

Riverwood Rider

May 1, 2007

Volume No. 27

6825 Rollingview Drive Tobaccolville, North Carolina 27050 www.riverwoodtrc.org (336) 922-6426

We'd like to introduce....

One of the benefits of equine assisted activities is the longevity that comes from learning how to ride and interact with horses. Did you know that more than 60% of our after school students have been riding with us, consistently, for more than 5 years? The next several newsletters will highlight some of our 'old-timers' and tell their very special stories. The four students we are focusing on are the original riders who came to us in the first year of operation and have stayed with us each year since then.

Philip came to us as a student with the Children's Center and has continued to come each year since. He began as a 3 year old and will turn 15 this May. To hear his mom recall his first attempt at riding, she remembers fondly, "He absolutely hated it. He cried the whole time he was on the horse." Needless to say, it was unclear whether Philip would be a part of the program if he could not tolerate being close to the horses. However, at the insistence of his physical therapists, Philip's mom decided

to give it another shot a few months later. Again she recalls fondly, "Something in the motion just clicked and he loved it. He laughed and smiled the entire ride. He got off and his legs were so loose he could barely sit, but he loved it!"

And so a star was born! Philip continued with his lessons and as he grew, he relied on dedicated instructors and specially trained volunteers to ride with him on the back of a larger horse. After growing too tall to be held by another rider, Philip graduated to riding with supportive pillows around him and, finally, to a tall backed saddle complete with a big heart pillow as a head rest.

Philip is non-verbal and cannot move on his own. Every moment of his life is assisted.

However, when he is in his saddle on his

horse, he is freely moving and creating conversation through his smile and his expressions.

Philip's smile and laughter are absolutely contagious. Quite often everyone has to stop to catch a breath when he has a particularly hysterical moment and sends the entire class into laughter.



His horse, Fits, never fails to stretch his face up into the wheelchair and rest his nose on Philip's lap before he rides each week. That quiet moment between horse and child is the true magic that happens that we will never be able to explain. Congratulations, Philip, on 12 successful years of riding at Riverwood!

"Something in the motion just clicked and he loved it."

Calendar of Events:

April 10-June 1: Tuesday through Friday 10:30
Children's Center classes
April 20: 4:30 Hippotherapy Trail Dedication Ceremony
Girl Scout Troop 1101
April 21: Mt. Tabor UMC Great Day of Service
May 12: Horse Show at TTC
June 1: Last Day of Classes
June 4-8: Make up week for missed classes
June 11-15: Summer Camp
June 18-22: Summer Camp
June 25-29: Summer Camp
July 9-August 10: Summer Riding Session

Summer Opportunities 2007

We are gearing up for another great summer here at the farm. We have 3 weeks of day camp and 5 weeks of riding lessons that will be taking place throughout the summer months. If you, or anyone you know, are interested in learning all you can about horses and riding, this is the place to call! In the summer we open our program to riders with and without special needs, both children and adults. Our philosophy is to help people reach a safe and clear level of understanding with our horses, while making learning fun and creative. Riders will have the opportunity to trail ride, play games, practice natural horsemanship techniques, ride bareback and many other activities.

We currently have space the week of June 11-15 and June 25-29 for campers. Students must be 9 or older and able to spend 6 ½ hours a day at the farm. The cost is \$275.00 for over 30 hours of learning for the week. We also have plenty of spaces for group and private lessons during our 5 week session from July 9-August 10. The cost for this session is \$115.00 and riders will come out once a week for their lessons. If you would like to participate in our summer opportunities, please call the office soon to register. We can be reached at 922-6426 or by email at rtrc@windstream.net



Henny Penny Update

Henny Penny, Riverwood's rescued chicken, continues to thrive in the therapeutic riding environment. She has had her cast removed and, in spite of a slight limp, is getting around the farm well. She has made herself very much at home with the horses, cats and dogs, demanding the respect that a chicken deserves! Henny is now laying eggs nearly everyday and has taught many children (and adults) a thing or two about hens; the most surprising observation is that eggs are warm when they come out of the chicken, not cold!

5th Annual Bluegrass Bash

On September 14, 2007 from 6-9 PM Riverwood will hold the 5th Annual Bluegrass Bash here at the farm. The event will feature award-winning BBQ by Joey Transou, Sides by Salem Kitchen and Bluegrass music by String Fever. We will also have a silent auction full of fabulous items. Riverwood is currently seeking sponsors as well as donations for the silent auction. Please contact us at the office 922-6426 for sponsor information.

In Memory of BonBon

On December 11, Riverwood Therapeutic Riding Center lost a special member of our family. Bon Bon, donated to us by Courtney Carroll, died from a severe intestinal infection that proved to be resistant to multiple treatments. Bon Bon served many children in the therapeutic riding program including those with physical, cognitive, emotional and social challenges. She gave confidence to those who were afraid and set limits with those who tested boundaries. She was loved by volunteers, staff, students and her best pony friend Buddy. We are especially thankful to Courtney for letting Bon Bon come to Riverwood and share her gifts with all of us.

