

Centaur Stride Therapeutic Riding Center

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Newsletter



Spring 2006



Therapeutic Riding Center
Westfield NY.

Centaur Stride Inc Board of Directors

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Michele Boutwell
Director

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Director

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Yard Sale

Sue Stull has once again volunteered to have a yard sale/fund raiser at her house at 131 Liberty, in Fredonia this May 19th & 20th. All proceeds will go to Centaur Stride. If you have any items to donate, please contact her at 679-0677 to arrange for a drop off. Items can also be dropped off at Centaur Stride if it would be easier. Also, this is the annual Fredonia yard sale, so it gets pretty busy. If anyone has a couple of hours to help Sue during the sale, please give her a call.

Annual Banquet

February 14th: The annual volunteer recognition banquet was held at the Methodist church in Westfield. Those attending were treated to a spaghetti dinner complete with salad & dessert. Because of different activities and schedules, this is sometimes the only occasion that some volunteers get to see each other. Accomplishments from the past year were reviewed and goals for 2006 were discussed. As usual, Claudia did a fine job thanking everyone for their donations of time and energy. The ever popular drawings for the chocolate goodies were held & many went home with a nice basket of homemade sweets.

Editor's note: As we think about all of the volunteer hours it takes to keep Centaur Stride open & operating properly, we tend to forget about the countless hours Claudia & Harry have spent over the past 12 years. Without their vision & dedication, the organization wouldn't exist today.

*As parents of a child has received both physical & emotional benefits from Centaur Stride for most of those 12 years, we are among those who are given the opportunity to have had countless "feel good" days that can only be understood by volunteers, we know the importance of this special place. I think I can safely speak for the staff, directors, volunteers, & families, to say...**THANK YOU CLAUDIA & HARRY!***

Claudia's Corner

Volunteer Recognition Banquet

This year our Banquet was held on February 14th (Valentine's Day) at the Westfield Methodist Church Hall. A special thanks to all the people who helped to make it a success: to Bette Morgenstern for getting the Church to offer and donate the use of the Hall and kitchen facilities; to Sarah and Helen for sending out invitations; to Paul and Harry for helping Bette in setting up and preparing the food; to Connie for baking dessert and getting some items donated; to Heather Eklund for serving and cleaning up; to Helen, Gary, Sarah, Todd, Kelsey, and Michele for assisting in preparation, serving and clean-up; to Sarah and Erika for getting some items donated; and to all our staff and volunteers for all their help (it was kind of an everybody chip in sort of deal! But we did it!).

The Chautauqua Region Community Foundation gave us a \$250 "field of interest" grant to help cover the costs. They too know that volunteers are so important!

Centaur Stride is whatever we make it. Thank you everyone for your part in Centaur Stride's growth!

Claudia

3rd Annual Basket Raffle

Once again a basket raffle is being planned as a fund raiser. The past years have yielded in excess of \$2,000 profit! Let's all pitch in and help this one to be a success too. The drawing is scheduled for Memorial Day. Baskets are being put together that have a value of at least \$25. Businesses or individuals may contribute. If you have items to donate, or would like to help assemble the baskets, sell tickets, or work during the final weekend, it would be greatly appreciated. Contact Claudia at Centaur Stride ASAP if you can help.

Donations & Support Needed

If you work for a business or belong to a club or other organization that would be interested in "adopting" a horse, conducting a fund raiser, or supporting Centaur Stride in other ways, please contact any of the board members.



Rider Spotlight



Richie Paul

Richie is 23 years old. He began riding at Centaur Stride many years ago. When he started, he required 2 side-walkers & a leader. Now he only has a leader. He is learning to "steer" the horse and tries to verbalize commands with prompting. He currently rides Eli. Richie is active in Special Olympics bowling, basketball, & golf. He also enjoys swimming, playing on his computer, doing puzzles and "reading" his books. He volunteers at JNP, SPCA, Meals on Wheels, and Hillcrest Baptist Church through ASPIRE day-hab program in Lakewood.

He resides in a group home on Newland Ave with 5 other individuals. He has two older brothers and a younger sister.

Horse Spotlight



Eli

Eli is a very important part of the Centaur Stride "family". We acquired Eli in the summer of 2003 when he was seven years old. He is a very calm horse in any circumstance. He is a very slow walker so he's easy to side-walk with and we never have to worry about him going too fast with beginner riders. Eli works well for the first time riders who are afraid of riding a horse. Because he is so calm and slow he puts the riders right at ease.

