



Augusta County Virginia's premier equestrian-based therapeutic horsemanship program

MISSION
Serving those in Greater Augusta County with physical, emotional, developmental special needs through a wide range of therapeutic equine activities.

The Annual 5K Color Run



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hello!

Our 2019 season has been off to a great start with most of the horses from last year returning again this year, along with a few new faces. There are many exciting things planned for this year, such as another Patrick King Horsemanship clinic, a Judged Trail Ride, a Parent's Retreat, and a year-end thankful celebration event at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel in November! Please keep an eye on our website at www.ridewithprideva.org for details regarding these events and how you can participate. As always, the success of our program depends on those who support us through donations of time and money and resources. Please keep us in mind this year as we are working hard to serve Augusta County and the surrounding areas. We truly hope you will join some of our fundraiser events and help us continue to grow our program and outreach in 2019. Thanks to all who have committed to working with us this year!

Laura Martlock
Board President

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As we finish up another beautiful spring session I am always so amazed by the ability horses have to make a difference in so many people's lives. I was very happy to have our amazing herd of horses return and we were excited to welcome a few new faces as well. Our horses help us welcome our incoming students for spring session. Fifty students join us this spring, with 11 new students eager to learn about equine horsemanship and therapeutic riding. Recently, we enjoyed another successful 5K Colorful Run/Walk with just under 50 participants! We were delighted that the excessive, ongoing amount of rain just since winter did not dampen the day. In fact, the weather was beautiful and so were our participants with their colorful clothes when they reached the finish line! Many thanks to supporters and volunteers who helped make the day a success. We look forward to our next fun event in May – Our Two Day Retreat for Parents where our parents will experience hands on what their students do and form new friendships and bond with their horse as they learn new skills. How exciting to be able to provide this opportunity to our parents and caregivers! It's going to be another great year with the annual student horse show, judged trail ride, benefit fall trail ride, Patrick King Clinic, Halloween Party and second annual holiday gala. With all these amazing fundraisers the goal is always the same – to see our students grow towards reaching their personal goals. Just a reminder that Ride With Pride will be celebrating their 30th year in 2019! Please pause for just a moment to think about all the students who have come through the barn door and into the world of an equine friend, caring instructor, and volunteer. We have seen tremendous growth since our establishment in 1989 due to the continuing support of our generous donors and volunteers. Without such support we would not be able to impact the hundreds of lives Ride With Pride has touched. We hope to continue to grow and support our community as they support us.



-Kelsey Lasher

HORSE REPORT

What Happens When the Horses Go Home?

We are often asked what RWP does when the horses go home for the winter. Winter is a great opportunity to improve storage and work areas and discuss new ideas to expand our program in general. During this time Brooklyn Burns was of tremendous help in getting the Tack and Toy rooms and the Loft cleaned up and reorganized. As a result, a good number of boxes were discovered which held donated tack that we had not been able to use for our program. We are pleased that many of these tack items were now able to be used in the program or sold to benefit RWP. Outside the barn during this time our board members and Program Director continued to meet and discussed several things such adding groundwork lessons, adding the Parent Retreat to our event calendar, and conducting a summer camp. These things are now "in the works" as are plans for our second annual holiday celebration. These are but a few glimpses into our active winter world.



-Kelsey

Nicker News- Horses Report

Every year we have the best horses! Here's who's back: Eddy, Dixie, Maggie, Molly, Dania, Xavoy, and Kili. Good boys and girls all and we are thrilled they are all here again this season. The "newbies" are Jenny, Major and Coco. Jenny is a sweet, pretty chestnut mare whose past included dressage and jumping. Major, who loves trail rides in addition to his lesson duties, is quite majestic with his black coat and Tennessee walker self. And Coco is an adorable little paint with his white stockings who loves kisses. Did you count the names? That's ten horses a-nickering in our Nicker News!

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 money you will help pay for their monthly board at the barn as well as their hoof and general upkeep care. To find out more information please contact Kelsey at info@ridewithprideva.org.



Volunteer's Corner

Bonnie Wells here,

Our volunteers continue to be amazing as do our instructors. I know this because I had the opportunity in between my office and horse kissing duties to shadow our instructors. This was quite different than sitting on the bench to watch a lesson as I did when I first began volunteering as Admin. Assistant. My goal is to shadow all the instructors, just for fun, but mostly because I wish to add to my own volunteer experience at RWP. Besides, experiencing new things is learning new things, right? I plan to shadow all our instructors, and so far I've been able to do so with Marsha Pillet and Alex Walden. Not only did I enjoy observing these very talented instructors, but I believe I gained great insight as to what the students are experiencing. (You can't always see their facial expressions or subtle body cues from the bench!) It was wonderful watching the different techniques utilized by Marsha and Alex and how they interact with their students while keeping everyone on task. It was also wonderful observing the volunteers who are up close and personal on the ground with rider and horse. I realized on a deeper level how each and every volunteer's own physical balance is just as important as their rider's. And I'm not just talking about staying on their feet. That alone combined with paying close attention at all times to the instructor and their four footed and two footed charges is definitely admirable, and a true skill. So kudos to them and all of you who help the students work towards their goals while keeping the horses healthy and happy. 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.

