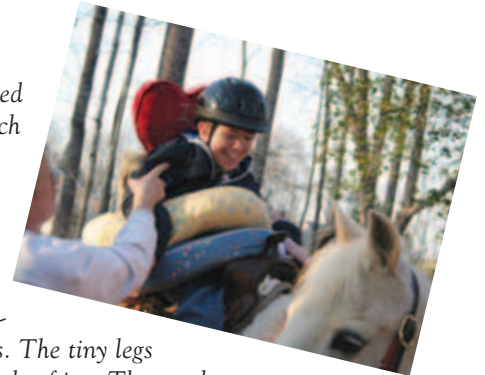


Dear Friends,

I remember his smile and laughter more than anything. More than the spasticity that affected all of his limbs and his speech. At 4 years old Philip was one of our first students. Cotton Patch was a beautiful and kind pony that, because of severe Laminitis, was very limited in the kind of work he could do. Cotton was in his 20's and loved children. He was the perfect match for Philip who, because of his disability, needed a pony with a slow steady gate and a narrow barrel. With two side walkers and a leader to assist, Philip was lifted onto Cotton's back. With his forearms carefully propped on a pillow, and sidewalkers gently helping with balance, Philip rocked forward and back as Cotton took a few slow steps. In just minutes, with encouragement from his volunteers, Philip pushed up on his forearms to look between his pony's ears. The tiny legs that had been drawn up tight to his chest began to lengthen and then came the smile and sounds of joy. The gentle movement of the pony, the sights, sounds and smell of the farm, the touch of the sidewalkers, the encouragement of instructors and family members is an experience that just can't be copied in a clinic.



In the 20 years since our first 8 students mounted their ponies, Riverwood has improved the quality of life in our community by providing over 55,000 lessons and therapy hours to more than 1300 students. Our 10 volunteers have grown to 120, donating more than 5,500 hours each year, and the instructional staff has grown from 1 to 6 nationally certified instructors and 2 barn staff members. Riverwood now has 17 therapy horses in its program and has been a permanent home for 30 horses and ponies. What began as a small afterschool program has grown to include the Children's Center, the Special Children's School, Rural Hall Elementary School and the ABC Child Development Center. The Equine Assisted Psychotherapy program is also reaching those with mental illness. With the completion of the Mobile Education Outreach trailer this year, Riverwood is taking programs out into the community for the first time.

In 2002, our beautiful brick barn and arena was built and additional pasture was secured for sustainability and growth. For the first 7 years we were housed in a small 5 stall barn with a 100 square foot office. Riverwood now occupies a beautiful 10,080 square foot barn with an indoor riding arena, offices space, classroom and indoor plumbing! In 2006 Riverwood became a Premier Accredited Therapeutic Riding Center through PATH Intl. This prestigious accreditation recognizes Riverwood as a center that follows the highest standards in the industry for quality Equine Assisted Activities. Riverwood serves 6 counties and is the only Accredited Center in Forsyth County.

It is with your generous support that Riverwood is where we are today and impacting so many lives in our communities. As we celebrate 20 years of touching lives through equine assisted activities and therapy, we invite you to join us throughout 2015 for special activities. Save the date for our big anniversary BASH throughout the weekend of September 19. We can't imagine celebrating without you!

Susan

Student Highlight: Cullen Whitt



Cullen Whitt, an 8th grader at Wiley Middle School, has been a part of the Riverwood family since August of 2013. When his car pulls into the parking lot every Monday afternoon, he races into the building to find his helmet and emerges a few minutes later into the barn aisle. "Ok, I'm ready to help!" he'll say, often with an enthusiastic salute. After a year of riding Cullen decided to become more involved at Riverwood, and he now arrives an hour before his weekly lesson to assist with grooming and tacking up horses. His desire to help does not stop there – when a new student entered his class in November he introduced himself to the rider and her family, welcoming them to the farm. Cullen says his favorite things about riding at Riverwood are "my classmates, trail rides, and riding fast." Cullen also has a passion for music and plays drums in his school and church bands. His keen sense of rhythm has helped him grow into a skilled rider, but his eagerness and kind spirit are what make him such a valuable part of Riverwood. Walk On, Cullen!

Calendar of Events

Please visit www.riverwoodtrc.org for more information and updates about events.

