

RIDING HIGH!

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM
CHESAPEAKE THERAPEUTIC RIDING



CHESAPEAKE THERAPEUTIC RIDING

A RIDER'S STORY - JUSTIN

Justin is 9 years old and has autism. He has been doing therapeutic horseback riding at CTR since October 2008. Justin has been afraid of animals. We have 2 dogs and he holds his hands over his ears when they bark and he tries to get away from them. He doesn't go near them. I have been very surprised at how much Justin loves the horse he rides. Victor is a huge horse, but Justin is not afraid of him at all. When I pick him up on Saturday's, he jumps up and down and says, "Victor, Victor!" When it is time to ride, he walks right up, pets him and gets on the saddle without a problem. Even when the weather was very, very cold, Justin still was happy to ride.



Justin (on Victor) with his team Natalie Cerchio (L), Jean Seiler and Cyndi Olivacz

Justin has difficulty with spontaneous speech. He will answer questions, but often does not go beyond that. Once when Cathy was holding his hand and waiting for Victor so he could mount, she told Justin to be sure he talked nice and loud. Spontaneously, Justin said, "So Victor can hear." He has also had problems with yes/no questions. Yet, when we leave to go home, I ask Justin, "Did you have fun riding Victor today?" and I always get a loud "YES!" in reply.

One of the items on Justin's IEP is the concept of "on, under, beside, and over." His teacher has been working on some of these. At home, I have asked him a few times to demonstrate them. He has had success in demonstrating some of them, and is improving. I think he will learn "around" soon, because they are doing horsey-pokey and turning the horse "around, and around, and around." When learning is fun, it is easier. I am very grateful that Justin has the opportunity for this wonderful learning experience. Sincerely, Linda Giannaccini, Justin's grandmother

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HORSING AROUND - CAPTAIN



Robbie's Master ("Captain") was born 3/11/86 and is a registered Quarter Horse gelding. He was donated to CTR by Nancy and Amanda Lewis in December 2008 after Amanda moved up in her jumping ability and purchased another horse to show. She wanted Captain to have a good home and a job where his extensive background as a school horse would keep him active and engaged.

Though arthritis keeps Captain from going over fences on the show circuit, his love for people and interest in working make him an ideal therapeutic riding horse. In a few short months he has become an integral part of our program and "belongs" to several of our students. His best friend, Crystal, is often seen grazing along side him in the Pond Pasture. Happy trails....

COMCAST CARES DAY AT CTR



On Saturday, April 25, 2009, more than 113 volunteers from Chesapeake Therapeutic Riding and Comcast joined forces to create more “user friendly surfaces” in and around the barn and the arena for the horses and riders. Vulcan Materials in Havre de Grace donated nearly 50 tons of stone dust to re-constitute the walkways and level the floors of the stalls. Stall mats were laid over the newly leveled stall floors. The fence surrounding the barn and outdoor arena was painted, beautiful perennials planted and a sensory trail cleared in the pine grove. A custom-built wheelchair mounting ramp was designed and built by C&P Contracting with all materials donated by Comcast.

The event was part of Comcast’s 8th Annual Comcast Cares Day, a company-wide day of community service in which tens of

thousands of Comcast employees, along with their families, friends, and community partners worked together to make a difference in hundreds of local communities across the country.

CTR and Comcast share a common goal – an ongoing commitment to the Harford County community. Our relationship is an excellent example of how public-private partnerships can make a difference. Thanks to Comcast’s support, we have been able to provide a forgiving, level surface for our healing horses to stand on when they are in their stalls and a versatile mounting ramp – the crucial element to be able to serve more people with special needs.

Thank you to Comcast for all their support. Together, we will continue to make a difference in this wonderful community!

MARYLAND SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND FIELD DAY

Each year, during Preakness week, Maryland School for the Blind holds Field Day. The students get to meet jockeys from Pimlico and participate in “horse” races, as well as meet people and services to benefit them and their families.

CTR was invited to meet the students and talk about therapeutic riding.



THE BOARDWALK- BRENDA JOLLY

As a lifelong horse person, I became involved with Therapeutic Riding through assisting with a therapeutic riding horse show. This was my first exposure to therapeutic riding and I was sold on the concept of horses helping people. Horses were my therapy for trials throughout my life. From that point on I was a volunteer and quit my full-time job in financing at Johns Hopkins University to become the Executive Director for a therapeutic riding program in Cecil County.

I met Cathy prior to her founding CTR at a NARHA conference. I looked forward to networking with her program when it was established. A while later I made a very difficult decision to resign from the other therapeutic riding program. I deeply missed working with a therapeutic riding program. I began volunteering for a horse rescue, but it wasn't the same. Through the horse rescue I found out about Chesapeake Therapeutic Riding and to my surprise it was the program that Cathy founded. Not only was this a huge coincidence, but my retired horse lived at the same farm!

We were in contact with each other and the next thing you know I began volunteering for CTR and became the Volunteer Coordinator.

I have helped CTR with fundraising and I now serve on the Board of Directors. I have found being a part of CTR to be a very rewarding experience and look forward to watching the program grow and meet the needs of many in the community.

When I'm not helping CTR I'm either riding my horse, working as a Realtor or being a mom. I currently reside in Cecil County with my husband (Mick), son (Garrett), dog (Cowboy) and horse (Fancy).



THE ARC NORTHERN CHESAPEAKE REGION SHINES AFTER D'ARC



Elaine Orbino (L) and Cathy Schmidt

CTR was invited to participate in selling raffle tickets for the Fifth Annual After d'Arc Celebrity Chef and Auction event on March 28, 2009. CTR raised \$1,505 through the efforts of 20 dedicated volunteers, rider's family members and friends of the program.

