

Dreams of Courage

Student Enrollment Policy

To determine eligibility for participation in therapeutic riding, you must submit the following:

- DOC Application/Evaluation Form
- Doctor's Permission to ride
- Education Evaluation Form
(If currently in school)
- PT/OT Evaluation Form
(If currently seeing a PT/OT).

Enrollment Donation and Fundraising:

- Dreams of Courage Operates entirely from **voluntary contributions.**
- Our annual program cost is approximately \$1000 per student.
- Enrollment cost is tax deductible only if the donation exceeds the value of the service provided. The fair market value of fifty minutes of therapeutic riding instructions is \$25.
- It is our policy to provide service to students of any means, but ask that some contribution to the program be made by the student/family.
- In order to fund our annual budget, we ask all students, parents, and volunteers actively participate in our annual fundraising efforts.

Wings of Freedom

Wings provide the wearer with the power to transcend the bounds of earth, allowing freedom of thought and spirit.

DREAMS OF COURAGE

Therapeutic Riding Program

Horse, Rescue, Relief and Retirement Fund, Inc.

North Wind Equestrian Center, Inc.
1768 Newt Green Road
Cumming, GA 30040
770-886-5419

www.SaveTheHorses.org

Mission Statement

The Horse Rescue, Relief & Retirement Fund, Inc. (HRRRFI), was created because there was an urgent need for service and education as well as change public attitude regarding equines and persons with disabilities.

Case studies and research projects all clearly validate that riding is an effective form of treatment for many physical and cognitive disabilities. Through therapeutic and enjoyable equine activities, riders learn horsemanship that stimulates physical, mental and emotional growth. The definition of therapeutic riding has been expanded and enhanced by including those whose mental health, emotional well-being and ability to learn has been severely challenged as well.

Our “Dreams of Courage” program uses the rescued horses to help disabled children and adults improve their lives through the movement and involvement with these horses. On the back of a horse, a disabled person becomes equal as they ride beside able-bodied persons.

In our ongoing attempt to establish equine rescue services and to improving the quality of life for these horses, it became apparent to us that the horses we were saving could also improve the lives of people. By forming a bond between the two, we can improve the quality of life, health and well being for both the horse and the person.

This program is a nonprofit, public benefit, corporation dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of horses suffering from abuse and the successful retirement of working horses. We are an all-volunteer organization operating solely on tax-deductible donations.

About Therapeutic Riding

Therapeutic Riding has been used since the early 1950’s in Europe as a tool for improving the lives of individuals with physical disabilities.

Individuals with almost any cognitive, physical and / or emotional disability can benefit from a safe and supervised interaction with equines.

Because horseback riding gently and rhythmically moves the rider’s body in a manner similar to a human gait, riders with physical disabilities often show improvement in flexibility, balance and muscle strength.

For individuals with mental or emotional disabilities, the unique relationship formed with the horse can lead to increased confidence, patience and self-esteem.

The sense of independence and acceptance found through these activities with the horse benefits all.

Individuals with the following disabilities commonly participate and benefit from equine facilitated therapy and activities:

Muscular Dystrophy, Cerebral Palsy, Visual Impairment, Down Syndrome, Mental Retardation, Autism, Multiple Sclerosis, Spina Bifida, Emotional Disabilities, Brain Injuries, Spinal Cord Injuries, Amputations, Learning Disabilities, Attention Deficit Disorder, Deafness, Cardiovascular, Accident/Stroke.

For Student Enrollment /Info contact us at:

www.savethehorses.org

Volunteer Opportunities

Prospective volunteers need not have experience with horses or experience with those with special needs. Volunteer trainings are held to orientat new volunteers and to provide them with the knowledge and skills necessary.

Our volunteers vary in age from pre-teens to senior citizens. However, official volunteer status cannot be acquired until the age of fourteen. Twelve and thirteen year olds are accepted as “Jr. Volunteers” who perform extra jobs but are not able to assist in lessons until they turn fourteen.

Time Commitment Required:

At least two class hours per week for the duration of a specific session.

YEAR AROUND OPPORTUNITIES AND COMMITTEES:

Instructor, Assistant Instructor, Volunteer Captain - Training and /or Experience required.

Horse Committee – Cares for horse grooming, tacks, leads during class. Side walker, handler, and spotter (training provided & required)

Publicity- Newsletter & public promotion

Property Maintenance: Construction & upkeep

Ways & Means: Fundraising

Horse Sponsorship – Monetary donations to support our Therapy Horses (used directly for the care and feeding of these horses)

Program Sponsorship – Monetary donation, which directly supports our Therapy program (used to purchase needed equipment, and to provide training for our instructors and volunteers)

To Volunteer please contact us at

www.savethehorses.org