sometimes Elsie is able to attend the Ride-a-Thon and see the prizes she has gathered distributed to the riders and hikers. While she is there, she also helps out with the meal line. Elsie is a "people person" and enjoys her job of helping the riders of KSRP. We very much appreciate the work that Elsie and all our wonderful volunteers do to keep KSRP running!





We strive to keep the KSRP website up to date with valuable information, current dates, timely access to current year forms, etc. Sometimes, even after we have updated this information on the website, people still get the old information when they visit the website. This may be due to a computer phenomenon called “**caching**.” When a person visits a website, some computers automatically store that website information on their computer. This makes it easier and faster for users to return to that website because the entire website doesn't have to be downloaded each time. Their computer uses the information stored on their computer to recreate the website. Unfortunately, the website information may have changed, but the computer still uses the old stored data. One way around this problem is to go to the website, then use the “**Refresh**” or “**Reload**” button at the top of the web browser. This asks the computer to get a fresh version of the website instead of using the stored copy.

This is a good practice to use when visiting any website. Often people don't even notice the info is outdated, but with a “refresh” they can see the latest version.

**Please check out our website for:**

- Rider forms and information
- Volunteer forms and Handbook
- Directions and a Map to the program
- Ride-a-Thon pledge sheet, Prize form and information
- Current and Past Newsletters



If you are trying to get information from the KSRP website and can only see old information, try using the Refresh button. If this doesn't work, please email Lynn at [ksrp@voyager.net](mailto:ksrp@voyager.net) to get the updated information.

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### *Farewell to Dude*



Dude was a 34 year old quarter horse belonging to the Schumacher family, who own the property where KSRP is located. His registered name was *Hey Flashy Dude* and he was born on the Schumacher's farm. Dude was trained by Bill Schumacher, and was so quiet that he started being used in the program when he was only 2 years old. He was used by KSRP consistently until he retired in 1995.

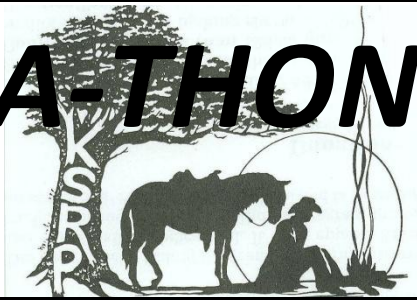
Throughout his life, Dude had seen and done it all. He attended almost every single Ride-a-Thon until 2005, and he went to the 4-H fair countless times, being shown by both Deb Schumacher and her sister Sue. From 1991-

1998, KSRP had a group of special-needs 4-H riders called Stablemates. The riders in Stablemates also showed Dude at fair and at various horse shows. Dude's quiet personality and versatility led to his use in English and Western classes, as well as vaulting. He placed in many different classes, and one year won the high point trail trophy.



This year, Dude adopted a special friend, a barn cat named Charm. Charm was often seen sleeping on Dude's back, poking her head into his feeder while he was eating, and even riding him around as he strolled through the pasture. Despite excellent care by Deb Schumacher and others, and the company of his new friend, in January Dude started losing weight. The vet was called, and after reviewing the options, the Schumacher family decided it would be in Dude's best interest to euthanize him. He lived a long life and served KSRP and the Schumachers well for many years. We will all miss him.

# RIDE-A-THON 2010



**October 3 2010**

## ***98 Ride-A-Thoners***

***Raise \$24,582.03!***

KSRP extends its appreciation to everyone who contributed to the success of our 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Ride-A-Thon. The amount raised this year will provide half of our operating budget for the coming year! Event sponsors, prize donors, volunteers and participants all came together to ensure the Kent Special Riding Program will continue to provide therapeutic and recreational horseback riding lessons to physically and mentally challenged individuals of all ages in Kent and surrounding counties.

