

Why we ride...

Money raised by Pony Express is donated to Camp Sunnyside, which helps nearly 8,000 Iowans with disabilities annually. Camp Sunnyside is Easter Seals' flagship program, offering recreational opportunities for children and adults with disabilities.

Easter Seals also offers:

- ◆ A place to try new activities and learn new skills like horseback riding, boating and camping.
- ◆ A place that will loan a wheelchair or other durable medical equipment to a family who cannot afford to buy one.
- ◆ A place that will help farmers who have a disability stay on the farm when they thought there was no hope.
- ◆ A place that provides employment training for people with a disability in the Des Moines area.
- ◆ A place that provides respite services to families and caregivers.
- ◆ A place that provides training for independent living, self-reliance and confidence in one's own abilities.

Thank you for your support of this important work!



Save the Date
2012 Pony Express Annual Meeting
Sunday, May 6, 2012
1:00 PM—Camp Sunnyside



The Pony Express Riders of Iowa

Name	_____	
Address	_____	
City	_____	
State/ZIP	County	_____
Phone	Email	_____

_____ Lifetime Member
 \$30 (voting)

_____ Contributing Member
 \$10 (voting)

_____ Active Member
 \$5 (voting)

_____ Family Member
 \$5 (two votes)

_____ Jr. Member 17 & under
 \$.50 (non-voting)

Mail to:
 Pony Express Riders of Iowa
 P.O. Box 1704
 Des Moines, IA 50305

2011-2012 Board of Directors



Not pictured: Johnny Johnson, Leann Williams, Tim Allen, Robi Whitfield

President Bob McWilliams	SE Region VP Kim Gamble	Johnny Johnson
President-Elect Steve Bomer	SW Region VP Robi Whitfield	Donnie Essick, Jr.
Secretary Jan Sieren	Representatives Joyce Johnson	Barb Van Wyk
Treasurer Irena McWilliams	Aaron Miers	Leann Williams
NE Region VP Tom Nehl	Carmen Zech	Jeff Bailey
NW Region VP Tim Allen	Pat Conroy	Inez DeMoss
	Paxton Reese	
	Heidi Kriener	
	Ex - Officio Darrell Gamble	
	State Coordinator Carole Bailey	

Get your news by "Currier"...

The Pony Express *Currier* is a free monthly newsletter offered to current members that keeps you up to date on the latest Pony Express news. Each issue is written by members and volunteers of Pony Express, and includes news about the organization and a calendar of events. The Pony Express *Currier* is also used to share ideas and plans from other Pony Express groups.

Submissions to the *Currier* must be received by the 15th of the month to be included in the following issue. To receive the *Currier*, or to submit information, contact:

Pony Express Riders of Iowa
 P.O. Box 1704
 Des Moines, Iowa 50305
 Phone: (515) 309-9779 Carole Bailey
 Fax: (515) 289-1281
 E-mail: cbailey@eastersealsia.org

the Pony Express EXTRA



FALL 2011

2011 PONY EXPRESS RIDES AGAIN!



2011- 44th Annual Pony Express Ride into Camp Sunnyside

On April 23rd, 2011 the Pony Express Riders of Iowa rode into Camp Sunnyside for the 44th consecutive year with the tradition of delivering the funds raised throughout the year, and *deliver*, they did..... Bringing in just over \$207,000, but with a fiscal year end totaling **\$232,563**, bringing it to a grand total of over **\$8.7 million** raised to benefit Easter Seals Camp Sunnyside and the disabled Iowans they serve.

Camp Sunnyside celebrated their 50th Birthday this year and we can be proud to say that we've strongly supported them for 44 of those 50 years!

Even with budget cuts & the continuing competition for donations, the dedicated Pony Express members & their helpers are finding ways to overcome obstacles & get our job done. It's great to see some counties "thinking outside the box" and trying some new fundraising ideas. This past year was our 2nd Annual Pony Express Weekend at River Valley in Farmington, and we surpassed last year's income by \$2,000, raising \$6024, & it was our first partnership with DD Rodeo & that also was a huge success, and our expectations are set High for both of these events next year.

We've also had some exceptional accomplishments this year that can't be measured by \$\$ amounts, including the Pony Express Riders winning the *Governor's Award*, & at the first ever Royalty Contest at the Iowa Horse Fair, Donae Hedlund, representing the Marshall County Pony Express, won the Senior Cowgirl Queen Contest, and at the Iowa State Fair Cowgirl Queen Contest, Rilee Proffitt, representing the Lucas County Pony Express won the Junior title. What positive exposure & signs of growth for the organization as more & more of these young people become involved & show their support.

What a wonderful feeling to know as a 44 year strong group, we CAN & DO make a difference in so many lives, let's keep growing & going strong for years to come!

Congratulations to the 2011 Raffle Winners

Nevin Hamilton & wife Toni were the winners of the Kubota, with the winning ticket being drawn out of 28,981 tickets



William & Carol Fajen of Carson were the lucky winners of the **Horse Raffle**. They purchased their winning ticket in the Avenue of Breeds at the Iowa State Fair, never expecting to get a phone call at Noon on the last day, they Chose the cash option, rather than taking "Lena"

From Our President.....

To all the Pony Express Members, Volunteers & helpers: I'd like to congratulate & Thank you for all you've done for however many of these past 44 years you've been involved with Pony Express!

As I try to reflect on this past year, I'm not even going to touch on numbers or statistics (that's what we have Carole for) What I would like to touch on is our growth & our strength. I have watched as stronger county groups have lent a hand either of experience or man power to neighboring counties that may be struggling to put on an event, and watched as many of you travel to other counties to show your support of their event, and for this I commend you. After all, at the end of the day, the money raised no matter what county it comes from, all goes to the same place & for the same cause.

I'm also encouraged by seeing the numbers of our youth & young families increasing, & we need to see this kind of growth for our organization to remain strong for many years to come. With younger volunteers we'll see & hear new thoughts & ideas, so those of us that are older & a bit more experienced need to encourage & support them all we can, for they someday will be stepping into our shoes as county chairs, board members & officers!

For the past 44 years we have shown what dedication & commitment can do to help make a difference in the lives of so many with disabilities, so as my term ends in May, I'd like to ask a couple of things of you: first that you all continue to show that dedication & commitment, and second that as Steve Bomer takes his seat as President, you will show him the same support as I've seen in the past 2 years as your President.

I want to close by again saying, "Thank you for all you do, be safe, good luck & may God Bless you & those you love."

Bob



RIDE DAYS 2012 will be held on April 6th & 7th