



Ready Set Ride Therapeutic Recreation Facility

P.O. Box 1113

Plainfield, IL 60544

815-439-3659

www.readysetride.org

Winter 2011 Newsletter

Happy Birthday.....to US!!!!



Can you believe it?! Ready Set Ride is going to be 10 years old in February. This is an important milestone in any organization but most especially for one that is an all volunteer organization. We are so happy to be able to provide a service to those individuals that benefit from therapeutic riding. We are very thankful for our volunteers and instructors that make RSR what it is.

We will be celebrating all year long. Our final Birthday party will be the annual Benefit/Auction Dinner in November. We are exciting to continue the mission that was first put forth 10 years ago and hope that you will become a part of it too! If you are able to help with the auction please notify Lisa or Sharleen. We need all the help we can get to make our party a success.

2011 Application On Line



It's not too early to think about Spring!!! We know the horses are thinking about it, as are the volunteers!! When is the warmer weather going to get here? Our 2011 Riding application is now online. Sign-up now to get the day and time you want. Try as we might, we can't always give you your first choice. By signing up

early, this ensures that you have a better chance to get it. Remember that all riders must have **updated medical forms**. Due to insurance regulations, we cannot let your child ride unless we have the form on file. Also please remember to dress your child appropriately when riding. Our horses are great but sometimes they don't see little feet and might step on them by accident, therefore it is imperative that your rider **wear closed toed shoes**. Once you download and fill out the forms, please mail them back to the Post Office address – POBox 1113 Plainfield, Illinois 60485.

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Become a RSR volunteer:

Whether you're able to volunteer an hour each week or stay for an entire day of sessions, we appreciate the time and talents you're 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, or e-mail us at admin@readysetride.org

2010 Auction Wrap UP

2010 Auction update

We thank Beth Praetz and her committee for putting together a wonderful Benefit dinner. A great time was had by all and many people won some wonderful gifts! The food was great, the speaker was motivational and the company was outstanding. We thank Sarah Castle, our speaker who is handicapped but that didn't get in her way of competing and placing in the Beijing Para-Olympics. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. We raised approximately \$12,000 to help keep the doors of RSR open. Thanks to all who helped, donated items, and came to the event. We hope that you will continue to support us this year by attending the Birthday Party in November.



Volunteer Profile



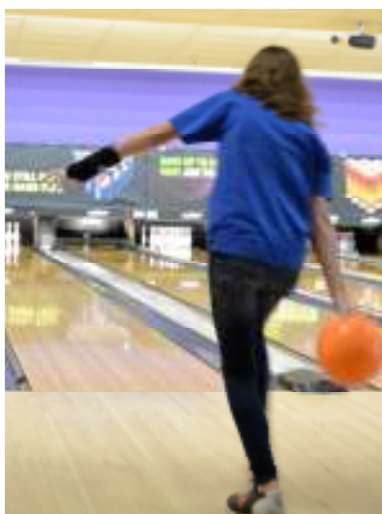
I am a senior this year at Yorkville High School, and I plan to study Equine Science at Colorado State University (going back home!) and become a large animal vet. Hopefully I can find a therapeutic barn near campus to work at. I have been riding and working around horses since I was seven years old, and I love every minute of it, though I don't get to compete often. I currently take lessons at Normantown Trails in Plainfield, and I ride hunter/jumpers.

I have been at RSR for a little over a year now (feels like so much longer!), and it has impacted my life so much--it is so rewarding to see that amazing bond between kids and horses. The horses at RSR are really special; I have a hard time choosing a favorite! If I had to choose though, it would probably be Scooter and/or Fancy. Gaited horses are so cool, plus those two both have such dynamic personalities. I am definitely going to miss RSR this coming fall, but I plan on visiting whenever I can.

Volunteer Appreciation

Even though it was the day of the BIG GAME, on Sunday, January 23rd over 30 volunteers celebrated the fine work they do week after week at the AMF Bowling Lanes in Bolingbrook. Miss Lisa tried bowling but was no match for many as she bowled a 29 and a 79 - yikes!!! Great try Miss Lisa!

However, we all laughed a lot, ate some pizza, tried bowling and had a wonderful time. RSR can not thank the volunteers enough for all they do during the year. This was just our way of saying thank you and we hope to see you this year too!





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Barn Wish List

With Spring coming, there will be spring cleaning to be done at the barn! Donations of cleaning supplies would be greatly appreciated - bleach, spray cleaners, laundry soap (for the blankets) dryer sheets to store with the blankets so little critters won't find a cozy home for the summer! As always, cases of water for the volunteers, hand soap, paper towels and other barn necessities are needed. Every little bit helps, so if you are able to pick up an extra item on your weekly grocery run, RSR would really appreciate it!

Updates for Volunteers

With the start of the new year we have many people asking to volunteer. While this is great we need to train you! Debbie and Lisa put in many long hours trying to get volunteers ready to saddle and handle the horses. For all **NEW VOLUNTEERS**, there will be a \$15 fee to take the sidewalker training and an additional \$10 fee to take the leader training. At the end of each training session, Debbie or Lisa will certify you. If you are not certified and need to take a refresher course, there will be no charge for that. Remember our main goal is the safety of our riders and we must have **qualified** volunteers working with both the rider and the horse. The volunteer application is online. Please fill it out and send it to Debbie. All **RETURNING** volunteers also must take a refresher course. Returning volunteers need not pay for the sessions. The dates for the training sessions are as follows. Please let Debbie know when you will be able to attend.

Sun. March 13 **Leader** training, 12:00n – 2:30pm

Sat. March 19 **Sidewalker** training , 10:00a – 12:30pm

Sun. March 20 **Sidewalker** training ,12:00n – 2:30pm

Sat. March 26 **Leader** training, 10:00a – 12:30p

Upcoming Events

March 6th - Eileen Vrachan is our volunteer for sign language. She will be teaching us some signs so we can better communicate with our riders.

March ? - The Plainfield Fire Dept. and EMS team will be visiting us to review our emergency dismount procedure, show us how to work fire extinguishers, and talk

about barn and fire safety. At this time we do not have a firm Sunday when they are available.

April 3rd - 7th SPRING SESSIONS START!!!

We **strongly urge** you to participate in the sign language Sunday and the Fire Dept Sunday. Both events are free and very worthwhile. Be sure to watch your emails from Debbie for further updates.