*Thank you to our Prize Donors:*

Blue Ribbon Feed Company  
Burgett Floral  
Caledonia Farmers Elevator  
Carrabbas Italian Grill  
Chow Hound  
Cookies By Design  
Eastern Floral  
First Bank  
Forest Hills Fine Arts Center  
Gilmore Collection  
Ginny Luehrs  
Grand Carriage  
Grand Rapids Civic Theater & School of Arts  
Hoeksema Tool Service  
Jade Garden  
Bill Schumacher  
Lynn Schumacher  
Marage Tanning  
Mary Kay  
Meredith Loudon  
Millbrook Tack & Trailer  
Noto's  
Nutri Source  
Sue Szymanski  
Sharon Muench  
Spinnaker  
Valley Vet Supplies



## **2010 Ride-A-Thon Sponsors:**

**Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation  
Hospital  
Progressive Building Services  
Carl A. Johnson Post 2,  
American Legion  
King Milling Company, Lowell  
Valley City Plating**

# High Pledge Age Division Winners!

## 5 YEARS AND UNDER (6 riders) \$815.00

1. Ethan Swanson	\$200.00
1. Tyler Swanson	\$200.00
2. Paige Swanson	\$106.00
2. Melanie Swanson	\$106.00
3. Bella Rairigh	\$103.00
4. Haleigh Walkington	\$100.00

## 6-10 YEARS (4 riders) \$896.00

1. Bridgett Clay	\$700.00
2. Joe Swanson	\$108.00
3. Jacob Parish	\$53.00
4. Justin Ruitter	\$35.00

## 11 - 15 YEARS (5 RIDERS) \$340.00

1. Shelby Anderson	\$105.00
2. Ellen Dilly	\$71.00
3. Natalie Mazurek	\$70.00
4. Nicole Hoekwater	\$50.00
5. Boez Nobel	\$44.00

## 16 - 20 YEARS (12 RIDERS) \$917.00

1. Aaron Fluit	\$300.00
2. Sarah Ellis	\$150.00
3. Samantha Alters	\$84.00
4. Heidi Sytsma	\$78.00
5. Jenna Plets	\$50.00
6. Emma Roderick	\$45.00

## 21 - 25 YEARS (14 RIDERS) \$835.00

1. Whitney Wilson	\$185.00
2. Rachel Sytsma	\$115.00
3. Ashley Canfield	\$100.00
4. Amanda Main	\$60.00
5. Melissa Plets	\$50.00
5. Brandi Apol	\$50.00
5. Adam Nitschke	\$50.00
5. Alice Trout	\$50.00
6. Sherri Zoppa	\$35.00
6. Alex Salik	\$35.00
6. Rean Bush	\$35.00
6. Kim Powell	\$35.00
6. Sarah Apol	\$35.00

## 26 - 30 YEARS (7 RIDERS) \$840.00

1. Brian Reynolds	\$550.00
2. Paul Nitschke	\$50.00
2. Michelle Sifton	\$50.00
2. Rachel Sifton	\$50.00
3. Renee Kreft	\$35.00
3. Katie Salik	\$35.00
3. Kristen Smith	\$35.00

## 31 - 35 YEARS (6 RIDERS) \$909.00

1. Bobbie Gehringer	\$335.00
2. Carrie Varney	\$200.00
3. Mearl Rairigh	\$154.00
4. Meredith Cole	\$115.00
5. Tracy Anderson	\$68.00
6. Tina Parish	\$37.00

## 36 - 40 YEARS (8 RIDERS) \$3200.00

1. Deb Schumacher	\$2060.00
2. Annette Reinberg	\$600.00
3. Brandy Weidenfeller	\$200.00
4. Kim Noble	\$175.00
5. Cathy Swanson	\$50.00
6. Molly Sobie (Bennett)	\$40.00

## 41 - 45 YEARS (10 RIDERS) \$6241.00

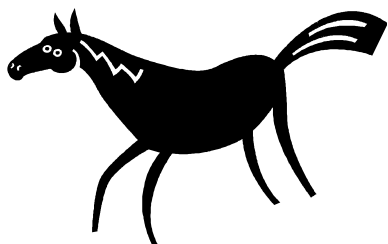
1. Rita Neumann	\$4,000.00
2. Jeanette Overholt	\$2104.32
3. Karen Groom	\$415.00
4. Cindy Luehrs	\$250.00
4. Sheila Carmody	\$250.00
5. Janet Wenger	\$120.00
6. Josie Mazurek-Hiltz	\$53.00

