



Barn Chatter

Fall 2018

**The Horse As
Teacher, Therapist
and Friend**

**MISSION:
Serving those in
Greater Augusta
County with
Physical
Emotional and
Developmental
Special Needs
through a wide range
of therapeutic equine**

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Special Events

Date TBD, 2019:
Bingo Fundraiser!

March 18, 2019:
Spring Session Starts

April 13, 2019:
5th Annual 5K Run/Walk

June 3, 2019: Summer
Session Starts

July 27—28: Patrick King
Clinic



*Happy Holidays from
Ride With Pride!!!*



President's Corner

Hello!

We have wrapped up a very successful season. Lots of exciting changes and events happened this year, all of it supported and made possible by our fantastic volunteers, board members, and supporters. To all of you who have been a part of this amazing year, I thank you for your help, whether that be time, effort, or financial. We can not keep our program running without each one of you! When you support Ride With Pride, you bring joy, confidence, and comfort to all the children and adults who participate in the program and give them the gifts of mobility, friendship and love. These are things that will stay with them, not just for the Christmas Season, but throughout their lives. Thank you so much for helping us to help them!

From all of us at Ride With Pride, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

**Laura Martlock
President, Board of Directors**

Director's Report

It is hard to believe another year has gone by! Our list of accomplishments over the last 12 months is pretty impressive. There were several fantastic events throughout the year, including our annual 5K Colorful Run/Walk, Fall Benefit Trail Ride, and Halloween Party, just to name a few. We also had three Special Focus sessions during our student program where we worked individually with our students to help them achieve their personal goals. At the end of the Fall session, we held our annual student horse show. This is a fun show where students have the opportunity to show off their connection and bonds with their horses and what they have learned during their time in the program. Friends and family are invited to cheer the riders on. We had wonderful attendance at these events and everyone had an amazing time!

We are so excited to start another year in 2019! Did you know Ride With Pride will be celebrating our 30th year in 2019? Wow!! We have experienced incredible growth since we were established in 1989, largely due to the continuing support of our generous donors and volunteers. Without their support we would not be able to help the hundreds of lives Ride With Pride has been able to touch. We hope to continue to grow and support our community as you support us.



**Kelsey Lasher
Program Director, PATH Certified Instructor**



Although Eddy bonded with everyone he met, he clicked with one student in particular—Cael. The day Cael met Eddy, he found that missing something! Cael frequently rode independently through his lessons and with a huge smile—all thanks to a wonderful horse named Eddy!

NICKER NEWS - Horse Report

We could not have asked for a better group of horses this year! One exceptional horse is Eddy. Eddy is a 21 year old Arabian horse. In his younger years he was a racehorse who ran in 41 races! After his racing career, he competed as an endurance horse. He would participate in long rides testing the speed, stamina, and strength of the horse. As he grew older, he retired but quickly found that retirement was no fun. Eddy missed his routine and daily attention. Shortly after arriving at Ride With Pride, he began to shine. He quickly became a favorite around the barn with his big brown eyes and his love for face and neck rubs. Although Eddy bonded with everyone he met, he clicked with one student in particular—Cael. Cael has been a rider at our program for years. He liked the horses and riding but something was missing. The day Cael met Eddy, he found that missing something! Eddy would often give Cael a muzzle kiss at the end of his ride and Cael would take an extra-long time grooming Eddy as a thank you when the ride was over. Their bond was so strong that Cael worked harder at riding than ever before. He was able to ride independently for the first time ever with Eddy! He followed the obstacle course laid out before him and completed it with ease. For the rest of the year, Cael frequently rode independently through his lessons and with a huge smile—all thanks to a wonderful horse named Eddy!

Stall Sponsorships

Our horses are the heart of our program. Please consider being a stall sponsor for one or more of these amazing animals. With this sponsorship, you will help pay for their monthly board at the barn as well as their hoof care and general upkeep. To find out more information please contact Kelsey at info@ridewithprideva.org.

Volunteer Corner

Our volunteers are an important part of our program. They help us in countless ways. Many of our volunteers assist our students and instructors in lessons as either a horse leader or a Barn Buddy side walker. We also have a lot of other volunteers who help out behind the scenes that make our organization great! Bonnie Wells is one of those volunteers. She assists the Program Director as an Administrative Assistant and is often found at the barn filing new student and volunteer paperwork, cleaning and organizing the barn, and giving a little extra love to our equine partners. When Bonnie is not at the barn, she assists us by raising awareness and donations for upcoming events. Bonnie's love for her volunteer work shows through in her passion and diligence in each task. Ride with Pride is extremely grateful to every volunteer that steps through its doors. Without our volunteers, riders would not be able to ride, our Board would not exist, and the organization would not be able to function smoothly. We are always looking for eager and new volunteers.

