

# Hoof Prints

Rocking Horse Ranch Therapeutic Riding Program Newsletter

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## Please Join Us for Our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Ride-A-Thon November 16 - 20, 2015

Participants will complete the obstacle course during their regular lesson time and will participate in a trail course that will include negotiating ground obstacles.

2 Fabulous Prizes:

- (1) for the largest total dollar amount of sponsorships
- (1) for the largest total number of sponsors

Dear riders and parents:

Every year, at the end of the fall session, we hold a student **Ride-A-Thon**. This is your opportunity to pitch in and help keep Rocking Horse Ranch open and affordable for all our students. Participant fees only cover about 30% of our operating costs, which will be about \$190,000 for 2015-16. Additionally, through specific grants, RHR expects to provide another \$17,000 in scholarships for about 1/3 of our students who need help with the weekly lesson fees. The actual cost of a lesson at RHR is now about \$60/lesson, so **everyone** who participates here pays a discounted lesson fee.

The RHR Board of Directors works very hard to raise more than \$100,000 each year to cover the balance of our operating budget; we have been fortunate that community support has kept this program open when several others across the state and region have failed during the past few years. However, this continues to be a huge undertaking, and **we need your help!!!!**

Sponsors as well as families are welcome to come watch the trail course during the week of November 16 – 20 (which will also be the last week of lessons for the fall session).

If you believe that riding at Rocking Horse Ranch has benefitted you and your family, please consider giving us your help this year by participating in the fund raiser.

## Dear Parents, Participants and RHR supporters,

As the President of the RHR Board, I'm very excited about this fiscal year. More importantly, I'm excited as the parent of a rider. With a new horse, a new instructor and new groups, such as *Healing with Horses Cancer Survivors Group*, our program is stronger than ever. We have much to celebrate. Thanks to the efforts of far too many people to mention by name, RHR won a \$25,000 grant from State Farm, which will fund barn repairs and renovation.

I look forward to even more successes for us to rejoice in!

Sincerely,

Jon Nuckolls

## Please welcome our newest Instructor:

**Candace Brown**. She attended St. Andrews and has been a therapeutic riding instructor since 2010. She's working on her Interactive Vaulting certification here and also works at RHR's founder Eileen Van Houten's farm Emerald Hill. She comes to us from Florida where she worked as a dolphin trainer.



*"In riding a horse, we borrow freedom". ~ Helen Thompson*

**Please welcome our Fall Intern:**

“Hello all! My name is Victoria Burdo, and I am the fall intern for Rocking Horse Ranch. I attend East Carolina University. I am majoring in Early Intervention, and will be graduating this May with my bachelor’s degree. I chose Rocking Horse Ranch as my intern site because I wanted to challenge myself to step outside of my comfort zone.

I have worked with children between the ages of birth and five years for the past four years, so when I found this site I decided what a wonderful opportunity this would be to expand my horizons and work with varying age groups including adults. Let me not forget about our lovely horse assistants I get to work with each day as well! Before beginning my internship with Rocking Horse Ranch, I had very informal experiences with horses. Growing up as a child, I had two neighbors with horses that I had the pleasure to ride, walk, talk, and simply visit with. I am excited to meet and work with each of you over the next ten weeks.

Sincerely,

Victoria Burdo



**UPCOMING DATES**

- ❖ November 16 – 20 is our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual **Student Ride-A-Thon**
- ❖ **Care Wear** Orders for Rocking Horse Ranch apparel must be turned in by Friday 10/23
- ❖ **Spring lessons** will start 2/1 and run for 12 weeks until the week of 4/25.
- ❖ Next **volunteer training** is Saturday 1/23 from 10 until noon.

**CARE WEAR ORDERS**

**For a limited time, orders are being taken for shirts and sweatshirts with the RHR logo screened on the front. Orders must be placed by Friday, October 23 and can be picked up at the barn during the last week of lessons, November 16 - 20.**

**Short Sleeve T-Shirts** available in Cherry Red, Irish green, purple and safety pink

**Adult sizes S, M, L, Xlarge.....\$12**  
Youth sizes Small, Medium, Large.....\$10

**Long Sleeve T-Shirts** available in black, light pink, sapphire, and navy

**Adult sizes S, M, L, Xlarge..... \$17**  
Youth sizes Small, Medium, Large....\$15

**Crew Neck Sweatshirt** available in sport gray, safety pink, forest green, and royal blue

**Adult sizes S, M, L, Xlarge.....\$26**  
Youth sizes Small, Medium, Large....\$24

**Hooded Sweatshirt** available in gold, Carolina blue, purple, and heliconia/fuschia

**Adult sizes S, M, L, Xlarge.....\$32**  
Youth sizes Small, Medium, Large.....\$28

**Rocking Horse Ranch Therapeutic Riding Program** is a not-for-profit organization founded by Eileen Van Houten in 1991 that provides equine assisted activities and equine assisted therapy to children and adults with a variety of physical, cognitive, and psychological disabilities.

The ultimate goal of the program is to improve each participant's quality of life so that they can become more independent, productive and active members of the community. We are a member organization of the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl).



**Please welcome the new addition to our RHR herd: Chance.** He is a 14 year old Quarter Horse who started out his career as a Western Pleasure horse before becoming a therapeutic riding horse for the first time. He then had several years off enjoying a life of trail riding and playing around the farm before coming to RHR. Chance's slow and steady nature helps him to step back and read his human. Chance is a horse that very connected to people that he feels he can "help" or that like to not show their emotions as he wants to make everything better in life without you having to speak a word. He loves to play dress up and is very proud of his Scarecrow overalls and Pooh Bear costume!



**Many thanks to the Farmville chapter of DAR, Major Benjamin May!** They gave a scholarship to provide therapeutic riding lessons for an Armed Service Veteran who otherwise might not be able to afford to participate.

**Picture:** Major Benjamin May, Daughters of the American Revolution presents Veteran's Scholarship to Rocking Horse Ranch: L to R: Judy May, Director Malaika Albrecht, Regent Gay Davenport, Nancy Harris, Jane Little, Elizabeth Browning

**Many thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Atherton** who created the *Lt Col Jack Atherton* scholarship this fall. This scholarship will allow us to offer therapeutic riding lessons to a veteran who would otherwise be unable to afford to participate. The scholarship honors their grandfather, Lt Col Jack Atherton, who was in the USAF and a POW in Germany. He received the Purple Heart, among many other honors.

**THANK YOU EVERYONE WHO HELPED MAKE THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL GHOULISH GALLOP 5K A SUCCESS!!!**