Don't let his calmness fool you though. On a nice day, out on the trails, if we ask him to he will run just as fast as any other horse and stay right with the crowd.

Eli is also driven by his stomach. If he sees a little bit of hay on the ground he will do his best to get to it. This is especially true around riders using a wheelchair or a walker. If there is the littlest bit of food that has fallen in a corner he will sniff it out and try to get it.

Eli is a very special horse to our mission of therapy riding. We would have a hard time running our lessons without him.

(Editors note: Our horse spotlight was written by Savannah Alday. Thank you Savannah)

Endowments

Chautauqua Region Community Foundation.

The CRCF is an organization that administers over 400 separate funds such as agency endowments, scholarships, field of interest grants, etc. Money placed in these funds is not given out all at once, but is designed to be a permanent benefit to many organizations in the community. Grants & scholarships are generally given out annually.

Two new funds have been established that might be of interest to those reading this newsletter.

The Lyle & Gladys Peterson family has established a fund called "The Centaur Stride Therapeutic Horseback Riding for the Handicapped Fund". Money generated from this fund will be dedicated to help offset daily operational expenses at the center and to help provide riding scholarship assistance for individuals.

The "Animals for the Disabled Fund by Doug and Lamae McCullor" has also been established and is dedicated to assisting organizations that raise, train, or use animals to help persons with disabilities. It will provide help with veterinary and medical bills incurred by the animals. Currently, Centaur Stride is the designated organization for awards from this fund.

These and all other funds grow over time by both interest/investment income and from individual donations, memorials, etc. Anyone interested in making a tax deductible contribution to either of these funds can contact the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation at (716)-661-3390.

Facility Improvements

A new driveway has been installed that will make access to the facility much easier for the cars, vans & busses, especially in the winter. Some of the hillside had to be regarded and loads of gravel brought in. The **Moniuszko Social Club of Dunkirk** made a \$200 donation toward the project. Thanks to all the club members!

Newsletter Contributions

As always, new ideas and written articles are not only welcome but needed as well. In the past, we have spotlighted one rider in each issue. At that rate, it will take “forever” to get to everyone. It has been suggested that we feature more than one rider. If you would like your son/daughter, grandchild, etc. to be included in future editions, please write up a couple of paragraphs about the rider. Discuss whatever you’re comfortable sharing with others: their disability, benefits they get from riding, what they enjoy about being part of the program, health improvements, self confidence, etc. Write it from your prospective as a parent/grandparent or through the child’s eyes. Include a photo if possible.

We also will be starting a **Rider’s News** section to recognize any accomplishments - school graduation, recognitions, celebrations, or news in general about our riders, staff, board members, etc. Let us know what is happening out there.

Drop the info in the large “NEWSLETTER” envelope on the bulletin board near the riding arena. I’ll check it weekly. Lately the envelope has only been collecting dust. Lets all help fill it with some good news.

Thanks,
Doug ☺

Meet The Staff

Due to scheduling, not everyone gets to meet all of the people who work & volunteer at Centaur Stride. So, here’s a list of some you should know!

Instructors:

Kaleena (Lee) Rodriguez
Savannah Alday
Sarah Czarnecki
Jean Lozier – Barn Manager
Penny Smith-Nixon (PRIDE Program)

Staff:

Tyler Muka – Assistant
Erik Czarnecki - Stable Management
Barb Johnson - PRIDE Program
Ben Lozier – Maintenance

(staff cont:)

Therapists:

Claudia Monroe – PT
Lisa Reed – PT

Students:

Erika Shreves – JCC OTA
Katie Garoncy – Gannon PT



Rider Spotlight



Bailee Ann Matta

Bailee is a beautiful 7 year old whose laughter & personality captures everyone’s heart. She lives with her mother Michelle & her 3 year old brother Blaine. She is in 1st grade at Glenwood School.

Her 7 year old cousin Brandon is her best friend. They enjoy movies & playing video games together. She also has twin 18 month old cousins named Sean & Karlee whom she adores. Karlee will crawl into Bailee’s lap to hug & kiss her. She also loves to go swimming with Grandpa Pete at the YMCA. Bailee loves horseback riding and has attended Centaur Stride for 3 years. Bailee has a special place in her heart for Claudia Monroe. She loves American Idol & Paula Abdul. She could live on chicken nuggets & pepperoni. Bailee has the biggest heart of any child you will meet. She worries about everyone else & never asks anything for herself. She is overly protective of her brother Blaine. Bailee is as full of life as life itself.