



## ASYMCA After School Program

H.E.A.R.T.s Astride is nearing the end of a six week after school program being run in coordination with the ASYMCA. Five middle school students have been brought by van to our facility by the Armed Services YMCA director Linda Bright.

Diana used our new curriculum as a trial run and then has used Midnight for vaulting, the miniature horses for some fun and games, and has taken the kids on a "field trip" to Miss Patty's home to visit the miniature horses. The six week program will wind up with a short lesson in driving. The five students involved in the program have enjoyed their time with us.



*After school program students enjoy vaulting on Midnight*

### Board Members

Margaret Settle, President  
Diana Gerdes, Executive Director  
Jennifer Erst, Secretary  
Kelly Kowalski, Treasurer  
Kristen Jenner, Webmaster  
Beth Murray, Volunteer Coordinator  
Stephanie Gosnell

### Staff

Diana Gerdes, Executive Director  
Instructor  
Jennifer Erst, Program Director

### Upcoming Events

- ♥ October 26, ribbon cutting ceremony.
- ♥ November 2, Waynesville school will bring a class out for a ride.
- ♥ Annual NARHA Conference November 13-18.

## Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

It is time to be officially recognized in our community. Please come join us on October 26th at 4:30pm. We have spent two years getting all our basic paperwork and structure taken care of and have now received our 501 ( c)3 status and can truly begin to grow. The first part of this growth was becoming a NARHA member center and now there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony with the Chamber of Commerce.

We will be combining this event with a fun gathering of our Board, Staff, Volunteers and friends that will also be a thank you to the Richland Lodge for their generous donation. The men of the Richland Mason's Lodge wanted the opportunity to see what we do and volunteer as side walkers.

We will begin at 4:30 pm with a short session that will allow the Masons to assist followed by a short speech by our Executive Director, Diana Gerdes, followed by the ribbon cutting. This will be our first official function outside of Board Meetings.



*Come join the fun!!*

### Mission

H.E.A.R.T.s Astride utilizes Equines to provide a safe, recreational, and educational environment for children and adults with physical, cognitive, and emotional handicaps, regardless of financial position, In the southern Missouri area.

### Directors Corner

Dear Board members and Friends

Yesterday I noticed how nature is starting to dress up for fall. The weather so far has been very enjoyable, the colors this year will be brilliant. We at H.E.A.R.T.s Astride are moving forward, getting ready for our first regular once a week class. Our goal is to provide 4 Riders the opportunity to participate. All we need now are 15 Volunteers!!!!

Reflecting the past, seeing how fast a dream became reality. I realize it is possible only due to the great people I have around me. Thank you for being positive. There is no time I can recall that anybody I asked for help, or bounced an idea off, said no or did not take time to think and talk about it. We are growing steadily, I can not tell everybody enough how much you are appreciated.

A special Thank you to Jennifer Erst. Without her willingness to turn ideas onto paper, we would not get very far. Jenni is a very busy woman with four children and a husband that works very long hours. Building her business. But is always there for H.E.A.R.T.s Astride when needed. Consider yourself hugged

Take time to come out to the Barn, enjoy the beautiful Fall colours, maybe go for a trail ride. (Call for apt. I will go)

Greetings  
Diana J.C.Gerdes

### Volunteers

Volunteers are the backbone of this organization. Without them we could not do what we do. Volunteers assist during lessons, with facility maintenance, fundraising and special events. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please contact us and let us now.

Contact the Volunteer coordinator, Beth Murray, at [kufans@embarqmail.com](mailto:kufans@embarqmail.com)

### Welcome to our newest Board Member Stephenie Gosnell.

We have a new Board Member! Stephenie Gosnell is an active duty Marine Captain stationed at Fort Leonard Wood. Stephenie began lessons at Germania stables and showed interest in assisting with H.E.A.R.T.s Astride. She has some prior experience with Grants and fundraising. These are two important areas coming up in our next phase of growth.

Make sure to meet Stephenie and welcome her aboard!

H.E.A.R.T.s Astride would like to extend a HUGE Thank you to the volunteers that assisted us during the 6 week after school program with the ASYMCA.



Mary Hogan     Jenna Smith  
Julia Erst     Caroline Gerdes