A Special Thank You!

Thank you to Anne and Jack Geis at Salem Kitchen for the generous contribution they made for our "Souper Bowl" fundraiser in February. The chefs at Salem Kitchen made 600 quarts of chili!! The total raised was more than \$4000.00.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the Art Club at Reagan High School for their donation of time and talent. This dedicated group of students spent an entire Saturday in March turning our classroom into a true artistic creation! They designed and painted a beautiful mural that reaches from floor to ceiling and depicts a peaceful "Riverwood" scene complete with trees, animals, water and fields. Not only is the painting beautiful, but it is also a challenge to our students who are constantly finding 'hidden' creatures painted into the landscape. Everyone that has seen the mural is truly touched by it and we are all grateful for the students who spent their time giving our facility such a beautiful work of art!



Girls Scout Troop 1101 has completed work on their Silver award at Riverwood by creating a sensory trail. This trail was designed specifically for riders with physical challenges. The area was chosen because it was flat and wide enough to accommodate two sidewalkers. The girls cleared the trail and created various interactive stations as well



as visually stimulating art work on the trail. They were also the recipient of a grant from Youth Grantmakers in Action of the Winston-Salem Foundation for \$500 to help purchase materials for the trail project.

Board Members

Jennifer Barksdale - Rose Davis - James Gore - Nancy Hancock
Deanna Hines - Susan Hubbard - Linda Lewis - Victoria E. Newell, DVM
Susan Peatross - Sheila Royal - Virginia Smith - Keith Tart - Donna Zayas

Volunteer!!

We are always in need of new volunteers to join our wonderful group of current volunteers! If you are interested in getting outside this spring to enjoy the weather, why not come out and help us at the same time? Our riders and horses would love to see you and it is a great way to give back to your community! If you are interested in volunteering, please call us at 922-6426 or email at rtrc@windstream.net.

Welcome New Volunteers

Margaret Brady	Kelsey Brown
Laura Collie	Barbara Collie
Frances Dodds	Mimi Gaines
Kim Henson	Kathy Hutchens
Gabriela Lee	Ashley McNeely
Debbie Stout	Margaret Rivers
Amy Snyder	Lisa Jo Sparling
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Emory Moore	Amanda Williams

Wish List

Southern States Feed
Legends 12 pellets
Triple Crown Senior
Printer/Copier Paper
Postage Stamps
Paper Towels
Toilet Tissue
Liquid Hand Soap
12"-16" (high) cones
New medium-bristle body brushes
New rubber curry combs with handle
Absorbine Super Green Flyspray
Equi-Spot leave on Fly Repellent
2 Mr. Potato Head Kits

Riverwood Contributors

since December, 2006

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

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Bruce and Bernie Clapp in Honor of:

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In Memory of BonBon By: Susan Hubbard
In Memory of Dancer By: Susan Hubbard
In Memory of Trey Moore By: Susan Hubbard
In Memory of Judith A. Bell By: Bonnie Bell

Contributions are always appreciated.

*Please make your check to Riverwood Therapeutic Riding Center
or contact us at (336) 922-6426 for more details on our needs.*

From The Executive Director

Dear Friends,


There was a time, several years ago, when the winter months were quiet around the farm. Without an indoor arena the weather was too harsh for most of our students to ride. This winter was a reminder of how generous this community is and how grateful I am for our beautiful facility that allows all of our students to participate in programs throughout the cold months. A perfect example is that Bolton and Mineral Springs Elementary Schools completed a 16 week experiential learning session using the wonderful story of The Black Stallion and our adults have completed the “Frost Bite” session.

The community has continued to generously support Riverwood and we are so grateful! Our annual campaign raised the funds needed to meet our budget and gave us a great start for the new year. Our “Souper Bowl” fundraiser was a huge success thanks to Salem Kitchen and all who supported Riverwood by buying and selling chili. Riverwood has many more students who are requesting services and their needs are great. While the coming year brings exciting opportunities, it is also challenging. All of Riverwood’s classes are discounted and tuition covers only 1/3 of our operating costs. We ask for the community’s continued support during the coming year.

Spring is in full bloom here at the farm with the beauty of everything coming back to life. Our programming is at full capacity and there seems to be excitement and activity all day. The Children’s Center students are riding four mornings a week and our Hippotherapy and afterschool classes are all full. Many students are preparing for a horse show in May as well as a show in October that will be in Lexington, VA. On a final note, I would like to extend a special thank you to all of the hard working, wonderful volunteers who give their time generously, some working several hours each week. I would also like to thank the dedicated staff at Riverwood who gives so much to help our riders reach their goals. If you have never been here, or if it has been a while, take some time this spring and visit us at the farm!

Susan

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