



Blue Rider Messenger

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Year-End Report Issue

Spring 2011

(413) 528-5299 • www.bluerider.org • blueriderorg@hotmail.com

Highlights of 2010

We met and exceeded our fundraising goal

We had a challenge amount of \$20,000 to raise for 2010... We raised \$30,656!

And our anonymous donor met our challenge and matched these funds!
This was the boost we needed to go into this snowy new year. We would have been lost without the help of our dedicated donor base.

Thank you to all donors, old and new, who help us with our commitment to our clients and equines.

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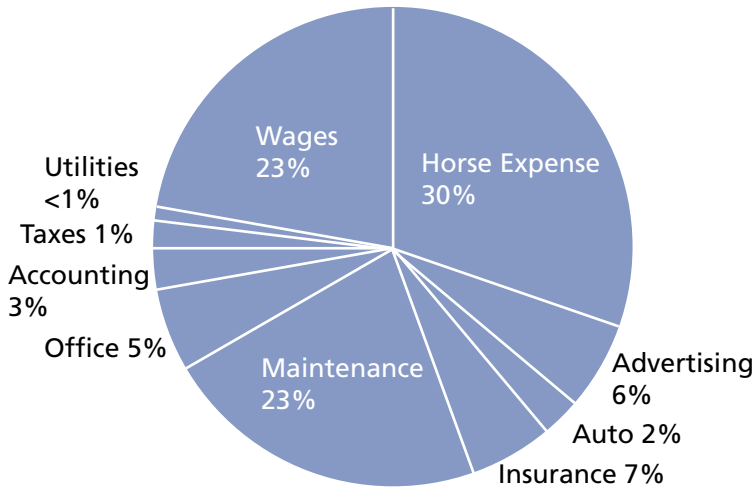
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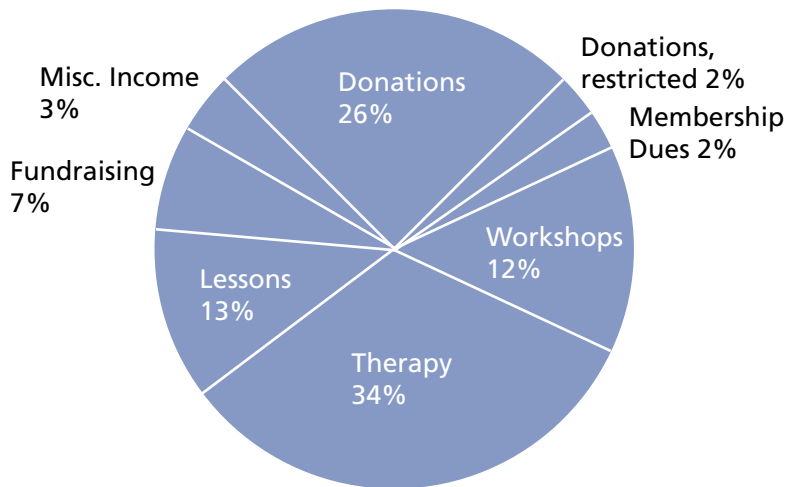
Year-End Report

Our financial picture, compared to 2009.



Expenses

	2010	2009
Total Animals	36,183.38	26,663.22
Wages	28,595.00	32,185.00
Total Advertising	7,178.46	6,710.79
Total Automobile Expense	2,424.40	2,628.33
Total Insurance	8,567.00	31,861.11
Total Maintenance	27,855.97	29,935.05
Total Office	5,654.50	7,533.05
Total Professional Fees	3,455.46	2,795.00
Total Taxes	3,868.53	1,630.05
Total Utilities	571.43	77.37
Total Expense	124,730.82	145,999.96



Income

	2010	2009
Donations	39,634.50	
Donations-Restricted	3,550.00	3,001.75
Membership Dues -	3,525.00	2,343.00
Workshops	19,213.50	19,302.00
Therapy	51,969.00	47,146.00
Lessons	20,007.00	19,928.58
Fundraising	11,350.42	12,673.05
Miscellaneous Income	4,794.00	6,860.00
Interest Income	73.47	63.12
Other Fee Income		
Finance Charges	20.65	17.10
Total Other Fee Income	20.65	17.10
Income - Reimbursed Expenses	4,423.50	1,865.10
Total Income	150,539.79	158,456.87

We would like to build on our fundraising achievement of the last year, and challenge ourselves to raise the money to build our much-needed toilet facilities. Please help in any way you can! Donate, help create fundraisers, send ideas our way!

Our 20th Anniversary!

We are 20 years old in 2011!

Stay tuned for ways in which we will celebrate this milestone.

Intern

Rebecca Dunham is our intern for the school year 2010/2011. She comes every morning by 8:15, feeds the horses their hay and medications, and gets the barn ready for lessons. Without her, the lessons would never start on time in this snow!