The Spring session will be starting up again in March and we will be in need of volunteers. If you or someone you know would like to find out more information about volunteering with Ride With Pride, please visit our website at <http://ridewithprideva.org/contact-us/> or send an email to volunteer4rwp@gmail.com. You may also call us at 540-255-2210.

What's Happening at Ride With Pride?

Recent Events

On October 13th Ride With Pride had our 3rd annual Halloween Party. The party was a spooky good time with loads of chili from our chili cook-off, plenty of games with amazing prizes, and tons of candy! With the help of Nicole and the JMU Vet Club we were able to have a spooky trick-or-treat walk that everyone could enjoy. The Halloween Party is something to look forward to every year and we hope it continues to grow next year!



An Instructor's Story

"As an instructor, I see wonderful things happen all the time with our clients and our horses. Here is one of those stories:

This year we introduced ground lessons to several of our students (no riding, just instruction on proper care and handling of horses on the ground). One student in particular proved how we can all overcome our insecurities and help others overcome theirs. This student loved the horses but had little confidence in herself, especially when things didn't always go exactly right. She worked with me on ground work lessons.

In the beginning, she was very clearly nervous about picking up Kili's hoofs. If Kili didn't listen to her when she asked him to lift his hoof, she would quickly give up, look to me, and ask if I could do it for her. Her first lesson: you can't give up right away on what you are asking from the horse but you can rethink how you are asking the horse. We discussed why Kili may not be picking up his hoof and I stood by her as she tried again. At first she clearly wanted me to take over but I assured her that she would learn and it would soon become second nature.

With practice, she soon found the more confident and clear she was with Kili, the quicker he would respond to her. Based on her body language in the beginning, he could tell she was lacking confidence, so he was unsure how he should respond to her. As we worked together, I taught her about herd instinct and how to be a leader for a horse. Kili needed her to be a leader and by the end of the session she had become a leader. She was confident and she was able to begin working with the concept of desensitizing a horse to strange objects. Because Kili now trusted her as a confident leader, he felt safe with her even when working with his insecurities. A bond had formed and she was ready for any task I handed her with her new buddy, Kili."

- Kelsey



"One student in particular proved how we can all overcome our insecurities and help others overcome theirs. A bond had formed and she was ready for any task I handed her with her new buddy, Kili."

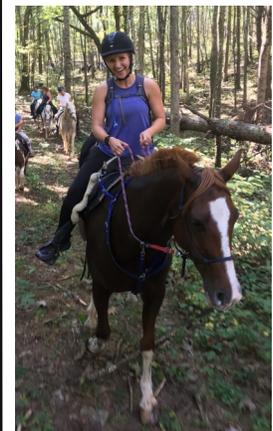
- Kelsey Lasher

Recent Events (continued)

Our Benefit Trail Ride was held Sunday, October 7th. There was a great turnout and everyone enjoyed the delicious barbecue. It was a beautiful day and fun for all!

The Student Horse Show was held Saturday, October 20th. Students and horses alike were shining and happy. The crowd cheered on the students, showing how proud

they were of the riders' accomplishments. The students did an amazing job showcasing what they had learned this year!



Upcoming Events

Giving Tree:

Please join us in supporting Augusta Cooperative Farm Bureau, Inc. for their annual Ride With Pride Giving Tree. It's simple! Just stop by the Staunton or Weyers Cave store and grab a tree tag from the tree! A sales representative will help you locate that needed item, and make sure that it reaches the Ride With Pride team!

Year-End Report

RWP has concluded its Therapeutic Riding sessions for 2018. We are very proud of the 160 students who enrolled in our therapeutic riding program this year! Of these, 29 received scholarships!! A hearty thanks to all who contributed to these scholarships.

We strive to be affordable for the majority of our riders. To break even, we rely on the generosity of donors and grantors. We would like to thank our many generous sponsors and donors for their help.

Gold Level



Silver Level



VIRGINIA FRAME
Builders & Supply, Inc.

Bronze Level

Paul Obaugh Ford

Mountain View Auto Glass

- McDonough Toyota and Scion
- Churchville Ruritan Club
- Virginia Frame
- Waynesboro Moose
- Union Bank
- Staunton Elks

- Helicopter Application
 - William & Karin Banks Foundation
 - St James United Methodist
 - Staunton Elks Lodge #351
 - Mountain View Auto
- And many individual donors**

We would also like to thank the following organizations for their grants. We are grateful to all of you for your help.

For all our readers, please consider making a donation to RWP. Small, recurring donations are especially helpful in meeting our short-term needs. Look at our website at <http://ridewithprideva.org/donate/> for a wish list of our needs and a link to donate electronically. It's also easy to donate electronically through your bank.