January 21: 10 AM Wednesday Classes Begin
January 31: Souper Bowl Chili Sale
February 11: No 10 AM Wednesday Class
February 14: Volunteer Orientation: Part 2 from 9 AM to 12 PM
March 11: No 10 AM Wednesday Class
March 14: Volunteer Orientation: Part 1 from 9AM to 12 PM
March 27: Family Fun Night from 6 PM to 7:30 PM
March 30: Spring Break: No Classes AM or PM
April 11: Muddy Creek Pimento Cheese Throwdown & 5K run benefitting Riverwood
April 11: Volunteer Orientation: Part 2 from 9 AM to 12 PM
May 16: Riverwood Spring Fling Horse Show (Rain Date 5/30)
June 13: Volunteer Orientation: Part 1 from 9 AM to 12 PM
June 15: Summer Session Begins: 8 Week Program
July 11: Volunteer Orientation: Part 2 from 9 AM to 12 PM
August 10: Summer Intensive Session Begins: 4 Day Program
August 24: Fall Classes Start
August 29: Volunteer Orientation: Part 1 from 9 AM to 12 PM

MEO Journeys

It has been an eventful first 5 months of traveling with our Mobile Education Outreach trailer! In 2014 the MEO was active at 5 major community events, totaling nearly 2,300 attendees and traveling a cumulative 63 miles. One stop on the MEO's journey was Rural Hall Elementary School, where students were introduced to Riverwood and the minis in preparation for a 4 week riding program at the farm. The MEO's next stop was the Holiday Gallery Hop in downtown Winston-Salem. Here, the staff interacted with the community in the brisk December weather, and received some generous donations for items on the Riverwood Wish Tree.

As we "Walk On" into Riverwood's 20th anniversary, we have even bigger ideas for the MEO. In 2015 we plan to travel with the MEO every month. In addition to attending several community events, the MEO will be part of our plan for a new literacy program for local schools. We are also excited to bring the MEO to the Girl Scouts of Salisbury! They will be working to complete a badge in which they learn how animals can help people, as well as engaging in team building and self-esteem activities. Look out for exciting updates on where we've been and where we're headed all throughout the year on our Facebook page and website.



Summer Riding Opportunities

Riverwood will be expanding our 2015 summer program to an 8 week session so students can maximize their opportunities for fun around the farm. As always, our summer program will offer lessons for the entire community—special needs, typical, child and adult—in a safe and nurturing environment. Our horses and instructors can help even the most timid riders become confident. This year's weekly summer session will run from June 15th through August 7th. There will also be a 4-day intensive session from August 10th through 13th, which will allow riders to be on the farm for several hours of the day to ride, learn and interact with the horses in a much more focused setting. More information on the Summer Intensive program will be available on the summer registration form. Mark your calendars to check our website mid-February for registration information. You can also send us an email at rtrc@windstream.net to be placed on the summer waiting list and we will send you the information when it is available.

Volunteers Needed:

2015 is a promising year for Riverwood as we continue to grow into our 20th year of providing equine assisted activities for children and adults with special needs. In addition to serving over 90 students each week, we have big plans for further expansion of our programming. In turn, we will need more volunteers than ever! Our volunteers are an integral part of Riverwood's success, as they serve as the foundation of our classes. Without them, many of our students would be unable to ride.

Riverwood welcomes all interested volunteers who are 14 years of age or older. All are required to attend a volunteer orientation, which are held bi-monthly; the next will take place on Saturday, March 14th from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Prior horse experience is welcomed but not required, as everything you need to learn will be taught at the orientation. Because it is important to provide our riders with consistency, we ask that volunteers commit to at least a one-hour class, once a week, for a minimum of 8 weeks.

If you have questions or would like to register for an orientation, please contact the office at (336) 922-6426 or rtrc@windstream.net. Thank you for your interest and we look forward to seeing you around the farm!

Sign up for E-News Reminder:

Riverwood is available 24/7 by visiting our website at www.riverwoodtrc.org or you can like us on Facebook. If you still can't get enough, please sign up for our e-news mailing list by sending us an email at rtrc@windstream.net. The e-news arrives once a month and contains pertinent information about the happenings around the farm that month.

2015 Board of Directors

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Kathy Brookby - Susan Hubbard, Exec Dir
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New Staff Member, Erin Smith

We welcome our newest staff member and Development Director, Erin Smith. In addition to over 12 years of horse and riding experience, Erin is a new graduate from the University of Kansas where she obtained a degree in Psychology. With a passion for horses and serving those with special needs, Erin has found her dream job here at Riverwood.



“Dear Riverwood friends and family—I have sincerely enjoyed meeting our volunteers, students and their families thus far, and I look forward to forming friendships with the rest of you in the weeks and months to come. I am thrilled to become a member of the Riverwood family—thank you for such a warm welcoming. Having grown up with horses since I could sit up straight, there is absolutely nowhere else I would rather be than around them.

