



## **Our Mission**

To benefit children and adults with special needs or disabilities by offering them the opportunity to interact with dedicated horses in a manner that promotes physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing. We believe people can develop therapeutic relationships with horses, crossing boundaries of speech and physical disabilities in a way that encourages healing and improved self-esteem.

[www.whisperingmanes.org](http://www.whisperingmanes.org)

### **A Note from the Executive Director**

2012 was wonderful year for us. It is with a huge smile on my face that I thank all the volunteers, supporters, riders and their families, for their overwhelming support in our first year. We hope you will join us on the next part of our journey!

- Erin Bauer, DVM



### **January 23 marked our First Anniversary!**

On January 23rd, 2012, we welcomed our first rider from our veteran's program. Our first year has been a busy one. Here's a snapshot of what we've accomplished in the first 12 months!

- Our herd now stands at four horses and one pony
- We have more than 35 active riders
- We are teaching 11 hours of lessons/week
- We welcomed Robin Bramson, as our full-time Program Director/Head Riding Instructor, in September 2012
- We celebrated our official Grand Opening in October, 2012
- We hosted a Fun Day for students from The Learning Experience School, sponsored by the Junior League of Miami
- St. Brendan's High School Key Club began volunteering with us as part of an ongoing community service project
- The Down Syndrome Association of Miami initiated a scholarship program that has assisted 11 riders to experience the power of the horse

## Open House, October 2012

On Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 we celebrated our official Grand Opening. Guests were greeted by Whispering Manes' volunteers and were treated to tours of the property and student riding demonstrations. We were pleased to have nearly 60 attendees, with notable guests from The Learning Experience School, Easter Seals of South Florida, and the Down Syndrome Association of Miami. Guests had a chance to enjoy refreshments and talk about the program with Executive Director, Erin Bauer and President of the Board of Directors, Mary Lynn Pontentau, as well as Suzy Shumer and Debbie Register from the Board of Directors.



Erin receiving check from sponsor,  
City National Bank  
(with Linda, Helen and Henry Lacayo)

## Shoe Fairies Luncheon

On November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Linda Peterson and Helen Picard hosted the Shoe Fairies Luncheon benefitting Whispering Manes.

With support of the Junior League of Miami, the event was an overwhelming success! Attendees enjoyed a beautiful afternoon and had the opportunity to purchase items from variety of vendors with a percentage of the sales going to our program. The highlight of the afternoon was a silent auction featuring exciting items from local vendors including a TaoTao scooter.

Do you know anyone interested in volunteering around the barn or in classes?  
Or someone who has gently used equipment to donate?  
Please share our contact information: [info@whisperingmanes.org](mailto:info@whisperingmanes.org)

Get social  
with us!



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