



WINTER NEWSLETTER - 2009

RIDING APPLICATIONS NOW ONLINE!!!

Ready Set Ride Therapeutic Recreation Facility offers a variety of weekly riding sessions to accommodate students and their busy schedules. For a tax deductible donation of \$475, we offer eight week riding sessions which provide equine therapeutic activities to children as young as three years of age challenged by a wide spectrum of disabilities. This year we are excited to have our application forms on-line! You are now able to download the applications and mail them back to us at Ready Set Ride P.O. Box 1113 Plainfield, Illinois 60544. Please note that there are some changes in the process from previous years. In order to most effectively schedule sessions, we have found it necessary to institute a \$100 non-refundable registration fee per session (credited towards your riding session fee.) That is, if you are registering for 2 sessions you will need to send in \$200. This fee will be applied toward your riding fee if your child does indeed ride. The riding fee per session is \$475. As in past years we will need a completed medical form and signed release. We are also asking for email addresses to make it easier to contact you. To begin with we will be offering classes for the Spring Session on Tues, Thurs, and Sun. If the need arises we may expand this. As much as we try to meet everyone's needs, and time and day requests, we can't always to that. We appreciate your flexibility in working with us.

Every session at Ready Set Ride has an NAHRA certified trained instructor, two side walkers and at least one lead person. Sessions focus on the student's abilities to participate in a series of movements and tasks designed by the instructor to work harmoniously with rider and horse. No matter what type of day from the beginning of the session to the end you'll always see a smile on a student's face. For further information please call us at 815-439-3659 or e-mail us at admin@readysetrideride.org You can also visit us at www.readysetrideride.org under the "Riding Sessions" tab. Remember our applications are now online – please download your application and send it in soon!

Ready Set Ride Wish List

Ready Set Ride appreciates your tax deductible donations, no matter how big or small. Does your company do matching gifts? If so think about us! Does your company offer grants? If so let us know! We are always looking to for ways to help support our program. If you know of any grant programs or have any fundraising ideas, no matter how kooky or crazy, please let us know! Please take a minute to read over these items and maybe you could help fulfill a wish or two ...

Horse Wish List

Hay, horse blankets, saddle soap, equestrian bath supplies, carrots, apples.

Barn Wish List

Picnic table, Menards or Farm and Fleet gift cards, bottled water, hand soap, garbage bags (30-gallon minimum), dry cat food, cat litter.

Volunteers Needed!

Ready Set Ride volunteers are an integral part of the riding sessions. RSR makes every effort to ensure each volunteer is welcomed and allowed to expand their interests. If you love horses or love kids, this is the perfect opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children with disabilities like Autism, Cerebral Palsy and Down Syndrome. Volunteers must be at least 13 years of age, and no prior equine experience is required. Adult volunteers are especially in need.

We are also seeking someone to help create and maintain content to keep the website fresh and relevant. *So, if you are willing to volunteer your time & talent or know someone who is, please contact us.*

Whether you are able to volunteer an hour each week or stay for an entire day of sessions, RSR appreciates the time and talents you are able to contribute. Because of our Volunteers, barn doors at Ready Set Ride remain open! For more information on volunteering please call us at 815-439-3659, e-mail us at admin@readysetride.org You can also visit us at www.readysetride.org and click on the "Volunteer" tab.

Passing of a Dear Friend

Our beloved Lamb Chop or Pony passed away one Saturday night in November after a bout with colic. He was surrounded by friends and his "mom" Marcy at his passing. Those of you that knew him, knew that he loved the children. He was patient and kind to everyone although at times he could show his feisty side. He loved to work with the children. He will be dearly missed but we know that he is looking down from above ready to snatch that carrot or apple before Elvis or Scooter can get it.

And the survey says.....

Thanks for all that answered and returned the riders' survey. If you have not returned it, we would still like to hear from you! In an effort to better meet you and your children's needs, we sent out the survey and so far, we have received very good marks. But, we want to strive to improve even more! If you did not receive a survey and would like to comment on the barn, please feel free to email us your comments or thoughts to admin@readysetride.org We are getting ready to start the new season and are anxious to begin!

Auction Thank You

We would like to thank everyone that participated in our 2008 Annual Benefit Auction. It was a wonderful night, with a silent auction, a live auction and a delicious dinner. We all had a chance to socialize with old friends, make new friends, and help support our program. This year the auction brought in about \$29,000 before expenses. It is through the support of businesses, families, and individuals that we are able to continue helping our riders. A **special thank you** to Dawn Hansen and Michelle Bien-Curtin, our auction co-chairs for their tireless efforts to make the night a success. And also to Lisa Afshari, Lisa Reilly, Maureen Baier, Sharleen Smith, and Marcy Givens – all who gave so much time and effort that words cannot thank them enough. We know that there were countless others that helped and we thank each and every one of you. Without you the night wouldn't have been possible. Our greatest asset is our volunteers – we sincerely appreciate you all!

Ready Set Ride Board of Directors

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