



# Hoof Beats

THE NEWSLETTER OF HIGH MOUNTAIN EQUINE OUTREACH

*High Mountain Equine Outreach: serving at-risk youth and the community by sharing the love of Jesus Christ and utilizing horses and all of God's Creation.*

Hoofbeats 2008 Annual Report

HMEO

## Reflections on 2008

*We have felt the need to reflect on this past year at HMEO; to truly take stock of all that God has done and all that he is currently doing for us and through us. We also felt compelled to share this with you in our Special Holiday Newsletter!*

This past year has been a whirlwind to say the least! It hardly seems possible that it has been 12 months since we took up residence on the beautiful JCM campus. In Dec 2007 as we began to move into the dorm which was to be our temporary housing solution, little could we have known the flurry of events and milestones that would help to shape HMEO and us as well in 2008. We were beginning again from scratch as we had no fencing, and little more than hopes and ideas.

The very first milestone was when a small hardworking group came to serve in December of 2007. This group from Manchester, KY- City of Hope Church, worked diligently to construct fencing which enclosed our first and only functional pasture. This enabled us to bring the horses to their new home in the hills of Annville and this 4 acre pasture wintered the herd until spring. We want to remember to thank God for that crucial gift He gave us through City of Hope Church!

### Barnabas Home A Buzz

It wasn't long before the whole of the Barnabas Home was abuzz with the news that we would be beginning a horse program soon. The Barnabas Home is a facility that is home to approximately 25 boys that are wards of the state due to neglect, abuse, loss of parents, etc.. The boys, who were excited to be able to take part of this program, quickly proved their mettle and their exuberance by braving cold and snowy / rainy weather to get the chance to learn and establish relationships with their individual favorite equines! Christie noted on one particular day that each of the boys began to point out "their horse" which they intended to have a relationship with! We began to see hearts beginning to soften and open up and to see fruit from our meager efforts.

**Partnerships** We were so blessed this past summer to host an incredible group of hard working and self-sacrificing friends from **Tumbling Creek Baptist Church in Gleason, TN**. Thanks to this group's gigantic efforts and huge hearts, we had our first run in shelter for the mares as well as a beautiful and functional storage shed which was expertly crafted! Many of the ladies in the group suffered in the heat to help Ellie realize her dream of starting a prayer garden settled on top of the hill overlooking our pastures and the entire JCM campus. On top of that another team and some that did double work provided many sports activities for the Barnabas boys during the day. It was a very blessed week.

We remember fondly the day that **Dunean Baptist Church of Greenville, SC** came to minister to the boys thru a sports day camp and help us with construction. I was amazed at the way the boys related to Kevin (Dunean's youth pastor), their youth, and the rest of the group. This group was founded in excellence. Everything that they strived to do, whether constructing our 2nd run in shelter, doing dramatic skits, sharing the word or just having fun was excellent! We thank God for their ongoing friendship too!

**GREATEST PRAISE** We would be amiss to leave out those spiritual blessings that God has seen fit to lavish out on us, as these are the most important of all. Through the special events and HMEO ministry over the course of this past year we have seen 14 of the boys make decisions to follow Jesus Christ and make him the Lord of their lives in 2008. PRAISE THE LORD!

On a personal note, God has also blessed us by removing several key obstacles regarding ministry and we look forward to seeing His strong arm clear the way for future ministry. The Lord has kept us safe and healthy and has given us much encouragement thru our local church body.



**Christie gives an overview of the HMEO program and relational horsemanship to boys and staff from the Barnabas Home.**

Mitch specifically thanks God for the amazing opportunity to go to Poland and work with an international team at a summer camp for underprivileged children. Thank God for the relationships formed and the 35 children who gave their life to Jesus.

Last but not least we thank God for YOU!! Without your support whether physical, financial or spiritual we could not have done any of these things. You are part of this team. We realize that YOU have played a huge part of this past year's success and hope that you realize it too. God is using each of us as partners in His love and ministry to the boys here.

*We look forward to partnering with you in 2009. Please pray about how God wants you involved.....*

## 2008 Recap Report

Ministered to 41 boys from Barnabas Home over the course of 1 year.

14 boys made professions of faith, many seeds planted

2 summer day camp events hosted for Barnabas Home youth

2 pastures, 2 paddocks, 2 run-in horse shelters, and 1 equipment shed built estimated worldly value \$15,000

350 bales of hay harvested, estimated worldly value \$1,225

51 volunteers served over 2000 hours over the summer, estimated worldly value \$20,000

35 children saved via Poland Childrens Camp

Total Eternal Value = PRICELESS

## Immediate Needs in 2009

Funds for vet care

\$900 for remaining ministry Insurance bill by April.

\$900 for hay ASAP

\$850 for board fencing & \$1500 for electric fencing that needs to be completed

\$500 to put adequate footing in training/lesson pen

\$30,000 to complete riding arena for lessons & events

Barn coming in near future



# Thank you for partnering with us

*We need your prayers and partnership as we enter 2009. We praise God for a blessed year with much growth in 2008. You are a valued part of what God is doing here. High Mountain Equine Outreach appreciates all that you have done and we look forward to working with you to advance the kingdom of God in 2009.*

