

IA Youth Benefit Saddle Club Show

By Kathy Krukow

The year 2008 will long be remembered by many as the year of the 500 year floods, and devastating EF5 tornadoes that struck the Midwest. But for some, it will remain a year of miracles and hope for many children and their families.

It was also a time that allowed one Iowa saddle club to shine.

The Iowa Youth Benefit Saddle Club rose to the challenges that this difficult year offered, by donating proceeds from sponsorships and their Annual Benefit Horse Shows to local and National Charities. To date, thousands of dollars have been donated to the following charities: Alzheimer's Walk For Life, Salvation Army Fund Drive, St. Jude Children's Hospital, Camp Sunny Side, New Hartford Fire and Rescue, Camp Ingawanis Equine Program, Butler County Christmas Cheer program, Blake Winter Benefit, Phillip Westerfelt Family Benefit, Tornado and Flood Victims Relief Fund, Black Hawk County Humane Society Animal Flood Relief, Children's Miracle Network, and the Iowa State Fair Blue Ribbon Foundation.

The Iowa Youth Benefit Saddle Club, formerly the NEISCA Youth Group, was established in 2006 when members decided to take the club in a new direction. A decision was made to make a difference in the life of a child. Hence the club's mission statement, "You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give."

Each year, two or more charities or non-profit organizations are selected on the basis of need, and the impact they will have on the life of a child. One of the organizations must benefit children nation-wide and around the world, while the other remains a state or local non-profit group or charity.

Members are also encouraged to participate in community activities. This year, they helped with tornado and flood clean up in their areas. As a result of this



involvement, a donation was made to the New Hartford Fire and Rescue (*photo, above*) toward the purchase of a battery back up tornado siren. Donations of dog food and blankets were made to the Black Hawk Humane Society to help flood and tornado-rescued pets.

One member also offered pasture and stall space for horses displaced by the flooding.

Families are the focus of the group, with every attempt made to help families facing crisis. We provide help with medical bills after accident or illness, and loss of a home, or a family member.

Bricks have been or will be placed before the 2009 Iowa State Fair outside the Horse Barn in memory of "special horse people" who have had a positive impact on the club and its members.

Co-Chairs Kathy Krukow and Rachael Lampson credit the club's success to the support of individuals, businesses, and major corporations, who so generously sponsored classes for the club's Annual Benefit Horse Show. The club would like to extend a special invitation to the horse show, to be held

June 14, 2009 at the Silver Spur Arena located in Waterloo, Iowa. Come join the fun! There is something for everyone: added money for youth and adult classes, and special prizes for Eight and Under competitors, and a time to enjoy family, friends, and horses.

St. Jude Children's Hospital will again be one of the charities selected to receive funds from the Benefit Show.

The Iowa Charity selected for 2009 will be the Children's Habilitation (Child Serve) located at Johnston, Iowa. Child Serve was established in 1928, as a Junior Convalescent Home, which served children recovering from diseases such as rheumatic fever, tuberculosis and polio. At the present time, the facility serves approximately 2,200 children annually, by providing day care for children with disabilities, and long and short-term skilled nursing care for children only.

If you are interested in sponsoring a class in our show, or know of a charity or non-profit organization in need of funding, attending the show or becoming a member, please contact one of the following Board Members: Kathy Krukow 319-276-3494, Rachael Lampson 319-885-6370, Peg Bettis 319-235-1273 or Jerry Bishop 563-920-4255.

Please see our showbill on the facing page.

