



cpas care

This article is the third in a series of features profiling CPAs who are participating in the CPAs Care Ad Campaign.

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HORSING AROUND

By Amy E. Gaeth

Adam Mueller, CPA grew up riding horses and competing in national horse shows. Today, he shares his passion for horses by volunteering in administration and management for the Wisconsin Quarter Horse Association (WQHA).

"I like being involved in the horse industry. It's a way for me to use my natural talents to help plan the future direction of the organization," Mueller said.

Giving back to his community is also a strong part of his Christian faith. He said his parents taught him at very young age that "everybody has a duty to share the gifts they've been given."

Mueller has volunteered for various Quarter Horse organizations since 1998, when he began serving as a youth director for the Northeast Wisconsin Quarter Horse Association, located in Appleton. He later served as its president for five years. After graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, he landed a job at Wipfli LLP in Wausau. He found it more difficult to stay involved in Appleton because of the travel commitment. So he decided to participate at the state level, becoming the director for the north central and northwestern district of the WQHA.

He also has coordinated the WQHA's breed demonstration at the Annual Midwest Horse Fair for the past three years and has been involved with the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA). In 2006, he was part of a select group of participants from across the country to go through AQHA's Leadership program in Amarillo, Texas, leading to an appointment on the Amateur Committee for the AQHA.

By sharing his time and talent with the various Quarter Horse associations, Mueller hopes to create a positive perception about the CPA image. "We need to be ambassadors for our profession," Mueller said. "CPAs are a diverse group of people with a variety of interests. Getting out in your community and showing everyone who you are, who you represent as a group of CPAs and who you work for is important."

Mueller's employer is also spreading good deeds. In October 2007, Wipfli held its Third Annual Community Day. Wipfli employees from Wisconsin and Minnesota spent a half day doing volunteer proj-

ects for organizations like the Humane Society, the YMCA, United Way and Habitat for Humanity.

Mueller, a senior auditor at Wipfli, said his hobby is a great stress reliever. After a long work day, he heads to a small stable in rural Wausau where he boards his 16-year-old retired show horse, Ollie.

"It's nice to unwind and spend some quiet time outdoors with my horse," he said. "I've always loved horses – how beautiful and powerful they are. The fact that they basically give up that kind of power for a human is amazing."

Riding horses is a family affair. Mueller's parents owned horses before they had children. After a 14-year hiatus to focus on their children, Mueller's father bought his mother a horse for her birthday.

"When I was 12, I started going with my mom to the boarding stable where she kept her horse. I began taking lessons on a lesson horse, and was hooked," Mueller said.

Even though his older sister, a family therapist in Appleton, is not interested in horses, she has involved the family's horses in her therapy sessions.

"My sister has used our horses when working with troubled teenagers," he said. "These teens don't know anything about horses, but they can understand the strength and power that even a small horse has. It gives them a better per-

spective on life and teaches them some measure of respect."

After about a year of being exposed to horses, he was asked by his mother if he wanted to get involved in 4-H. Mueller didn't know anything about 4-H, but was willing to give it a shot. He started showing horses in 1994 and has been showing on and off ever since.

"I don't show horses as much as I used to now that I have a career," Mueller said. "But it's something that my parents are pretty into. It keeps my family together when there's nothing else to talk about. We talk about whose horse did what that day."



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A love for
horses inspires
Adam Mueller,
CPA to help
others