

RIDING HIGH!

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM CHESAPEAKE THERAPEUTIC RIDING

A RIDER'S STORY - JORDAN McCANN

Jordan has a rare disease called *Methyl Malonic Acidemia*. She always has gotten through all of the complications and procedures that come with the disease without a lot of complaining. In January 2005, she suffered a stroke which changed her life.

Jordan has endured a lot of ups and downs since: walking, not walking, surgeries and excessive therapy sessions to recover lost skills. Just as with most 10 year old children, school and homework kept her busy. But then we add physical, speech and occupational therapy at school, plus additional physical therapy at home. We felt like she needed to have some fun in her life, but didn't know exactly what that would be.

Last year, we met the CTR team at the Harford County Disabilities Expo. The chance meeting of-

fered us an opportunity to involve her in a therapy that would be just as challenging, but with a special reward! Horses!



Jordan in her most festive riding outfit!

If you ask Jordan what CTR means to her she would tell you it's the greatest thing ever! She gets to ride horses, feed them, and sing and laugh. She would tell you that it's so much fun! She can't wait to go every Saturday. She doesn't even mind that she can't sleep in on a "no school morning." That pretty much says it all, doesn't it? No com-

plaining, no groaning, not even when she's so worn out she can't hold her head up at bedtime. It doesn't matter- it's horses.

A lot of my answers would be the same. I love to see her on that horse. She just beams! It's the look that every parent wants to be responsible for putting on their child's face. The rewards are great, and the benefits have quickly become apparent. Jordan pushes herself to get out of the chair and walk to the horse. She has regained a lot of her balance, and strength in her legs. When she is speaking a command to the horse, I can hear her loud and clear. We see that confidence and determination returning that will keep her pushing along.

We see a brighter future ahead, and there's no doubt there will always be a horse involved in it!

- Kathy McCann

APPLEBEE'S - A HUGE HIT!

CTR's First Ever fund raiser was held with through the kindness and support of Applebee's in Bel Air. It exceeded all our expectations!

Although the day was very windy and bitterly cold, our riders, friends and families turned out in record numbers to support the General

Managers who left their restaurants all over Maryland and Pennsylvania in order to volunteer their time and talents for Celebrity Service Night.

In addition to the patrons and corporate donors, a huge thank you to Christina Schointuch, General Manager of the Bel Air Applebee's, for

her enthusiasm, organizational skills and desire to benefit our riders by providing the ideal venue for raising money for scholarships.

Applebee's and CTR raised \$6400 for our Ridership Fund. We look forward to working together next year!

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

APRIL 2007

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Board Walk 2
Beth Cole

Inside Story 2
Horsing Around With Socks

Volunteer's Corner 2
Leslie Halloran

Photo Galleries!!! 3/4

And Finally... From the Horse's Mouth! 5



Our hats were off to the Applebee's team

THE BOARD-WALK - BETH COLE

I first discovered therapeutic riding over 20 years ago and have been hooked ever since. For me, therapeutic riding offers the unique opportunity to combine my lifelong love of horses with a desire to give back to the community.

As an avid volunteer, I have worked with several programs through the years and filled many different functions including: leader, side-walker, volunteer coordinator and trainer, in-

structor, mentor, Special Olympics coach, horse schooling, horse care, program development, summer camps, and board member.

I completed 4H therapeutic riding Instructor Training, NARHA instructor training, and received my NARHA Registered Instructor Certification in 2000. I especially enjoy my role as an instructor - where I can facilitate learning opportunities for our riders through the heal-

ing efforts of our horse partners.

I first met Cathy five years ago through volunteering at a therapeutic riding center and we've shared many hours of teaching and learning together. It has been inspiration to watch Cathy's dreams become reality through the success of CTR.

I am thrilled to share my skills and time with CTR with its compassionate, healing, and fun environment.



Beth at her best!
(with her pal, Rocky, a 34 year old! Appaloosa)

HORSING AROUND WITH SOCKS

Socks was born on March 31, 1981 (the same year I graduated high school) in Bordentown, NJ. Her mother was a registered quarter horse and her father was a registered Appaloosa. Socks full name is Sexy Socks. Socks had a foal in 1986.

