

Riverwood Rider

January 2017

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6825 Rolling View Drive Tobacoville, North Carolina 27050 www.riverwoodtrc.org (336) 922-6426

Letter from the Director

Dear Friends,

I frequently hear people say when they come down the Riverwood driveway they feel as though they can take a deep breath and that they are traveling into a peaceful place away from the rest of the world. Students, volunteers, staff members and visitors have all expressed similar feelings. Contemplating these comments have prompted me to consider exactly what is it about this place that gives people such a peaceful feeling.

Riverwood is a place where nature has been preserved. The sounds of wildlife can be heard everywhere and welcomes all as they come down our driveway. The horses that live here are all ages, colors, shapes and sizes. Each of them has an important contribution to make in our program, and those horses that are no longer able to work are still loved and cared for the remainder of their lives. The children and adults with disabilities who learn and grow here have differences in religion, socioeconomics, race, ability and age. There is a genuine respect for diversity and the whole-hearted belief that those with differences or disabilities, animal or human, should be included and never marginalized. I think these are the things we all yearn for in our lives. For those that make their way to Riverwood each week, this is where they find it.

Riverwood has had another year of incredible growth! We served hundreds of students in 2016, added staff members and volunteers and made several exciting improvements to the farm, including sustainable trails! We passed our site visit this year for re-accreditation as a premier therapeutic riding center through PATH Intl. (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International) with a perfect score. 2017 promises to be another year of exciting changes. A need has been identified to expand programming for teens and young adults. The programming for continuing education and community based instruction has lead us to the development of a Riverwood farm store. The store will serve as a home for the new program as well as an opportunity for selling used tack, Riverwood merchandise, eggs and possibly produce from our garden and local farms. We welcome you to experience Riverwood in 2017 and hope this year brings love, peace and joy to you all!



Susan Hubbard



Summer Horsemanship and Riding Fun

It's hard to imagine that summer riding is around the corner, but it will be here before we know it! This year, as always, we have several fun and educational opportunities for riders at Riverwood. Our ever-popular 8-week summer program will run from June through August and consists of weekly group riding lessons. Riders will be placed in groups based on age, ability and riding experience. Beginner through intermediate riders will enjoy the well planned, fun and interactive lessons that are offered daily. Children as young as 3 years old as well as adults are welcome to enroll. This program is open to both exceptional and typically developing individuals and is a perfect opportunity for siblings, grandchildren, cousins, parents or anyone else to ride the amazing Riverwood horses.



Riverwood will also offer two "intensive" summer sessions in August; these are 4-day programs in which riders are on the farm for several hours and immersed in lots of learning and riding. In addition, we will introduce a new community based instruction program this summer. It will focus on helping teens and young adults learn basic social, behavioral and on-the-job skills that are complimentary to skills they are learning at school, which could help them with future job placements. Registration for all summer

programs will become available via the Riverwood website during the second week of February. Spots are first come, first serve and require a deposit. Our summer sessions always fill quickly, so be sure to reserve your spot early! For more information, please call or email the office.

Mobile Outreach Adventures

Riverwood's Mobile Education and Outreach trailer (MEO) was created to expand our reach in the community and provide therapeutic experiences and learning opportunities to those who are unable to visit our farm. Riverwood had quite the journey with our MEO and Equine Ambassadors (miniature horses, Midnight and Candyman) in 2016; we traveled 625 miles around North Carolina and were active at



19 equine-assisted programs and community events. Through these events and programs, Riverwood and the trailer gained exposure through an astounding 48,019 views. We touched the lives of many different groups in our community including children and teens experiencing grief at the Hospice and Palliative Care Center of Winston-Salem, exceptional children from Pilot Mountain Elementary School and the elderly at Salemtowne Retirement Community, just

to name a few. We look forward to the new experiences 2017 will bring and are always looking for new opportunities to be active in the community. If you would like to have the MEO provide a program to your group or organization, please contact the office. We sincerely thank our MEO sponsors who provide very generous support for our programs - The Law Offices of Timothy Welborn, Modern Toyota of Boone, Salem Neurological Center, Specialized Mobile Exhibits, Sharpe Images, Hanesbrands, Piedmont Natural Gas, Star H Equine Insurance, Salem Kitchen, Greystone Veterinary Services and Kelly Office Solutions.