Reba has this to say about herself:

Blue Rider has been my second home for six years now. During these years I have learned an incredible amount of things. I have met a lot of new people, one of which I am currently working with, Glynis Simon. I started at Blue Rider as just a rider, who just wanted to sit on a pretty little pony and “ride”. But now, I am here as an intern, who has just been accepted to a fantastic equine program at Johnson and Wales University in Rhode Island, and am ready to pursue my future in the equine business. My time at Blue Rider is special to me and has come first in front of everything else: friends, boyfriends, dinner-time, etc. My closest friends are here, and I feel that they are there for the same reasons I am, to learn. Blue Rider, the horses and Christine, have shown me that I have choices to make, and helped me see that I finally have the brains and courage to make these decisions. I now have a foundation to build my life on, and I am very pleased with it.



Intern Reba Dunham with a couple of equine pals

Accomplishments

We had a great time training Zeuss, and helping him cope with his scoliosis. Anna rode an amazing farewell drill on him in our circus. He went home to Croton-on-Hudson, as he was too big to keep on our tiny property. We wish him well, and keep up with him through his owner, Deborah Reich, who is also a Board member.



Board member Deborah Reich competed in a 100-mile desert endurance race

Deborah was one of the riders for the USA on the endurance team at the WEG (World Equestrian Games) in Kentucky, and the only one of the US team to finish – in 18th place! Congratulations!

Recently she rode a 100-mile endurance race in Abu Dhabi on her mare Juniper, and completed the ride. We are SOOOO happy to have her on the Board!

We have composted manure for sale throughout the year; either for you to pick up in buckets, or by the trailer load. It is very beneficial for gardeners, and has no bedding or chemicals in it. Please call ahead for availability; we always are getting more!

Riverbrook by Jennifer Bradley

Mornings at Riverbrook are a bustling time of activity, with the ladies getting ready to start their day and head off into different groups and very different programs. On Tuesdays a group of four ladies get ready to go horseback riding with me as their driver — remembering their helmets and muck boots, dressing warmly, leaving jewelry behind, remembering gloves — and off to Blue rider we go! The ride to the barn is about a half hour in length, and usually the car ride is quiet all the way. It is 10:30 as we head through Egremont, and I can feel the anticipation set in.

When we get there, it's getting out of the car and taking a deep breath of the fresh horsey air. Then we knock on the barn door, and wait for our invitation to come in. The view into the barn as the door opens is always beautiful — lots of gorgeous horses and helpers waiting to greet us. Four horses are ready and waiting to work with these four ladies. As each of the ladies gets on her horse, life forces are awakened. The ladies sit taller, are more present, breathe, and become riders. Walking on, changing rein, going through cones, and then exercises. The morning stretches while the sitting on their horses is something everyone should see and do! The rid-

ing lesson always finishes up with trotting, which one of my ladies refers to as dancing on her horse. Watching her, I must agree!

After dismounting, the job of the riders is not over — they have to pat and praise their horse for a job well done, and then put their tack away. Then back to the barn door, and out with a thank you and see you next week. The helpers and Christine see the ladies out to the car and each gets a personal good-bye with hugs and high five's.

Now the ride begins back home. I hear breathing and excited happy words. "Did you see me? How did I do? I like riding! I love Willie Wonka!" The steps are clearer, the voices brighter, and the cheeks rosy! And so we look forward to our car ride next week. I see many behavior changes in all my ladies that ride; especially their self esteem and how proud they are to go back home and share their experiences with their peers. They love to share the name of the horse that they rode that day. My ladies seem less stressed and more focused as we leave the barn. I think they stand a little straighter each week and that we each leave the barn with a little more knowledge on how to take care of each other, animals, and our bodies.



George the donkey has many friends at the barn

In March of 2010 George came to live with us, right out of a Dr. Seuss book! He is fitting in nicely, and loves to cuddle. He still has a long way to go until he is integrated completely into our riding lessons.

When Michael started riding, we had to coax him into the barn and lift him onto Billy Boy, the smallest donkey. Now, four years later, he mounts independently from the steps and wants a bigger horse! He is now more physically confident and agile on other areas of his daily life as well.

— Jennie Reins, Michael's house mother

Welcome to Our New Riding Instructor

Hi, my name is Glynis Simon. I live in Salisbury, CT. I am the mom of three children: Cody, 16, Cole, 14, and Nisa, 7; wife to Willie, and owner of many animals. I started riding when I was nine. At ten years of age I started working and riding at a dressage barn in Willington, CT.