## 46 - 55 YEARS (26 RIDERS) \$7,202.03

1. Marjorie Palczewski	\$2765.00
2. Cindy Klinge	\$2063.00
3. Cathy Greenwald	\$505.00
4. Beth Wisner	\$475.00
5. Diana Trout	\$230.00
6. Maria Knoppes	\$225.00

## 56 & OVER (11 RIDERS) \$4,881.00

1. Michael Nitschke	\$760.00
2. Barb Swanson	\$522.00
3. Thea Main	\$200.00
4. Rita Carmody	\$130.00
5. Bill Schumacher	\$100.00
5. Lynn Schumacher	\$100.00
6. Rick Goodwin	\$75.00



# KSRP'S RIDE-A-THON and WALK-A-THON



33<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL BENEFIT FOR THE  
KENT SPECIAL RIDING PROGRAM

*SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2011*

IONIA STATE RECREATION AREA

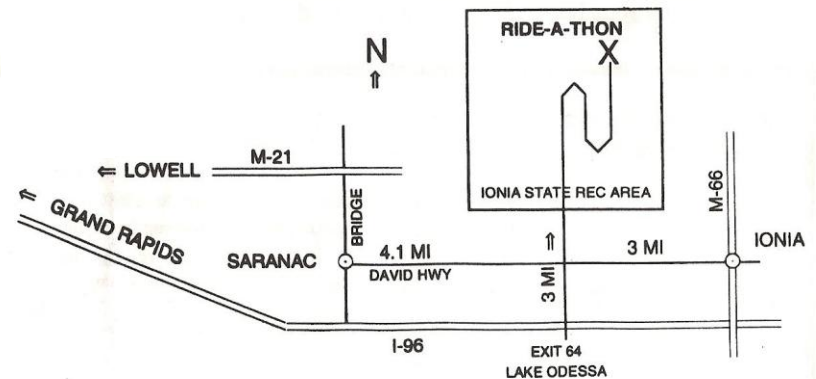
*Minimum pledge: \$35.00*

*GRAND PRIZE \$500.00!*

Registration: Friday 6:00 – 8:00 pm  
Saturday 8:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Lunch served Saturday 11:00 – 1:30  
Award Ceremony begins Saturday at 3:00!

For more information: (616) 723-5682  
(616) 794-2001

*Or visit our website at: [www.ksrp.org](http://www.ksrp.org)*





Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Age of Rider 5 & under (birthdate \_\_/\_\_/\_\_) 6 – 10 11 – 15 16 – 20 21 – 25

(Circle one) 26 – 30 31 – 35 36 – 40 41 – 45 46 - 55 56 & over (birthdate \_\_/\_\_/\_\_)

How many years (including this one) have you participated in the Ride-a-Thon? \_\_\_\_\_

Name & type of group you came with today: *All members of group please use same name*

4-H Club \_\_\_\_\_

CHOOSE Non 4-H Club \_\_\_\_\_

circle tee shirt size:

ONE Family \_\_\_\_\_

Business \_\_\_\_\_

kids sm med lg xl xxl

The Kent Special Riding Program is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing high quality therapeutic and recreational horseback riding instruction to physically, mentally and emotionally challenged individuals in Kent and surrounding counties. KSRP strives to maximize the potential of all individuals involved in the program in a safe and stimulating environment. The staff and students gratefully acknowledge your pledge to support this 4-H fund raising project. KSRP receives no tax dollars and is operated solely on donated funds.

## DONATION SIGN-UP INSTRUCTIONS

(this is a straight pledge, not based on time or distance)

Please list each sponsor's name, mailing address (if they are to be invoiced) & contribution. Collect contributions immediately if at all possible. Donations of less than \$35.00 must be collected by the entrant. Checks should be written payable to: KSRP. Donors wishing to qualify for state tax credits may do so by making checks payable to the Michigan 4-H Foundation/Kent Co. KSRP. (KSRP gets 85% of the donations submitted through the Foundation. The Foundation keeps 15%.) If you are unable to attend the Ride-A-Thon, pledge sheets and donations may be mailed to: Louise Palczewski, 723 Flat Street, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. **Thank you!**