Calendar of Events & Special Programs 2017

- January 30: Deadline to submit Souper Bowl Chili Fundraiser orders to Riverwood
February 4: Souper Bowl Chili Fundraiser at Salem Kitchen, benefitting Riverwood
February 24: Vocational Program with ABC of NC students Begins
March 11: Volunteer Orientation 9:00-11:30am
April 8: Home Grown Country Store Spring Fling, benefitting Riverwood
April 8-10: Advanced Instructor Certification Workshop
April 10-14: Spring Break: No classes
April 29: Muddy Creek 5K Run & Pimento Cheese Throwdown, benefitting Riverwood
May 4: Community Care Luncheon Fundraiser, benefitting Riverwood
May 6: Volunteer Orientation 9:00-11:30am
May 13: Annual Spring Fling Horse Show
June 3: Volunteer Orientation 9:00-11:30am
June 12: Summer Riding Session Begins (ends August 4)
August 7-11: Summer Intensive Program - Session I
August 14-18: Summer Intensive Program - Session II
August 19: Volunteer Orientation 9:00-11:30am
October 7: Volunteer Orientation 9:00-11:30am
October 21-22: Therapeutic Riding Association of Virginia (TRAV) Horse Show
October TBA: Boots and Brews Fundraiser, benefitting Riverwood
December 9: Volunteer Orientation 9:00-11:30am
December TBA: Volunteer Appreciation Week

Stay Connected

Stay connected with Riverwood 24/7 through Riverwood's Facebook page and Pet the pony's twitter! Don't forget to sign up for our monthly e-newsletters to stay up to date on pertinent information about happenings around the farm – simply email rtrc@windstream.net and tell us you would like to receive e-news.



Volunteers Needed

Are you looking for something new and rewarding to do in 2017? Riverwood is looking for dedicated volunteers to work alongside our riders in therapeutic riding lessons. We serve over 120 students each week, and our programs are ever-growing. Volunteers play a crucial role in Riverwood's success! 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 11 from 9:00 to 11:30am. 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 1-hour class once a week, for a minimum of 8 weeks. Our classes take place Monday - Friday. If you have questions or would like to register for an orientation, please contact the office. Thank you for your interest in helping the special needs community, and we look forward to seeing you at the farm!

Riverwood's Wish List

- Forever Stamps
- Office Supply Store and SAMS Club Gift Cards
- Children's Wintec Lead Line Saddle
- Children's Peacock Safety Stirrups
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Tissue
- Printer/Copier Paper
- Legends CarbCare and Triple Crown Senior Horse Feed
- Southern States or Triple Crown Brand UPC Feed Labels
- Acti-Flex 4000 joint supplement
- Equi-min mineral block



Student Spotlight on Erica Fore

Fourteen-year-old Erica fondly recalls her first horse experience - a trail ride at summer camp - that got her hooked on equines for good! Since her first ride at Riverwood three years ago, her loving personality and gentle touch have helped her make friends with each horse she works with and all the people she meets at the farm. When she is not on the back of a horse or helping another student as a volunteer at Riverwood, Erica can be found doing some of her other favorite things, such as swinging on her patio swing, coloring or spending time with her dogs, Daisy, Dolly and Lucy. During her weekly riding lessons Erica is hard at work, striving to meet her goal to ride independently at the walk and trot. We are very proud of the tremendous progress she has made toward meeting her goals. Walk-On, Erica!



Alexandra Adamick
 Brittney Albert
 Megan Ashcraft
 Judi Barbee
 Leslie Batten
 Sydney Beason
 Christine Bland
 Kate Bland
 Beth Bostian
 Debra Breyer
 Morgan Brookshire
 Meghan Bryant
 Sheila Burckhard
 Toni Callahan
 Patricia Carroll
 Virginia Castillejo
 Judy Chadwick
 Varun Challa
 Cat Cheney
 Jamie Childress
 Sierra Conn
 Michaela Conn
 Delaney Cowart
 Carter Crump
 Janet Crump
 Conner Dalton
 Rigved Doddi
 Elizabeth Doherty
 Wendy DuBois
 Patsy Dwiggin
 Austin Eason
 Amy Ehrens
 Michel Ellis
 Natalie Ellis
 Gareth Finn
 Erica Fore
 Katherine Fore
 Dylan Fore

New Volunteers - Welcome to the Herd!



