



# H.E.A.R.T.s Astride

Issue 4

May 2007

## Upcoming Events

- ♥ Volunteer training
- ♥ Grant writing
- ♥ Board Meeting June 8, 2007

## **H.E.A.R.T.s Astride is now Officially a Non Profit Organization!**

We received the letter from the IRS on Wednesday May 9<sup>th</sup>, informing us that we have finally been given our non for profit status. The long wait is over and we can now begin some serious fund raising and begin writing some grants.

Our plan is to spend the summer training and preparing and begin offering scheduled therapy sessions in the coming school year.

## **Yard Sale**

On Saturday, April 28, we held a yard sale/cookout. This was all arranged by Margaret Settle.

Thank you for all the donations for the yard sale. We earned \$150.00.

A big thanks to all those who showed up to help.

Also a big thanks to John Edborg for being our Grill Master!

## **First Volunteer Training**

Our Volunteer coordinator, Beth Murray, held Our first volunteer training on April 28<sup>th</sup> during the yard sale.

We plan to hold another training session some time during the month of June.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please give Beth a call or send her an e-mail. We need many more volunteers!!



Molly enjoying the green pasture.

## **School Curriculum**

At the last NARHA conference, Jenni and Diana attended a seminar held by Debbie Anderson and Linda Zimmerman, the founders of Strides for Success, a therapeutic riding center located in Indianapolis. We purchased the curriculum created by these two Ladies. It is called "Cowboy Poetry". The 13 lessons are designed to teach character education that coincides with the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets. "Strides EAL (equine assisted learning- using the horse as a member of the teaching team) curriculum was created to give students an opportunity to be successful through creative activities that fully engage their bodies and their minds versus the traditional approaches such as classroom lectures." "By utilizing the Strides model, many students have gained new life skills that have helped them stay out of trouble, stay in school, and become more successful and productive students. The pathway for these life lessons are the magnificent horses and the non-threatening and unfamiliar environment at the farm". We have begun to review the first two lessons and plan to try out the first lesson during the upcoming Crocker class visit.

## **Volunteer of the Month**

Beth Murray is our volunteer of the month for May. She has taken over the job of Volunteer Coordinator and put together a training session that has officially kicked off our volunteer team. Nothing is more important to a non-profit organization than its volunteer team. Beth herself is a volunteer staff member as well as our Health Coordinator and has dedicated many hours to this program.

Thank you Beth for your time and dedication to H.E.A.R.T.s Astride.