

HOOF PRINTS

880 Runnymede Road
Woodside, CA 94062
Phone: (650) 851-2271
Fax: (650) 851-3480

National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy

Winter 2009

Quarterly Newsletter
www.nceft.org



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!
2009**

NCEFT Holiday Party 2008

On Sunday, December 14th, NCEFT hosted its annual Holiday Party. The gathering was enjoyed by our patients, family members, volunteers and staff. Everyone had a wonderful time.



A deli luncheon buffet was provided and guests brought their favorite side dishes, holiday dessert and treats for everyone to share. The food was delicious and the company was wonderful.



Santa arrived on Sebastian around 1:00 pm — bearing gifts for all the good little boys and girls. Each child received a present from Santa, a

stocking stuffed full of toys and yummy treats. The joy and excitement lit up the children's faces as they sat on Santa's lap.



The afternoon was full of special memories. Everyone seemed to have fun and there were plenty of left overs to share at the end of the party.



We wish to extend our sincere gratitude to all the volunteers who helped put on this wonderful event. We have heard back from so many who attended and everyone said they had a great time and appreciate the effort put in to this special annual event.



DAY OF THE HORSE

Last summer, Woodside hosted its annual Day of the Horse celebration on Saturday, Oct. 11th. The weather was perfect for the occasion and hundreds of people, vendors and horse related businesses came out in support of this special community event.



The theme of the event was the Paniolo, otherwise known as a Hawaiian Cowboy. There was fine food, plenty of fun activities for the children and a progressive trail ride through the town and one of the trail stops was NCEFT.

NCEFT also hosted an information booth at City Hall. Both staff and volunteers answered questions about our programs and services, while sharing inspirational pictures and stories of healing and recovery.

We thank the city of Woodside for continuing this local tradition and look forward to participating again next year.

School Picture Day at the Stables

On Saturday, November 15, 2008 the sun was shining down on NCEFT. A clear and warm fall day in Woodside made it a perfect day for photos! Thanks to Sharon Tiraschi, our Barn Manager, and our wonderful and talented volunteers, we were able to get all new photos for 21 horses!

It was a flurry of activity as our "models" were groomed, led to the staging area, and posed. Manes were fluffed, tails brushed, faces were wiped, and the grooming bays were thick with the smell of Showsheen.

Everybody, from Little Roxy to Teddy (our new Percheron) was proudly posed in front of our gorgeous trees for a full body picture, and then again for a head shot. At the beginning of the afternoon, we tried to pose them actually standing on the grass, but this proved to be rather self defeating, as it **was** a little too distracting for our grass loving beasts.

As a reward for good behavior, each horse was given a couple of cookies. Mini carrots were also handed out freely (except, of course to Roxy who by the way is still lookin' good!)

(continued on page 3))

NCEFT Gala Dinner and Auction Under the Stars

On Saturday, September 20th, NCEFT hosted its first annual Gala Dinner and Auction at our new facility. With only 7 weeks to plan this important fundraiser, staff and volunteers worked tirelessly to pull together a memorable event.

With the help of almost 30 volunteers, the Gala Committee was able to collect beautiful auction items for both the live and silent auction. Community members, local business owners and generous individuals donated over 90 high quality items and the bidding was enthusiastic and competitive.

In addition to the auction, there was also a special appeal for support of NCEFT's planned Therapy Room. This project will provide a much needed and larger therapy room so our patients are able to receive P.T. and O.T. treatments indoors, when not on horseback. The Therapy

Room will also be a place where small groups can meet and classes for staff and other groups affiliated with NCEFT will utilize it as well.

The Path of Dreams is a new program in which brick in 3 different sizes will be sold then inscribed with the donor's name or sentiment. These bricks will be installed at the entrance of the covered arena so that donors and others can see them when they visit NCEFT.

Thanks to the incredible dedication of our outstanding volunteers and dedicated staff, this event was a true success.

For those of you who donated time, resources, item and/or came to support the event, we extend our most sincere and heart felt appreciation to you.

Photo Day at NCEFT *(continued from page 2)*

We'd like to extend a special and sincere thanks goes to our photographer, Paul Tsang. What a patient and kind man with a good sense of humor! Paul volunteers his photography skills for the Peninsula Humane Society and the Homeless Cat Network.

This is his first time photographing horses, but you'd never have guessed. He quickly got the hang of taking full body shots on the horse's "good" side (mane side) and was very quick to see a good shot and capture it.



Teddy, our new percheron

Volunteer Opportunities:

- **Administrative Tasks**
- **Community Outreach**
- **Computer Assistance**
- **Fund Development**
- **Grounds and Maintenance Help**
- **Header**
- **Sidewalker**
- **Small Animal Care**
- **Special Events**

Treatment Animals:

Therapy Horses: Ben, Boon, Cody, Danny, Java, Jazzy, Leo, Odie, Tucker, Sebastian, Valentine

Small Animals: Roxy (mini horse), Willy & Wonka (mini donkeys), Goats; Charlotte, Lucy, Tank, Wilbur

A fond farewell to Grey & Happy and a fond welcome to Teddy & Valentine!

Cat: Shadow

Chickens: Too many to name!

Volunteer Reminders:

Please remember to sign in and out, each time you volunteer. Name tags are encouraged because it helps everyone know who's who, so if you do not have one or have misplaced yours, please let AJ know. Be sure to keep your cell phones off and don't leave valuables visible in your cars while parked on site.

Staffing Changes

As many of you may know, Rita Almon, our Executive Director (E.D.) has decided to take time to reconnect with her family and friends. Therefore she has decided to resign as our E.D., in order to have the time and energy she needs to pursue that part of her life again.

Rita is a long time supporter of NCEFT through her membership on our Board of Directors, volunteering and most recently her role as our E.D. Rita plans to stay connected to us through her ongoing liaison with the Veterans Administration, our Development committee and volunteering.

In addition to Gari Merendino's responsibilities for our operations, he has now assumed the role of Executive Director.

Katheryn Rollo, our Occupational Therapist, is getting married and moving to the Central Coast. We will all miss that smile. Tineke Jacobsen is now seeing patients on Thursday afternoon as well as her regular patients on Wednesday.

Please also welcome Carlie Tobiason and Roxanne Chess, who have joined us as Interns. As part of their training to be Physical and Occupational Therapists, they will be working with our Therapists over the next several weeks. As it is with our volunteers, they will quickly become an important part of our team.

Unfortunately, because of pressure to cover our operating expenses, we had to eliminate Mary Goulart's position as Volunteer Coordinator. As we all know, Mary has done a great job developing our volunteer program and working with all of us to make certain we have trained and motivated volunteers to support the work done at NCEFT. Her dedication to NCEFT will be missed. Mary's last day will be February 13th but we'll continue to see her when she brings her son for treatment each week.

AJ Shelton, who is currently a horse handler and certified therapeutic riding instructor will take on the Volunteer Coordinator responsibilities. As you can imagine, AJ will be stretched pretty thin so everything we can do as staff and volunteers to help AJ with the transition, is appreciated.