



HOOFPRIINTS

NEWS & UPDATES

2024 Spring Edition



OUR MISSION

SMILES transcends traditional therapeutic methods by offering individuals with special needs, of all ages, the joy of participating in an equine assisted program which provides social, emotional, physical, and personal rewards.

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Meet the Newest Member of the SMILES Team

Please help us welcome Ellie to the SMILES team. Ellie is our new HEARTS Program Coordinator and Instructor-in-Training.

Ellie began her journey at SMILES as a volunteer, looking for an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others. These extra couple hours at SMILES quickly turned into something larger. From a young girl, she has always gravitated towards animals and has a strong connection to them. Being at SMILES gives her the opportunity to involve her love for animals and passion for people together by assisting in Equine-related therapeutic work.

We are so excited for this addition to the team! Welcome Ellie!



Books in the Barn



SMILES' Newest Program

We are so excited to announce SMILES' newest program, Books in the Barn! This program is free to our clients to attend and we hope many will join us! On Thursday, March 28, we launched our first pilot program with 14 clients attending! This special reading experience gives the opportunity to those who love to read, learning how to read, or wanting a comfortable and non-judgmental partner to listen. Picture yourself surrounded by the beauty of the barn and your horse friend nodding along to every word of your favorite book. Whether our clients are diving into their favorite book or tackling some tough homework, our horses are here to listen, comfort, and maybe even offer a hoof of support!

Here's what participating clients can expect:

- Bring their favorite book or choose a book from the SMILES library. They can even bring their schoolwork with!
- Spend quality time with our horses while reading aloud to them for approximately 30 minutes.
- Enjoy the benefits of bonding with the horses in a peaceful setting.

Watch our social media for our next Books in the Barn events happening in June 2024!



SMILES Library

We're reaching out to our wonderful community for donations to help grow our library! We're specifically seeking youth or young adult-friendly books, including both chapter books and easy readers. To view our wish list and contribute, scan the QR code provided below.

Our goal is to enable our clients to take their chosen books home with them, allowing them to continue their reading journey beyond our program. Books in the Barn is offered free of charge, and with the generous support of our community we aim to keep our library stocked with diverse and engaging titles.

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to fostering a love for reading among our clients!



Spring Events Recap

Valentine's Fundraiser

Our Valentine's Fundraiser is not only a time to send our program horses some love through valentines, but it is also our Sweetheart of the Year competition between horses. The friendly competition took place for the entire month of February and if you follow the SMILES Facebook page you may have noticed we did a spotlight on each of our horses every week day. All of our horses had a "dating" profile for people to see their personality. In 2023, Chili won Sweetheart of the year... This year, Rio won by a land slide at the last minute! **Congratulations Rio on your title of being the 2024 SMILES Sweetheart of the Year!** Thank you to all who participated in this fundraiser that raised \$4,025!

Equine Seminar & Tack Sale

We were so glad to see the many familiar and new faces back at SMILES for our in-person Equine Seminar and Tack Sale. We had over 250 people attend and no one walked out empty handed; the deals were flying off the tables and racks. Our seminar speakers talked about saddle fitting, tick borne diseases in horses, and the ranch horse show basics. With questions asked many people not only left with new items, but with new knowledge.

This fundraiser raised \$17,253! A big thank you to everyone who sponsored and came to support. We hope to see you all next year!



News from the Barn

Our barn is one the favorite spots on property! We would like to announce that Teddy and Sue have officially graduated from Trial Horses to Program Horses! These two are amazing assets to our program and clients, each in their own way! We are also excited to announce that we have a new Trial Horse at SMILES, welcome Pantera!

Guess Who Graduated

Teddy

The absolute dream for therapeutic riding. Teddy is our 8-year-old Belgian/Pony cross. Teddy walked into SMILES and knew exactly how to be a program horse. We are so lucky to have him and we are excited to continue to watch him succeed in our program with his amazing clients.

Sue

Sue is our 13-year-old Spotted Saddle Horse mare and quickly became a staff favorite. Her calm demeanor is perfect for our program. Sue is great with double side walkers and will be fantastic for independent riders.

New Trial Horse

Pantera

We are excited to introduce SMILES' newest Program Horse in Training, Pantera! Pantera is a 7-year-old Quarter Horse/Morgan Cross who came to us from the Appleton area. Pantera was primarily used for leisure riding and has been hauled to several states for rodeos and trail ridden at state parks. His tall/lean body type will be ideal for our riders who have tight muscle tone or have goals of working on core strength and balance.

Pantera's kind and gentle personality is exactly what we look for in a candidate and we are eager to see him start his mock-classes during Spring Session. He is currently living with Nugget, our miniature, outside of the breezeway and his stall is the first on the left as you enter the barn.



Teddy

Sue

Pantera

Stable Supporters

SMILES would like to announce a cost-friendly sponsorship option, supporting the equine herd in their overall health and wellness.

New Annual Herd Sponsorship Level

Our herd of program horses are seeking dedicated Stable Supporters! Starting on April 1st, our new sponsorship tier of \$500 aims to defray expenses associated with various necessities including, but not limited to:

- Hay field production
- Annual dental visits
- Tack improvements
- Fencing repairs
- Mineral and salt blocks
- Stable supplies

In today's economy where costs are escalating, we are reaching out to our supporters. As a Stable Supporter, what can you expect in return?

- Public acknowledgment with your name prominently displayed in the stable
- Recognition on our website
- Regular updates through our quarterly 'Tails from the Barn' newsletter
- A tax-deductible donation receipt

Your generous support ensures the well-being of our program horses and enables us to continue our mission.

Interested in sponsoring? Reach out to our Equine Coordinator, Katie Boss!
262-882-3470, Option 7
horses@smilestherapeuticriding.org



Payment options available

*More information will be released April 1.

JOIN SMILES

FOR LUNCH, GOLF, DINNER,
AND FUN FILLED EVENTS!

Wednesday, June 19, 2024

Hawk's View Golf Club

7377 Krueger Road, Lake Geneva, WI

EVENT SCHEDULE

10:30 AM	Check-In & Buffet Lunch
12:00 PM	Shotgun Start
4:30 PM	Cocktails & Silent Auction
6:00 PM	Dinner & Program to Follow

Foursome: Lunch, Golf & Dinner

\$175 Per Person Registration on or
Before May 31st

\$200 Per Person Registration
After May 31st

Singles, twosomes, and threesomes
are welcome and will be paired up.

**Not a golfer? Don't miss out! Come for
dinner to benefit SMILES!**

\$50 Dinner Only per guest



2024 CALENDAR

Winter Session
January 8 - March 2

Tack Sale Fundraiser
March 16 - March 17

Spring Session
March 30 - May 24

National Volunteer Week
April 21 - 27

The Mane Event Golf Outing
Wednesday, June 19

Summer Session
July 1 - August 24

SMILES Open Benefit Horse Show
Saturday, July 20
Sunday, July 21

SMILES County Fair Horse Show
Friday, August 30

Superstar Student Horse Show
& Open House
Saturday, September 21

Fall Session
September 30 - November 23

Miles for SMILES
& Breakfast at the Barn
Saturday, October 19