

Need To Smile?

With all of the uncertainty that surrounds our current lives, we thought we might distract you with happy topics and photos to make you smile.

Blue Jeans & Boots 2020

What would winter 2020 have been without our favorite country western party? With almost 200 friends in attendance, Southside Stampede leading the line dancing to DJ Allen of Dance Smith Productions music, Diablo the mechanical bull, and fabulous food catered by Creative Tastes, the night could not have been more perfect. In fact the only thing that made the cool, beautiful Miami night better was the announcement of a very generous **challenge grant of \$150,000!** For the next year, all donations will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$150,000 total. That means that any gift you make will be doubled! How is that for **Great News?!**



South Florida Trail Riders Autism Ride

This year marked the 10th anniversary of what has become one of the great winter events in South Florida, the Autism Ride. The South Florida Trail Riders have taken their fun-loving, horseback riding spirit and mixed it with their generous hearts to enjoy a day of trail riding in Homestead followed by a fabulous party at the beautiful Rancho Victoria, home of the Sifuentes Family. The trail ride and party afterwards are open to anyone who wants to enjoy great food, music, dancing, dancing Andalusian horses, and a silent auction and raffle. 100% of the proceeds go to support scholarships for therapeutic horseback riding for children with disabilities. This year the Autism Ride raised almost \$17,000 which will translate to 340 hours of horseback riding!

Thank you to Sylvia Cruz-Alvarez, Domingo Hernandez, the South Florida Trail Riders, and all of the generous guests and sponsors of the event! Your kindness will help change a child's life.



Trying Something A Little Different

In case you're missing your favorite horses at Whispering Manes, we've found a way to fill the void, virtually speaking. We have set up a schedule of **Facebook Live** and **Watch Party** video streams to visit with a different horse each week. If you missed a live event or watch party, you can still visit our Facebook page and see the recorded video. If we haven't posted an event with your favorite horse, please leave a comment and let us know who you'd like to see!

New events are scheduled for **Fridays at 12:30**, so bring the kids and have some fun.

Not on Facebook? Some videos can also be seen on our YouTube channel. [Click here](#) to see the most recent videos.

Through the amazing world of technology, Robin has also been able to translate some of our horse photos into pictures that you can download and print. Let your kids color the horses, or maybe the adults will want to also (coloring can be very relaxing), and then email us the finished art. We will post your creations on Instagram and Facebook for all to enjoy!

Send your masterpiece to: info@whisperingmanes.org

Whispering Manes coloring books are available to download from our website www.whisperingmanes.org/coloringbook



Ride For The Roses Student Horse Show

This will be the first year since we opened that we will not have our Ride For The Roses Student Horse Show in May, but don't worry! The horse show is merely postponed, so mark your calendars and plan to join us on **Saturday, September 26 for the Welcome Back Horse Show.**

In the meantime, we thought we would revisit some great horse show memories and share a few 'Then and Now' photos. We have watched these riders grow up and we are so proud of all of their successes!

In this month of volunteer appreciation, we'd also like to thank the many volunteers who have made the student horse shows so much fun. Special mention goes out to Sharon Vosseller and Charmaine Desmeules who have been at every horse show since 2013!



Honoring Honey

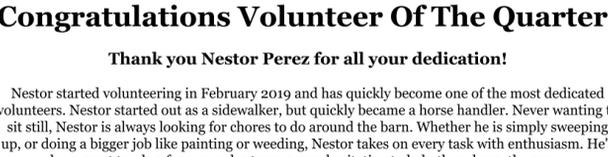
We don't always focus on the individual program horses in our newsletter, but this seems like a good time to honor those we love, and we love Honey! Honey is a sweet little Quarter Horse who was adopted from a rescue in Southwest Ranches on January 19, 2012, and she participated in the very first class offered at Whispering Manes on January 23, 2012. When Honey first joined Whispering Manes she had a ratty tail and was a little underweight because she was living with a bunch of yearlings (young horses) who would chew her tail and chase her from her food, and she was too nice to stop them. A little known fact about Honey: she was trained at the rescue to be a western pleasure/trail horse, which included going through the drive through window at McDonald's! Honey, now 15 years old, is the matriarch of the herd, the go-to horse for many new riders, and the very foundation of the Whispering Manes horse family.



Celebrating Volunteer Appreciation Week April 19 - 25, 2020

Even though we won't be together to celebrate this year, volunteers are always in our heart. We cannot thank our dedicated volunteers enough. Please know we truly appreciate all of the time you spend helping with classes, horse care, and barn chores. Last year, volunteers contributed over **4300 hours** of their time! We could not do this truly special work without your support and time. We miss you!

Stay healthy and know that we are looking forward to welcoming you back as soon as possible.



Congratulations Volunteer Of The Quarter!

Thank you Nestor Perez for all your dedication!

Nestor started volunteering in February 2019 and has quickly become one of the most dedicated volunteers. Nestor started out as a sidewalker, but quickly became a horse handler. Never wanting to sit still, Nestor is always looking for chores to do around the barn. Whether he is simply sweeping up, or doing a bigger job like painting or weeding, Nestor takes on every task with enthusiasm. He's also a great teacher for new volunteers, never hesitating to help them learn the ropes.



Congratulations Nestor !

Do you know someone who has been an extraordinary volunteer at Whispering Manes? Please let us know so that we can spotlight them in a future newsletter. We can't do the work we do without the help of volunteers so we want to make sure we are always showing our appreciation.

Want To Become More Involved With Whispering Manes?

There's a lot of excitement around the barn: new horses, new programs on and off property (on hiatus at the moment), and new community connections all to benefit people who need the curious, engaging, and entertaining relationship that can be developed with a horse.

Do you want to become more involved? There are many ways you can do that— become a volunteer, help create a connection with someone in the community who might benefit from equine assisted activities, or become a donor to help support the good work we are doing everyday.

Your time, your talents, or your financial gift, will help us continue to offer high quality programming for people in our community who are most in need of assistance. If you would like to learn more about how to become a volunteer or to schedule a tour please visit our website www.whisperingmanes.org or [click here](mailto:info@whisperingmanes.org) to send us an email.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Like everyone around us, our upcoming events are temporarily on hold, but we promise, as soon as we are able, we will reopen and will be available to support our community and friends with special needs. Until then, follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter and keep watch for our Facebook Live streams so you can stay connected to your favorite horses.

Fingers Crossed, Summer Camp Sign Up Coming Soon!

June 8-26, 2020, as planned, but may be postponed until July if needed. We'll keep you posted.

