

I enjoy many gifts each day. I get to see stunning sunrises and sunsets. My colleagues are beautiful four-legged creatures. I get to interact with some of the most thoughtful, inspiring, generous people on this earth. And I get to share my love of horses with children and adults who truly appreciate what a difference the horses make in their lives.

Since 2005, we have served 36 riders with added benefits to their families, care givers and teachers. Not to mention the drama free atmosphere we provide for our volunteers. And we have done this through the absolute commitment to our mission in providing unique horse related services to the special needs community.

In 2009, we quintupled the number of therapeutic riding lessons conducted weekly. We began offering hippotherapy as a means of using the movement of the horse to facilitate improvements in our clients needing physical therapy. CTR hired two part-time physical therapists, certified by the American Hippotherapy Association, to conduct this aspect of our program. We assembled a team of mental health professionals to launch Equine Assisted Psychotherapy sessions in early 2010.

Despite the many successes CTR has experienced, grant funding is limited, if available at all. Funding from the state previously available to our families has been affected by recent budget cuts by the Department of Disability Services and is nearly nonexistent. The current economy has made it difficult to generate funds to support the work we do.

***We need your help!*** As we continue to cultivate revenue streams to generate funds to support the work we do, I am writing to ask that you consider making a contribution at whatever level your heart and wallet will allow. No amount is too small. My goal is 100% participation. If everyone gives something, we will continue making a difference!

Chesapeake Therapeutic Riding is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and in good standing with the Maryland Charitable Organization Department. All monetary donations are tax deductible.

Chesapeake Therapeutic Riding changes lives! Please help CTR continue our mission of ***"SHARING GIFTS TO ENCOURAGE HEALING AND CELEBRATE LIFE."***

Thank you for your generosity and support.

Boots on!



Cathy Schmidt, Executive Director  
NARHA Registered Instructor, EAGALA Certified Equine Specialist

*Contributions may be sent to:*

Chesapeake Therapeutic Riding, P.O. Box 475, Abingdon, MD 21009

*Or by using PayPal online at:*

<http://www.chesapeaketherapeuticriding.org/support.html>

*"I had a goal. And today, I achieved it."*  
**Connor**



*"...on the days leading up to her Wednesday trip, Rickia would frequently express her excitement, lots of smiles and mentioning, "Wednesday I get to go horseback riding." That may seem like a small thing, but for Rickia to express excitement about any activity means she must like it very much. The support she received from the farm's staff went a tremendous way in helping her feel comfortable and willing to try new things.*

**Stacy, Maryland School for the Blind staff**

*"...by seeing him each week get on this huge animal with no fear and see the huge smile that comes on his face is priceless. He loves watching the horses walk around the ring. He is so happy to know when we are coming to his riding lesson. We start talking about it on Fridays. When riding on the horse is brought up, a huge smile comes across his face. Since Ethan is non verbal, this smile tells us he enjoys this part of his life. When he starts smiling it is contagious to those around him."*

**Mike, Ethan's dad**