Socks and I became forever friends in June 1987. I had been "horseless" since 1981. Socks was the first horse I looked at when I began my search. Once I saw

her beautiful face, I knew we needed to be together. It wasn't until I walked around her that I saw her snowy blanket across her hips.

Three months after I bought Socks, we were in a riding accident.. Riding bareback with no bridle + no helmet + galloping downhill = Hospital!. It was my fault and I had to figure out a way to bond with my horse without riding her until the doctor said I could ride again.

Socks and I figured each other out eventually. We are both hard-headed and stubborn, so once we decided to work together we became an awesome team on the trails in Pennsylvania and Maryland. I trust her with my life and she has trusted me with hers.

We have been through just about everything together and continue to love each other and learn new things about one another. Imagine that!



Cathy and Socks doing what they love most!

VOLUNTEER'S CORNER - LESLIE HALLORAN

Hi, I'm Leslie Halloran, I am 16 years old and a junior at John Carroll School. I have horses of my own and have been around them for most of my life. I really enjoy working with them and CTR helps me do that.

I have a brother named Keith, who is autistic. He goes to John Archer School. He is non-verbal and his most successful

way to communicate is through pictures and symbols. All my life, I have been involved in his education and everyday life routines.

At John Carroll, we are required to perform community service hours. I learned about CTR through a service fair



at my school. I immediately knew that this was something I wanted to pursue. I knew that this service was a great opportunity.

I began getting involved in volunteering by working at my brother's school with the pre-primary children. This was such a

rewarding experience and I have done it the past two summers. I love working with the children. This was a good service for me because I understand the needs of children with disabilities and certain handicaps.

I always look forward to going to CTR. I love to see how the lessons affect the children. It is a great experience surrounded by great people.

PHOTO GALLERY—RIDE ON!



APPLEBEE'S FUND RAISER



HATS OFF TO OUR SPONSORS, DONORS AND SUPPORTERS....



THANK YOU to our successful BIDDERS AND BENEFACTORS whose generosity helped us to exceed our goals for the Ridership Fund.

Debbie and Lance Allen
 Elliott Altman and Laura Barry
 Joe Anastasio
 Don Avery and Beth Cole
 Annie Barrios
 Joan and John Barry
 Susie Barry and Marie Gerwig
 Beth Beall and Cathy Chenowith
 Pam Biddle
 Chris Boniface
 Susanne and Mike Brown
 Pam Burns
 Bella and Dave Carter
 Celena Colasurdo
 Trish and Dave Collins
 Dr. Anna Marie Chwastiak
 Diana and Dennis Chiveral
 Lindsay Conley
 Pepe Costagliola
 Chris Cropper
 Tara Cullen
 Joe Dyer
 Tim Farley
 Sue and Jim Fradel
 Linda and Carmen George
 Susan Gonzales
 Margaret and Chuck Grimm
 Becky Harding & Becky Roberts
 Kathy and Kenny Hewitt
 Kelly Jara
 Jean Kneebone
 Diane Lane
 Mary and Gary Leavens
 Jeffrey Lynn
 Kathy and Joey McCann
 Anne and Jim Lefter

Robin and Charles Lorber
 Susan McGreevy
 Brenda McKinney
 Paula and Chris Moore
 Linda and Emmett Nicholson
 Carol and Chris Nielsen
 Kristen Nielsen
 Carla Perri
 Kayton Piergrossi
 Tori Piergrossi
 Ellen Quinn & Marty Stranathan
 Patti Rae
 Jenny Reed and Amy Estes
 Danielle Reissman
 Jo Ann Reynolds
 Lisa Samuels
 Melanie Schaffner
 Kathleen Scogna
 Barbara and Lu Sheets
 Nancy Spence
 Roslyn Stewart
 Dr. Michael Stotler
 Diane Steigen
 Cassandra and Aaron Tomarchio
 Alyson Weege
 Teri Weston
 Amy Whitmore

THANK YOU to all of the APPLE-BEE'S EMPLOYEES from Maryland and Pennsylvania who put the CELEBRITY in Celebrity Service Night!