## The 2011 KSRP Ride-A-Thon is sponsored by:

### *Ride-a-Thon Sponsorships!*

Our 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Ride-a-Thon on October 1, 2011 will be our main fundraiser and much effort goes into making this event a success. Even now, we are actively seeking sponsors to help offset the costs involved in producing this event. Businesses or individuals can become Ride-a-Thon sponsors. A \$500.00 Ride-a-Thon sponsorship entitles an organization to have their name and logo screen-printed on the back of 420 collector tee-shirts that are distributed to Ride-a-Thon participants and volunteers. In addition, the name and logo are printed on all Ride-a-Thon publicity, including over 800 pledge sheets distributed in the community, and prominently displayed on the KSRP website. KSRP is a nonprofit 4-H organization, so donations are tax deductible. If you know of anyone who may be interested in becoming a Ride-a-Thon sponsor, please contact Gail at 723-5682.



## 2011 RIDE-A-THON PRIZES

- Entrants who bring in a minimum of \$35.00 in pledges the day of the event will receive lunch, a collector tee shirt and be eligible for dozens and dozens of door prizes!
- For *each* \$50.00 in pledges, the entrant will receive one ticket in the Grand Prize drawing ... First Prize is \$500.00!
- There will be 12 other prizes awarded in the Grand Prize Drawing!
- Trophies and 6 Place Rosettes will be awarded to the High Pledge entrants in 11 age categories.
- High Pledge Business, Family, 4-H Club, Non-4-H Club and Individual
- Oldest Rider and Youngest Rider
- "End of the Trail" (entrant who traveled the farthest to attend)
- "Trail Boss" (entrant who brought in the most new participants)
- Glass mug for a veteran participant bringing in a new participant
- \$250 - \$499 in pledges receives a thermal bag
- \$500 - \$999 in pledges receives a Ride-A-Thon Sweat shirt
- \$1000 and over pledge TBA
- Various years of participation receive special awards

# Milestones



30 riders were participating for 5-9 years and 14 were in their 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> years.

## 15 year participants were:

Michelle Stanley  
Bill Palczewski  
Annette Reinberg  
Carolyn Reinberg  
Amanda Main

## 20 year participant:

Ann Newell

4 riders have logged over 20 – 24 years, and 9 have over 25 years of participation under their belts!

## Golden Horseshoe (\$500-\$999)

These riders were awarded sweatshirts with the 2010 design on it. **Brian Reynolds, Bridget Clay, Annette Reinberg, Michael Nitschke, Cathy Greenwald, Beth Wisner and Barb Swanson.**



## Platinum Horseshoe (\$1,000 and over)

These riders were awarded a beautiful embroidered blanket. **Deb Schumacher, Jennette Overholt, KSRP Rider, Marge Palczewski, Cindy Klinge, and KSRP Board Member Rita Neumann.** These riders together brought in ¼ of KSRP's annual budget!



# Just for Fun!

**High Pledge Business-** A Bit of Freedom Farm

**High Pledge Family-** The Swansons brought in a total of \$1,967.00. This special family supports many KSRP riders!

**High Pledge 4-H Club-** Country Cowboys brought in \$2,144.00. This Kent County 4H Club has a long history of supporting KSRP. Thank you, Country Cowboys!

**High Pledge Non-4-H Club-** JR Riders who brought in \$1,308.00!

**High Pledge Individual-** Rita Neumann brought in a record setting \$4000.00! Rita is also a KSRP Board Member and our Horse Committee Chairperson. Thank you, Rita!