- Youth Philanthropy Council
- Community Foundation Central Blue Ridge
- The Gillespie Charitable Trust
- The Brant Foundation, Inc.
- Augusta Staunton VFW Post 2216
- City of Waynesboro
- Shenandoah Valley Kiwanis
- WISE Foundation
- Otter Cares Foundation

So, How Can You Help?

VOLUNTEER!! We need volunteers to help with for classes!! Call Kelsey at 540-255-2210

Be a BARN WORKER!! We have openings. Call Kelsey at 540-255-2210

Are you an INSTRUCTOR ? We need them urgently. Call Kelsey at 540-255-2210 for details.

RWP is a volunteer-based, 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. Rider fees only cover a small percentage of our costs and we turn no one away due to an inability to pay. Therefore, we rely on the generosity of individuals, community businesses, and foundations to help us provide our very special services. Donations are fully tax deductible.

Participate in our Scholarship Program. Consider being a partner for one of our young men and women and their families by providing a scholarship for an individual session or an entire year. Your tax deductible gift will support a child or adult for one session: \$190 for spring, summer, or fall sessions (6 weeks).

Make your holiday gift purchases at Amazon Smile. A portion of the proceeds from your purchase will be donated to Ride With Pride. Simply go to <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-1583440> and shop!

Make a choice off of our Wish List – visit <https://www.amazon.com/registry/wishlist/281ZPW535E9A> and see the items you can purchase for us. We especially need the following:

- Turnout Sheets and Blankets—especially sizes 78 and 81
- Total Saddle Fit - Shoulder Relief Cinch - Western Cinch
- Schooling Helmets—all sizes

It won't take much effort on your part. Giving to RWP is easy and tax deductible.

Go to <http://ridewithprideva.org/donate/>

Or send a check to Ride With Pride, P.O. Box 1203, Staunton, VA 24402

Keep Up With Ride With Pride!

Visit us at <http://ridewithprideva.org/> to sign up for newsletters, track events and to learn how you can help our cause!

Follow us on Facebook for the latest updates on events, horses, riders and much more!

@RideWithPrideTherapeuticRiding



(Tear here to return with donation)

Thank you for supporting Ride With Pride!!!

Check Enclosed

Please make check payable to **Ride With Pride**

American Express

Discover

MasterCard

Visa

Name as it appears on Debit/Credit Card: _____

Card #: _____

Signature: _____

Return in enclosed envelope to: **Ride With Pride, P.O. Box 1203, Staunton, VA 24402**



P.O. Box 1203 • Staunton, VA 24402 • p: 540-255-2210 • f: 540-886-6379
info@ridewithprideva.org • www.ridewithprideva.org

December 4, 2018

Dear Friends of Ride With Pride,
What an incredible year! It's hard to believe 2018 has flown by and our wonderful program has gone into its winter hibernation. But, just like a roaring fire warms the hearth, the memories our students and horses created for us over the last twelve months are warming our hearts this holiday season.

I don't know about you, but I am a sucker for those sappy Christmas movies that seem to be on every TV channel at this time of the year. They all seem to have one message, and they all have a happy ending for those who embrace that message. The message is to believe--believe in the spirit of Christmas, believe in your fellow man, and, above all, believe in yourself. This message resonates with us here at Ride With Pride.

We believe in our mission--to serve those in Greater Augusta County and surrounding areas who have physical, emotional, and developmental special needs, through a wide range of therapeutic equine activities. Our horses are teachers, therapists, and friends for the students we serve. Even though our therapy horses have now gone home for the holidays, the Ride With Pride elves are still busy "in our workshop" planning for next year's students and activities.

At Ride With Pride, we believe in our students. Working alongside our amazing equine partners, our goal is to help those we serve them believe in themselves. We have watched in amazement how our students grow and gain confidence through the bonds they share with their equine angels. It has been said that the combination of programs and activities offered by Ride With Pride results in "magic"... indeed, miracles.

Ride With Pride believes in the strength of community. The greater Augusta area is blessed with amazing people who have an incredible generosity of spirit. As we prepare for our 2019 season of miracles, we hope that you will be part of the team, helping Ride With Pride provide another year of incredible experiences, personalized instruction, and transformative activities for our clients...those who need it so much.

The holiday season is a time of joy, merriment, reflection, and giving. It is the perfect time to count—and share—our blessings. At Ride With Pride, we are grateful for the support you have given in the past. As we look forward to the year ahead, we ask you to share your blessings today, so we can change the lives of those who need us so much in the year ahead.

Your generous, tax-deductible contribution to Ride With Pride will help to keep "the magic" alive for another year. **Simply use the tear-off form on the reverse side of this letter, and return it with your gift to support our program.** Please, share the joy of your holiday season and help us share "the magic" of horses with those who need a miracle. Thank you, in advance.

Happy Holidays!

Laura

Laura Martlock
President, Board of Directors
Ride With Pride, Inc.