I have also always dreamed of a career that would allow me to give back and be a meaningful advocate, all while challenging myself intellectually. In combination with my horse experience, my background in psychology

and passion for serving those with special needs blends perfectly with therapeutic riding and Riverwood’s mission. I am invested and determined to play an integral role in bringing Riverwood to its full potential and feel honored to “Walk On” with you all into our 20th year.”—Erin

Welcome Board Member Sue Royster

Sue Royster serves as the Compliance Officer for Northwest Community Care Network, a subsidiary of Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center. Sue relocated to Winston-Salem in 2012 from Pennsylvania where she practiced law for eight years, specializing in health law and corporate litigation. Prior to moving to North Carolina, she served on the Boards of Directors for the Weller Health Education Center and Pediatric Cancer Foundation of the Lehigh Valley, Inc. Through her community work in Pennsylvania, Sue first observed the empowerment equine therapy provides and learned about the positive impact hippotherapy adds to the physical and cognitive care plans for individuals.

Sue has dedicated her community work to supporting the health, development, and emotional well-being of children and adults and was thrilled to learn about Riverwood last year. She was excited to participate on the Riverwood Revue and BBQ planning committee and to volunteer her time to assist with fundraising. Sue graduated magna cum laude from Lafayette College and cum laude from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. She resides in Winston-Salem with her husband, Mark, and their Welsh Terrier, Bella. An avid runner, Sue is a member of the Twin City Track Club. She has also been a member of the Titanic International Society for over a decade.



Hello Sir!

In fall of 2014, Riverwood welcomed Sir to the farm! Generously donated by Linda Grenier, Sir is a Chestnut quarter horse measuring in at 16 hands. Sir captures the hearts of everyone he meets with his gentle eyes and curious personality. He has heard, “I want to take you home with me!” on more than one occasion. Sir serves as a therapy horse to our timid beginners as well as our intermediate and independent students—he carries all with incredible care.

Thank you Hilary Kosloske

Hilary will leave our board of directors after six years of service. Hilary helped lead the board through a change to Policy Governance. She was instrumental in securing funds for improvements around the barn including the cistern and sprinkler system for the indoor arena. Hilary served as board president and also on the development committee. We are so grateful to Hilary for her generous service and leadership and look forward to her continued service on the development committee.

Welcome Elizabeth Phillips to the Board

Elizabeth moved to Winston-Salem 15 years ago. She has volunteered with various non-profit organizations including SciWorks Board, Youth Opportunities Board (11 years), Riverwood Therapeutic Riding Center, The Children’s Home, Komen’s Race for the Cure Race Committee, Art’s Council Allocations Committee, the Wings Program and St. Leo’s Catholic Church. In 2007 Elizabeth was introduced to Riverwood Therapeutic Riding Center and joined the board of directors. After completing her term on the board she continued to be an active member of the Riverwood family volunteering as a leader/sidewalker and helping with special events. Elizabeth is married to Hank Phillips; together they have 3 amazing adult children, Katie, Andrew and Jennifer. Hank and Elizabeth both work at BB&T and in their free time enjoy hiking, kayaking and spending time with our family.

“There are many wonderful non-profit organizations in this community; all of which provide a valuable service and touch many lives in need. However, Riverwood touches my heart in an extra special way as I have witnessed and been a part of the result of the weaving together of hearts among the children, the horses and the volunteers in such a way that a unique bond is formed which spans beyond the class time hour. The instructors and administrative staff possess a genuine and compelling talent of seeing the potential in each participant and delicately orchestrating each player’s abilities to achieve life changing results in the lives of each soul present. I have been touched and now I am hooked; it is an honor to return to the Board of Riverwood.”—Elizabeth

Riverwood Contributors

Since August 2014

Thank you all...We hope we haven't missed anyone. Your continued support is appreciated.

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Beth and Sandy Baldwin
Cecilia and Ashley Balman
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T. Leroy Speer
Jean Sprinkle
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Ken Steele
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Student sponsorships are \$1000 per year and supplement costs that are not covered by tuition.

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Danny & Chris Herko
Nancy Smith
Gordon Family
Meghan Fullgraf

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Benard McMoore by Andrea Bostic
Brooks Brothers by Susan Hubbard
Brooks Brothers by Beth Hano
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by Dr. and Mrs. Richard Forbis
Dr. Doug Young, Trey Moore and
Cotton Patch by Debroah White
For Katie's Sake Endowment
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In Honor of:

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David Petty by Bill and Martha Gribble
Our Brothers, Sisters, Nieces and Nephews
by Kyle and Marie Petty

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Lucky – William and Donna Cowden
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Sassy - Lydia Bell
Skip - Al and Patricia Baker
Thomas - The Hubbard Family
Thomas - Mariam Wright
in honor of Dr. Vickie Newell

