

## Global Story

President/ Executive Director

Hearts & Hooves

July 2007

Michelle Kropp is leading a new breed of animal assisted therapy using miniature horses to help special needs children, the sick and the elderly. The hugely popular program is a first of its kind program in Canada. A competitor in international shows with Arabian horses and Reserve National Champion she heard about a like program in Texas and trained with them and founded Hearts & Hooves here in 2004. Michelle Kropp is hosting Level I Workshops to International guests at Hearts & Hooves to train others who wish to start like programs across Canada and the US. Michelle has written three childrens books about the Hearts & Hooves horses story and advocate for the proper care of horses everywhere.

Michelle Kropp is the daughter of long time residents Randy and Debbie Kropp who have been an amazing support and driving force behind her desire to make a difference. Michelle grew up here in Fort Saskatchewan and calls the Fort home. "Fort Saskatchewan has been a wonderful place to grow up, and has been so supportive to Hearts & Hooves and is part of its continuing success"

On a farm outside of Fort Saskatchewan, the 30 year old is a Teacher who works as a Aide in a Early Intervention Program and in her spare time works with volunteers to rescue miniature horses that have been abused, neglected, or discarded as pets and works with them to regain trust and love as they share their special form of therapy down the halls of hospitals, schools, and seniors homes. Since 2004 18 horses have rested themselves at Hearts & Hooves, many have been adopted out to forever homes though sadly a few have passed away. Currently Hearts & Hooves has 7 horses and 45 Volunteers.

Hearts & Hooves is comprised entirely of Volunteers lead by Michelle Kropp they visit tens of thousands of people in the Edmonton and surrounding areas.

Hearts & Hooves is a registered Charitable Organization that relays on donations to operate. Hearts & Hooves website is a wonderful source of information if you should be interested in volunteering, setting up a visit, or making a donation. This year Hearts & Hooves will need to raise over \$50,000 to cover the cost of the horses care, fuel, insurance, and supplies. Consider donating as an individual or as a company towards making a visit possible to a local seniors home, special needs program, or to a area hospital. If you believe you can help email Michelle at [heartsandhoovesedmonton@yahoo.ca](mailto:heartsandhoovesedmonton@yahoo.ca) or call her at 940-7839