

HOOFBEAT

freedomfarm™



therapeutic riding center

Kick Off Issue

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rider roundup

We are working hard getting the horses ready for your return in April ... I wonder who you will be riding? Riders—you can get ready by pretending you are on a horse while you are sitting in class at school. Sit tall, remember “no slumpy lumpies!”



** We have designated **Thursday, March 26 at 6:00** as 'Parent and Caregiver Training.'

Horsing around

There have been some changes in the herd we'd like to share with you. First, it is with great sadness to tell you that **CASH** has passed away at the age of 27. He faithfully served Freedomfarm for 7 years and we will miss him. 'Ted' the wonder horse retires at age 29! He will reside at Freedomfarm.



The new horses are SUPER-MAN, a 15 year old paint gelding and SPOT, a 9 year old QH gelding. They are both very sweet horses and a joy to be around!



volunteer lowdown

The 2008 Volunteer Dinner in November honored over 40 of our awesome volunteers with dinner served by a few of our Rider's Parents. Volunteer of the Year

was given to Paul Snetting and Volunteer Couple of the Year to David & Darlene Hibbs.

Way to go Corrie Stevens - you were prepared and knew Freedomfarm's Mission Statement.



Volunteer Training in March! Check the website, download those forms & call or email to register. Sue & I are excited for you to meet the new horses!

a note from Susie

Hello! Grab your reading glasses, a cup of chai tea and relax. There is much to share with you!

2008 was a year of abundant blessings to our program. The progress of our Riders was pretty incredible. From initiating conversations, to sitting tall in the saddle and to independent planning. The freedom of *balance, movement and expression* are at work! The love the riders show to their horse, to their volunteers and to the other riders brings a smile to my face.

The **new bathroom** is complete and you can visit it today on our fun **new website** with pictures and a list of the generous businesses and helpers who made it possible. **www.freedomfarmMN.org** is a new experience for us as we learn to make PDF docs, upload pictures, and edit, edit, edit!

Sue & I attended the **NARHA National Conference** in October. A valuable 3 days was spent learning, sharing experiences and planning for the future of Freedomfarm.



In November NARHA was here for the re-accreditation process. Freedomfarm proudly remains a **NARHA Premier Accredited Center**. A special thank you to volunteers Bill, Stephanie, Lisa and rider MacKenzie for participating in the lesson portion.

My dreams for 2009 include a **SureHands Lift** (est. \$8,000) for a safer transfer for some of our Riders, **new fencing** (est \$6,000) to keep equine friends safe and enclosed! But I am most excited to about a new program, **NARHA HORSES FOR HEROS**, servicing wounded service personnel and veterans. We will start small and grow as we can. Reminds me of how I started Freedomfarm. This is a much needed program and I am excited to be able to give to those who have given so much for us!!

Finally, the attached 2008 Financial Support shows what a truly generous community of friends support Freedomfarm. We can not exist without you!

Susie