I was a foster parent for 5 years for an agency that specialized in emotionally disturbed children. Willie and I fostered teens. Within that time period I had to complete many training courses on various behavior disorders. Currently, I am an elderly companion with the Chore Service in Sharon, CT. I am Girl Scout Leader Assistant with troop 40139. I have my First Aid and CPR certification.



In 2010 I gained my Certified NARHA (North American Riding for the Handicapped Assoc.) Instructor status. The entire NARHA learning process was fairly extensive. I attended workshops on disabilities down at High Hopes in Old Lyme, CT. In addition to working here at Blue Rider Stable I also run the equine program at Time Out Foundation in Lakeville, CT. Our program at

Time Out focuses on kids with behavior issues in school and at home as well as some who are on the autism spectrum. My lessons there are one on one, not group work like at Blue Rider.

I look forward to working with Christine and all of you who are a part of Blue Rider Stables.

Hail and Farewell

Our barn has been working well, even with losing our maintenance family to Hawaii. The Bell family, who have lived next to the barn and helped with hay, feeding, all emergency care, repairs, and

snowplowing moved in October. We certainly feel the hole they left. They are missed, especially by Rose, who had adopted them as her family.



Dylan & Oliver in the 2010 circus

Saying good-bye to board member Kristin Kim has been a hard thing, but we are glad that her new endeavor has taken off. Check out what she is up to at sansori.org. We wish her luck and smooth sailings. She deserves it after all of her hard work, which isn't over yet! New Board members are: Hayley Sumner, Eugene Gollogly, and Jamie Trachtenburg. Thank you for joining our board with the commitment to move us forward!

18 Months and Counting – by Jennifer Gagnon

My daughter started riding at Blue Rider in September of 2008. I would go to watch her progress and play with the horses. By July of 2009 I started to ride as well. I had no previous riding experience, so I decided Blue Rider was the place to get it. I have learned so much about horses and myself. I've been riding there for about 18 months and

I have never felt better. I have strengthened my core muscles, become more flexible, my posture is straighter and I have eliminated a nagging sore back. The equines are wonderful, the helpers/instructors are great and Christine is amazing. No matter what kind of week I have had, I always feel better after a visit to the barn.

Why I Love Horse Camp by Lauren Gagnon

Last summer I went to Blue Rider's Summer Intensive for one week; it was great. I got a horse of my own to take care of for the week. Oskar and I became good friends — lots of brushing, hoof maintenance and a ton of riding. I learned about the different tack and how to use it. I also learned all about barn life — about hay, feed, rabbits chickens, ponies, donkeys and of course horses. I was a much better rider by the time my week was done. I worked hard, but I had so much fun that I hope to go back for 2 weeks this summer.

Ebony and Rusty (right) came in December to join our herd. They had been living with the Stanton family, and wanted more work to do. The horses have welcomed them into their herd, and we are eager to see what they have to offer us.

*(Below) Willie Wonka
munching daisies.*



Blue Rider Membership and You

Putting Your Membership Dues & Contributions to Work

Your membership dues help cover insurance and capital improvements such as building sheds, improving grading, building trails. Dues also help pay for the winter's supply of hay that fills the blue barn. And you can get discounts on lessons and have the opportunity to be one of the team of "Helpers" at Blue Rider!

- Did you know that Blue Rider is a 501-C-3 not-for-profit Corporation? This means your annual

membership dues are tax deductible.

- Blue Rider's "tax deductible" status not only helps you when you file your taxes. It can also help Blue Rider to get corporate funds through employer "matching programs," to help maintain our horses, expand our physical space, and pay for our therapeutic riding program.

Please join Blue Rider – our work benefits all of us! Fill out the Membership Application on this page and send in with your check.

For more information on Blue Rider, visit www.bluerider.org

It's Showtime!

Our therapy horses and donkey held their own in the local show ring. We are extremely proud of our helpers who put much time and effort into showing nine of our equines, and staying in the ribbons with each one! Our donkey Taquito won champion or reserve champion in each show he went to. Twist, our Belgian, also won reserve champion in 3 out of 4 shows. Congratulations to a job well done. It was great to show the community that our approach to horse care carries through all disciplines. We are excited to have a group of students who want to continue our showing career. Even though this isn't a priority or even an aim of our lessons, it is nice to see the lessons taught at our barn grow into a self-designated goal.



Our show group at the horse show at French Park, N. Egremont, 2010

Dates to Remember!

Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 23
Circus Saturday, June 4
Hoedown Saturday, August 6
Fun Day Saturday, August 27
Equine Affaire Thurs-Sun, Nov 10-13

Save a tree! You can receive this newsletter by email instead of a paper copy.

Please email the following information to: blueriderorg@hotmail.com

Name _____

Mailing address
as we have it now _____

email address _____

Can and Bottle Drive — Ongoing at the barn, collecting nickels for the horse medicine fund.

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Year in Review
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