Over 400 people attended the event hosted by The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region at the Maryland Golf & Country Club. The event raised over \$80,000 to help children with developmental disabilities and their families to meet everyday needs including parent education and training, medical therapies, adaptive equipment, respite, and summer camps.

Isolda McClelland won the Disney/Las Vegas Community Raffle donated by Kim Proffitt/Keller Williams and Dominick Christello, winner of the exclusive After d'Arc raffle, won the Simon G. 18kt tri-gold butterfly pendant donated by event sponsor, Smyth Jewelers, valued at \$3,000.

CENTURY EDGEWOOD LIONS CLUB

Rose Marie and Frank Vacarro from the Century Edgewood Lions Club visited CTR to present a check for \$300 to the Ridership Fund from the organization. The Century Edgewood Lions Club has been serving Eastern Harford County for over 50 years. Cathy Schmidt was invited to speak at their January dinner meeting at which Rose Marie and Frank were honored by becoming Melvin Jones Fellows in recognition of their humanitarian work with the Lions Club International Foundation.



Frank Vacarro (L), Captain and Cathy Schmidt

BENEFIT TRAIL RIDE



On May 17, 2009, CTR hosted the first ever Benefit Trail Ride at Fair Hill Natural Resource Management area. Though the weather was damp and blustery, everyone enjoyed themselves on the two trail rides through the park. CTR received fabulous door prizes from Nutramax Laboratories, makers of *Cosequin*; Perri's Leather and The Mill of Bel Air. Prizes were awarded based on the donations collected from sponsors of the riders for the event. A HUGE "Thank you!" to Brenda Jolly, CTR's enthusiastic Volunteer Coordinator, for organizing the event and making sure things went smoothly for everyone.

PHOTO GALLERY—RIDE ON!



SO MANY EASY WAYS TO DONATE....

There are so many ways to give to CTR *without even having to write a check:*



iGive - Thank you to the over 20 people who signed up so far for iGive! As seen on our website and in past issues of our newsletter, you can donate to CTR just by *shopping on line* — through www.iGive.com. The stores listed give a percentage of your purchase to your listed cause. Take a minute and sign up today - it is very easy!

Combined Federal Campaign - **Attention all federal employees:** please keep CTR in mind when you choose the charitable organizations to receive your contributions through the Combined Federal Campaign in 2009. CTR is an approved organization with the Chesapeake Bay Area CFC (**Code #54429**).

The Mill of Bel Air - The next time you visit The Mill of Bel Air, make sure you sign up and become a Club Member for CTR. The Mill will donate 1% of your purchase when you mention that you are a CTR Club Member. We purchase the majority of our supplies there including bedding and feed for the herd. They are located in Bel Air, Black Horse, Hereford and Whiteford.

United Way - All employees of companies who are encouraged to give to the United Way can donate all or a portion to CTR! Please contact your HR Department for details. Encourage your friends and relatives to consider CTR as well.

Maryland Charity Campaign - CTR has been accepted into the 2009 program! From September 15 to November 30, 2009, state employees may designate their contributions to CTR. Kickoff events will be held in Baltimore on September 15 and in Annapolis on September 17. If you are an employee of the state of Maryland, please come visit us on either of those dates. Or remember CTR when it is time to give. Our designation code is **2191**. Thank you in advance for supporting CTR!

HOOFBEATS AT TUCKAWAY

Socks (March 31, 1981 – June 20, 2009)



Remembering my best friend, teacher and partner, I can think of no better words than the last paragraph of Black Beauty by Anna Sewell...

Cathy

“My ladies have promised that I shall never be sold, and so I have nothing to fear; and here my story ends. My troubles are all over, and I am at home; and often before I am quite awake, I fancy I am still in the orchard at Birtwick, standing with my old friends under the apple trees.”



SHARING GIFTS TO
ENCOURAGE HEALING
AND CELEBRATE LIFE



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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.

ET CETERA



HARFORD UNITED CHARITIES BENEFIT GALA was held on February 6, at the Maryland Golf and Country Club. CTR has received funding from Harford United Charities in order to continue serving the special needs community of Harford County.

*Kathy Casey (L), Development Director of
The Highlands School and Cathy Schmidt*

HIPPOTHERAPY

CTR will soon be adding Hippotherapy to the services the program provides. *Hippo*, the Greek word for *horse*, allows a licensed physical, occupational and/or speech therapist to utilize the horse as a "dynamic mobile surface" to conduct therapy sessions for patients. Hippotherapy may be covered by insurance. For more information, please call the office at 410-569-4983 or send inquiries to info@chesapeaketherapeuticriding.org.

EQUINE ASSISTED LEARNING

Our Equine Experience Programs initiate profound awareness and growth for individuals or groups. Whether working with individuals, businesses, families, churches or "teams," these proven techniques challenge each participant to discover who they are, how they interact and how to increase their effectiveness in solving life's "little" problems. The horses are a learning team partner and active participant in the process.

Your focus will be on human skills — not riding or "horse savvy." The horses that participate as part of our team help you better understand yourself, relationships and the way you communicate. It is important to realize that about 85% of our daily communication is *non-verbal*! We often ignore over *three quarters* of the information available to us in our various relationships. Not true for our horse colleagues! Thus, all our work is done on the *ground* – with, not on, the horse. For more information, please call the office at 410-569-4983 or send inquiries to info@chesapeaketherapeuticriding.org.

Visit our web site for the latest updates and info!!