Mark Binebrink/ Kennett Square
 Jeremy Davis/Towson
 Chris Doe/Columbia
 Melvin Finn/Crofton
 Jon Grobe/Columbia
 Jason Hajek/Easton
 Glenn Haug /Aberdeen
 Ken Jednachowski/Westminster
 Joe Longhorn/Annapolis
 Derek Morris/Ocean City

Kelly Murray/Padonia
 Scot Overton/Catonsville
 Amy Riley/Salisbury
 Christina Schointuch/Bel Air
 Emily Woodward/Kennett Square

THANK YOU for the generosity of our CORPORATE SPONSORS whose contributions to our Silent Auction were greatly appreciated and very much enjoyed!

Aberdeen Ironbirds
 Applebee's
 Ariat
 Baja Sun Tanning Salon
 Cockpit in Court Summer Theatre
 Cool Spring Stables
 Facci Bella Productions
 Harford Acupuncture and Associates
 Home Interiors
 IntegralPaths Coaching, LLC
 Maryland Science Center
 Medieval Times
 Nutramax
 Patti Rae Interiors
 Perri's Leather and Metalcrafters
 Sapore Di Mare
 Stotler Chiropractic
 Studio 221
 Susquehanna Music and Arts Festival
 The Black Stallion Literacy Project
 The Mill of Bel Air
 The Rose Group
 The Weather Channel
 Wood Floor Warehouse

And THANK YOU to all CTR's volunteers who make all the difference!



**SHARING GIFTS TO
ENCOURAGE
HEALING AND
CELEBRATE LIFE.**

**NEWS AND VIEWS FROM
CHESAPEAKE THERAPEUTIC
RIDING**

Box 475
ABINGDON, MD 21009

Phone: 410.569.4983

Fax: 410.469.4984

HealingEquines@aol.com

WE'RE ON THE WEB!!!

www.chesapeaketherapeuticriding.org

WHY WE ARE HERE, DOING WHAT WE DO....

Chesapeake Therapeutic Riding, Inc. is dedicated to providing a unique healing and fun experience.

Through the kindness of our horses and volunteers, CTR's riders and families can find hope, growth and compassion.

We are committed to provide the best encounter possible in a healing and loving environment. *Our activities are carefully designed to challenge, draw out and encourage our riders, their families, and even our volunteers. Our aim is to cultivate self esteem and a sense of accomplishment all around.*

Our equine teammates are schooled in the nuances of their job as a therapeutic mount. *They love their work, and can provide us with insights beyond our expectations.*

Although many afflictions can not be "cured," nearly anyone may be healed. *It is our pledge to do our very best.*

AND FINALLY...FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH



Cathy having a lesson....

As lessons have finally started in 2007 after a few weather related delays, I can't help but think of why we do what we do.

Our program is all about service to others. This edition of our newsletter is full of information about people who have dedicated their free time and expertise to therapeutic riding. Therapeutic riding is so much more than just riding. It's helping riders experience the physical and emotional benefits in a fun, safe environment; horses develop new skills and get exercise; teens complete their commu-

nity service hour requirements for graduation; and adults fulfill a need to give back to the community. Through the generosity of spirit from the participants, our program has created an environment of healing and support.

These are just a few of the services our program provides to the community.

When I think about the many people involved with CTR and their service commitment, I must recognize my friend and mentor, Natalie Cerchio, who truly embodies the essence and spirit of service to others. Originally from New Jersey, Natalie landed in

Maryland in 1999 by way of the Air Force. She started volunteering with a therapeutic riding program as a side walker in 2000 and soon became a NARHA registered instructor. Over the years, Natalie has developed her



horsemanship skills and is a terrific rider and instructor. Her teaching style is very intuitive and humorous. Our riders enjoy her fresh perspective in addition to her many props and

funny songs.

Natalie, who added "Mrs. Thomas" to her moniker in 2004, has been deployed this year, leaving her husband,

Wayne, and canine sidekick, Isabel, at home in Glen Burnie. Natalie's first stop is in Fort Riley, Kansas before heading off to Afghanistan for at least one year of duty. Family is everything to Natalie. And Natalie is family at CTR. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers as she journeys to the Middle East to defend democracy and freedom.

Godspeed, Natalie!

