

SEPTEMBER 2013



*Olivia riding her horse Numbers*



*TSC Team's help with games, everybody say, "Yea!"*



*Dad helping to stretch*

Dear JAKES Club,

Everyone is saying, "The summer has gone by fast!" and here at Jesus And Kids Evangelistic Saddle Club it certainly did! The Lord blessed us with the best August temperatures and a great fun-time ending at the Missouri State Fair; enjoy the Gallery of pictures on the website. ☺ JAKES Club's VSC-Volunteer Saddle Club youth also had a tremendous summer, with lots of pleasure riding in English, Western and Bareback saddle enjoyment. They continue to amaze me at their dedication to learn more about horse care, riding and safety; so they can share more with the Therapeutic Saddle Club (TSC) children. Enjoy this month's TSC testimony of one special little gal to keep in your prayers.

Olivia's Story:

Olivia is our 3 year old daughter who will turn 4 in September and we are very excited to celebrate with her! Olivia has Myoclonic and Generalized Epilepsy which affects her muscles and appears like a cold chill; a twitch is what we call them. She has anywhere from 1 to 100+ seizures a day and some days are better than others. They are very short and she grunts when she has them. Her other seizures are grand-mal and they call them generalized because Olivia doesn't fit a specific classification.

We noticed Olivia's seizures when she was 14 months old, the day after Thanksgiving. We were devastated when she had her first seizure. Olivia has an older sister that died at 20months who was also affected by seizures. We were terrified this meant that we would lose Olivia too.

We have been very blessed by the exceptional doctors Olivia has at Children's Mercy and her pediatrician. Olivia's development has been on track with any other child her age, except for the seizures. Olivia now takes four different medications and started a special diet to try and reduce the amount of seizures she has a day. We have discovered triggers to some of her seizures and try to stay away from those things.

One thing Olivia loves is horses. When we found out about Jake's Club we were nervous at first because she loves animals from far away but up close, look out! Well, she put all our fears to rest. She got right up on the horse and has loved every ride. She talks about riding horses all the time and whenever we see horses she always says, "There's Phil and Numbers!"

There are things that Olivia struggles with and gets frustrated with because of the frequency of her seizures. One thing that never seems to frustrate her is "Horses" she calls it. She seems at home on the horse, confident, excited, and proud of what she is doing.

Her dad and I are grateful for the opportunity JAKES Club has provided Olivia. Due to all of her daily medications and doctors bills, there is no way we could afford this type of activity for her. We all look forward to her rides every week and the volunteers who help the program. Olivia is very happy riding "her horse" she says.

Thank you JAKES Club and volunteers for making Olivia's experience every week enjoyable. She loves riding and we are so thankful to everyone at JAKES Club that makes this happen each week!

Well, you can hear in their heart what JAKES Club means to this family and their little girl. We are continually thankful the Lord has called us to minister to special families like Olivia's. Especially free-of-charge! The founding families, even after all of these 13 years, are still amazed and grateful for everyone who helps make JAKES Club possible. Bless you!

Also, thank you for helping with the fall fundraisers mentioned in JAKES Club's August newsletter. Please remember to spread the word about "Riders for Riders" motorcycle benefit Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> and try to participate. You will be able to watch special children ride their horses for you, just like Olivia! Remember guests are always welcome during September-October programs, Tuesday-Friday to cheer the kids on. ☺

Thanks again for everything and keep JAKES Club's fall TSC programs in your thoughts and prayers.

Blessings,

Cathie and JAKES Club's Team



**Donation Choices:**

- [ ] **Workplace Giving** – Contact employer for matching giving – CFC #80536 Federal or MSECC #3007 State employees
- [ ] **Donor Choice – Option with the United Way** and Combined Federal Campaign #80536
- [ ] **PayPal Online** – www.JAKESClub.org – Donate *or* **Automatic Pay & Mailing** through your bank – Contact bank for more information
- [ ] **Monthly Check** – Self addressed envelope provided
- [ ] **Specific JAKESClub.org Fundraising: Sun. Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> K.C. Royals "Bike Night @ the K" & "Riders4Riders" Sat. Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> Blue Springs Harley Davidson**