**Oldest & Youngest Riders-** Barb Martins has a few years on our youngest rider, 9 month old, Tyler Swanson!

## 2010 Ride-A-Thon Volunteers:

*Ann Newell , Becky Franks, Brian & Jan Reynolds, Carolyn Reinberg, Cindy Luehrs, Deb Schumacher, Debb Decker, Elsie Pissott, Emma , Rick & Gail Roderick, Ginny Luehrs, Glenda Kilpatrick, Heidi Gustafson, Jackie Kennedy, Jess DeRuiter, Jessica Walkington, Jim McFadden, John & Connie Van Belkum, Jon Hoeksema, Joni Layrer, Judy & Butch Hamernik, Judy Rockwell, Kait Cummings, Karen Cummings, Kit Kolenda, Kristin Horner, Larry Bignall, Linda Franks, Lisa Holmes, Lynn Schumacher, Marjorie, Louise & Bill Palczewski, Mary DeBoer, MaryLou Heft, Molly Sobie, Roger Loper, Sarah Ellis and Steve Grody.*



**\$500.00 GRAND PRIZE WINNER**

**Cindy Klinge**

**Cindy has been our High Pledge Individual many, many times, but this is her first Grand Prize win. Congratulations, Cindy!**

**JOIN US FOR THE 2011 RIDE-A-THON  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1st  
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

**Thank you to our 2010 food donors:**

Apples, Carl & Elinor May  
Pop, Jan Palczewski  
Pop, Jean Tingley  
Cider, Klien's  
Hot Dogs, Kent's  
Buns, H & R Bakery  
Cookies, Leonard St. Family Fare

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nonprofit 4-H organization, so donations are tax deductible. If you know of anyone who may be interested in becoming a Ride-a-Thon sponsor, please contact Gail at 723-5682.



## *Thank You to Our 2010 Donors & Supporters!*

Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital  
Progressive Building Services  
Valley City Plating  
American Legion Carl A. Johnson Post 2  
King Milling  
St. Anthony Church  
Knights of Columbus – Sacred Heart  
Knights of Columbus – St. Isidore

Andy DeBoer, Farrier  
Dr. Fitzgerald at Thornwood Equine  
Chip Lake, Farrier  
Vince Impellizzeri (cuts grass & general maintenance)  
Deb Schumacher (property maintenance, horse care)  
Sue Heft (assistance with payroll, taxes & washing saddle pads)

## **Work Day ~ ~ April 9, 9:00 – 3:00**

KSRRP Work Day is an opportunity to help get the buildings and grounds ready for another season of therapeutic horsebackriding. Chores involved include:

- **CLEAN:** tack room/office, lunch room/classroom, refrigerator, tables, helmets & helmet storage rack, books & bookshelves, cupboards, porta-john & refill hand sanitizer, wash windows, hang curtains, clean and organize bridles, saddles and grooming totes, check equipment for wear or safety concerns, check human & equine first aid kits
- **MOVE:** basketball hoop, mounting block, porta-john, arena equipment, install letters on arena fence
- **CHECK & REPAIR:** loose boards in arena, loose or broken pasture fence posts, boards & wires, run-in shelters
- **TRAIL:** pick up branches, rake debris off trail, cut up downed trees
- **MISC:** rake & level indoor & outdoor arenas, clean up loose hay, muck out run-ins, paddocks & barn, weed flower beds, trim bushes

Free lunch will be provided. Dress for the weather and bring gloves, shovels, rakes, tools, etc.

Michigan State University Extension  
Kent County  
775 Ball Ave. NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-1307

NONPROFIT-ORG.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Grand Rapids, MI  
Permit No. 216

**2011 KSRP Schedule:**

**Volunteer training: April 11, 7 pm**

**Work Day: April 9, 9-3**

**Spring Session: April 18 – May 28**

**Volunteer training: June 20, 7 pm**

**Summer Session: June 27 – Aug. 6**

**Volunteer training: Sept. 6, 7 pm**

**Fall Session: Sept. 10 – Oct. 22**

**33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Ride-A-Thon: October 1**

**Barn Phone:**

(616) 891-0057

**Website:**

www.ksrp.org



**Lynn Schumacher**

Program Director

(616) 891-8066

[ksrp@voyager.net](mailto:ksrp@voyager.net)

**Connie Van Belkum**

Volunteer Coordinator

(616) 891-8243

[convb@iserv.net](mailto:convb@iserv.net)

**Glenda Kilpatrick**

MSU Extension Educator

Youth Development Programs

**KSRP** is licensed with the State of Michigan as a 501 (c) (3) charity. Your gift is *tax deductible*.

Enclosed is my donation of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send donations to: Kent Special Riding Program, 723 Flat St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503