In-Kind Donations

Liz Baldwin – paper products
Adelaide Beeker – horse feed
Deborah Bissonette – helmets, chaps,
gloves and riding crop
Mary Franklin Blackburn – saddle,
bridles, stirrups, leathers and
misc. horse related items
Emily Branch – metal storage shelves
and vacuum cleaner
Caitlyn Carter – horse blanket
Ashley Gaddy – saddle, girth, pad, bridle
Miranda and Marissa Crouse - horse feed
Bob and Sally Kenny – office equipment
Martha Key – paper products and office paper
Cindy Martin – paper shredder and microwave
Linda Grenier - Horse Blankets
Lucinda Human - Horse Blankets, gift
bucket of horse care products
Walter Morgan – horse feed
Libby Murphy – saddle, saddle pad, bags,
bridle, boots, halter, misc. tack
Sam Sanger – music at the Revue and BBQ
Walmart – University Parkway – gift card
Reel Shady – music at the Revue
The Williams Brother – music at the Revue
Steve and Susan Hubbard - 2000 Ford
truck and John Deere lawn tractor

Riverwood Revue and BBQ:

Our largest annual fundraising event, The Riverwood Revue and BBQ, was held at the farm on Saturday, September 27th, 2014. This beautiful fall evening led to our most successful Revue yet. The event sold out at 275 attendees! Our guests enjoyed delicious BBQ, a 50/50 Raffle, silent auction, dancing and some out of this world live bluegrass music.

We extend our gratitude to those that attended the event, as well as those who could not attend but made generous contributions to Riverwood in their absence. Through sponsors, event and raffle ticket sales, the silent auction and donations made at the bash we were able to raise \$41,000! The proceeds went directly into Riverwood's funds for horse care and student scholarships. Thus, each participant greatly benefited our mission to provide every child and adult with special needs in our community the opportunity to experience the freedom and empowerment that equine-assisted activities offer.

We would also like to extend our thanks, once again, to all of our event sponsors, Rick and Nancy Hancock, our bands The Williams Brothers, Reel Shady and Sam Sanger, Goodtimes Bar-B-Que, our philanthropy committee, all of our silent auction donors and the countless volunteers who were present and an integral part of this year's success. We couldn't have done it without you all!



2014 Revue & BBQ Sponsors:

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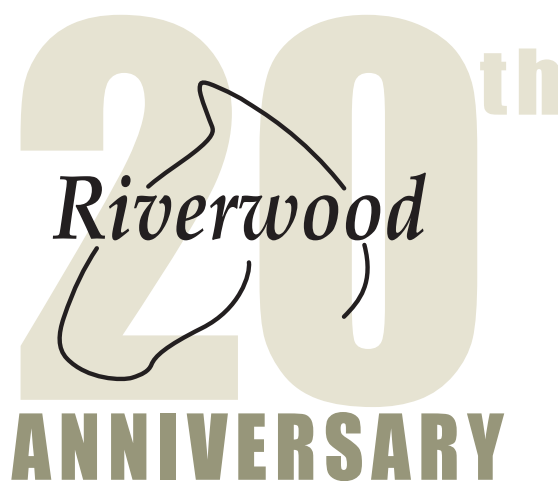
Revue Silent Auction Donations:

Mock Tire on Robinhood Road
LA Reynolds Garden Showcase
Wild Birds Unlimited
Home Depot on University Parkway
Mark Land
Suzanne Faulk at Hair Productions
Jeanette Hyatt at Hair Productions
Cliff Cottingham
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(Southern States Feed)
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(Southern States Feed)
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Postage Stamps
Paper Towels
Toilet Tissue
Liquid Hand Soap
12"-16" (high) cones
Equi-min Mineral Block
(Southern States)
Portable screen
Mini trampoline with a handle
Children's stirrup leathers
Volunteers
Office supply store gift certificates
Walmart gift certificates



Riverwood Rider

Riverwood Therapeutic Riding Center
6825 Rolling View Drive
Tobaccoville, NC 27050

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Souper Bowl Chili Fundraiser

The 12th Annual Souper Bowl Chili Sale is here and we are determined to sell more chili than ever before as we honor Riverwood's 20th Anniversary this year! Throughout the entire month of January you will have the chance to support Riverwood by purchasing delicious chili from Salem Kitchen. Choose from savory vegetarian, classic beef, or white chicken chili, all just \$10/quart. The proceeds will benefit Riverwood by enabling us to continue providing state of the art equine assisted activities for children and adults with special needs. Our MEO will be at Salem Kitchen on pick-up day or even more fun and awareness of Riverwood.

Pre-order your chili online today by simply clicking the chili button on our website or Facebook profile, or send a check directly to the farm with your printed order form.

Don't forget the challenge is still on to see how much money your old chili containers hold! Last year, our very own Kyle Petty issued this challenge to all Souper Bowl participants after keeping his old chili container and filling it with loose change throughout the year. It turns out his container held over \$100, which he generously donated to Riverwood! How much will yours contain?

We are very thankful for our dedicated supporters who truly sustain our programs and provide those with special needs in our community the opportunity to experience the healing freedom and empowerment of therapeutic riding.

Scan the image below with a QR Code Reader app on any smart phone to buy chili online!