Shelby Gabello
 Bethanie Gauntt
 Allie Gauntt
 Emma Glenn
 Allison Gordon
 JJ Habler
 Carolyn Hartle
 Jane Henderson
 Brooklyn Hicks
 Madison Hinshaw
 Caroline Holtmann
 Lydia Hughes
 Deana Hundley
 Kristel Hunter
 Lily Jarosz
 Sarah Jennings
 Helene Kalbfleisch
 Keri Kelsay
 Claire Kindsvater
 Sadie Lawson
 Marcella Lezine
 Megan Logan
 Emily MacMillan
 Elizabeth MacMillan
 Ashlie Martin
 Stuart Martin
 Katherine Martin
 Daniel McKinny
 Alanna Meltzer-Holderfiled
 Katie Meres
 David Miller
 Kayla Morrison
 Cole Moser
 Cynthia Mullins
 Elizabeth Neblett
 Catherine Neblett
 Libbie Nemenz
 Lisa Oakley

Seth Odom
 Lucy Oldham
 Joe Oldham
 Bronwyn Queen
 Ann Radford
 Taylor Riccio
 Jasper Rutledge
 Emma Sanchez
 Kameron Saylor
 Lily Schaaap
 Jade Schweickert
 Rita Sereika
 Michael Serosky
 Jeff Shaffer
 Susan Shear
 Jade Snow
 Katlyn Steinert
 Allison Sytz
 Karen Taquey
 Maggie Taquey
 Lauren Taylor
 Eloisa Teddy
 Rachel Thomas
 Alicia Townsend
 Ginny Tussey
 Lydia Tyrrell
 Emily Tyson
 Ashley VanSutphen
 Megan Wall
 Caroline Warren
 Margaret Weaver
 Laura Weigand
 Jaye Wilson
 Latrina Winford
 Liz Woods
 Molly Wray
 Emma Zenger

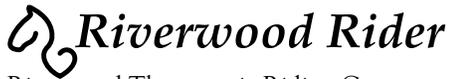
Advanced Instructor Certification

This April, Riverwood is thrilled to host a PATH Intl. advanced instructor certification workshop. It is our goal to have at least three advanced level instructors at Riverwood by the end of 2017. The advanced level achievement requires that the instructor can demonstrate, to two examiners, they have the knowledge to teach and perform advanced level riding skills. They must also pass a closed-book, proctored exam as well as a riding test and teach three lessons over the course of the three-day certification. For Riverwood, this means we will not only provide the highest safety standard in our industry but also provide the highest level of instruction in our area. At the workshop we will welcome additional candidates for certification from Alabama, New Jersey, West Virginia and North Carolina, and our examiners will be traveling from Massachusetts and New York. Be sure to enroll in Riverwood's e-newsletters for an up-to-date announcement covering the workshop and our instructors' progress toward certification in the spring!



Board of Directors 2017

We would like to recognize amazing Riverwood volunteers, Kathy Brookby and Linda Collins, for their dedicated service on Riverwood's board of directors over the last several years. Both served as talented advisors and Linda acted as our most recent board president. Although we bid them farewell on the board of directors, we are grateful they will continue to volunteer with our students in classes at the farm. Thank you both for your valuable contributions to Riverwood! We are also excited to announce Riverwood's incoming board president, Terri Dillon. Terri has been an active and cherished member of Riverwood's board and development committee for the last 3 years and we are thrilled she will take on the new role of board president as we "walk on" into 2017!



Riverwood Therapeutic Riding Center
6825 Rolling View Drive
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SOUPER BOWL CHILI FUNDRAISER

We are grateful to partner with Salem Kitchen for the 14th Annual Souper Bowl Chili Fundraiser on Saturday, February 4th! Salem Kitchen generously donates hundreds of quarts of chili so that proceeds raised through this event will benefit Riverwood's programs. You can support Riverwood by purchasing savory vegetarian, classic beef or white chicken chili for \$11/quart. Place your order online by visiting the chili page on our website (<http://www.riverwoodtrc.org/Souper-Bowl.aspx>) or

scan the QR code below. You can also send a check made out to Riverwood directly to the farm with your completed chili order form. All chili must be pre-ordered by Monday, January 30th and picked up from Salem Kitchen on Saturday, February 4th between 9am-4pm. Thank you for sharing this opportunity to support Riverwood with family, friends and co-workers just in time for Super Bowl parties. We give our sincerest thanks to the Salem Kitchen staff for their generous donation, hard work and continued partnership, as well as our supporters who help to make Riverwood's Souper Bowl a success!