If you or someone you know would like to find out more information about volunteering with Ride With Pride please email volunteer4rwp@gmail.com or call us at 540-255-2210.



EVENTS

Parent Retreat Days
May 13 -15, 2019
8 AM - 5 PM

Beginning of Summer
Therapeutic Riding Session
June 3 , 2019
8 AM - 5 PM

End of our Summer
Therapeutic Riding Session
July 12, 2019
8 AM - 5 PM

Patrick King Horsemanship Clinic
July 27 & 28, 2019
Cedar Creek Stables
2435 Shutterlee Mill Road
Staunton, VA 24401

Beginning of Fall
Therapeutic Riding Session
September 9, 2019
8 AM - 5 PM

End of Fall
Therapeutic Riding Session
October 18, 2019
8 AM - 5 PM

Student Horse Show
October 19, 2019
8 AM - 5 PM
Cedar Creek Stables
2435 Shutterlee Mill Road
Staunton, VA 24401

Halloween Party
October 26, 2019
Cedar Creek Stables
2435 Shutterlee Mill Road
Staunton, VA 24401

Annual Benefit Dinner & Auction
November 8, 2019
7 PM - 11 PM
Stonewall Jackson Hotel
24 South Market Street
Staunton, VA 24401

SPONSORS



VIRGINIA FRAME
Builders & Supply, Inc.



THANK YOU TO THE 2019 SPONSORS

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT SUMMER CAMP WITH THE HORSES!

RIDE WITH PRIDE IS OFFERING A 3 DAY CAMP FOR YOUTH BETWEEN 10 AND 17 YEARS OF AGE.

LEARN TO CONNECT WITH OUR EQUINE FRIENDS, GAIN HORSEMANSHIP SKILLS SUCH AS GROUND WORK, RIDING, RELAXATION TECHNIQUES AND GROUP COMMUNICATION.

ENJOY ARTS AND CRAFT TIME.
LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

JULY 24, 25, 26 - 2019
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
at
Ride With Pride
Staunton, VA

Please RSVP and complete payment of \$300.00 per person by June 30 by calling (540) 255-2210 or email to info@ridewithprideva.org

This event was created for parents with children with physical, intellectual, or emotional special needs to take time for themselves.



We hope the two days parents join us will be a time for them gain new friendships, peace, and relaxation with the horses through ground and riding activities.

Upcoming Equestrian Fundraiser Events

Please join us July 20th for our Judged Trail Ride, hosted in conjunction with Glenmore Hunt Club. This event is held on the beautiful Belle Vue property in Swoope, VA, owned by Charlie Drumheller. A lovely course of about 5 miles will include various tasks and obstacles to be performed or negotiated by the horse and rider team as you take a leisurely ride across rolling farmland and woods. A provided lunch and socializing with friendly equestrians make this a perfect day! Details for this event can be found on our website at www.ridewithprideva.org, or by calling Laura at 540-292-1654

A huge thanks to Glenmore Hunt for providing help, logistical support, volunteers and work crews!



PATRICK KING HORSEMANSHIP
Classical principles for modern riders
July 27 and 28
Hosted by Ride With Pride
at
Cedar Creek Stables
2435 Shutterless Mill Road, Staunton, VA

Saturday
* AM: Introduction to Working Equitation Group
* PM: Private and Semi-Private Lessons on your choice of topic

Sunday
* Private and Semi-Private Lessons on your choice of topic

For more information, contact Laura at:
horsebackriding@wildwoodfarmva.com
or
540-292-1654

Ride with Pride

Patrick works with all disciplines and all problems and issues!

100% of proceeds go to Ride with Pride!

www.PKHorsemanship.com 760-473-5206

Many riders of various disciplines and skill levels had a great time last year. We already are getting repeat riders inquiring about returning for this year's clinic.

Please contact us at 540-292-1654 or horsebackriding@wildwoodfarmva.com for more information or to register. The format has changed a bit this year as we try to take into consideration the wants and needs of the participants in our area.

HOW TO SUPPORT



Volunteer!

As a non-profit, volunteers are a crucial part of our program. They help with keeping our barn clean, our clients safe, and our horses happy. We have many volunteers who help with fundraisers, lessons with our clients, and keeping our barn clean and horse well groomed.

Our lessons would not be possible without the help of our volunteers. One rider may use up to 3 volunteers for assistance. In one lesson with 4 riders we could use up to 12 volunteers! Volunteers work one on one with our instructors to insure the best experience for our clients and our volunteers. Our volunteers may help as a side walker or a leader. Side walkers help riders stay balanced and focused, while a leader helps maintain the horse while the student learns to become a strong rider.

Volunteering for Ride With Pride is a fun way to get involved with the community! With many different one hour lessons throughout the week, volunteers with busy schedules can still find time to help, so please don't hesitate to find out more information about how you can help out our program!

Volunteers must be 13 years or older. No horse experience is required but a volunteer training session must be completed by all new volunteers prior to volunteering. Volunteer training sessions are held before the start of every session. Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator under the Contact Us page for more information!

Donate!

We are so proud of the work we are doing to change the lives of those in our community with special needs. The benefits of therapeutic riding are well-documented. People with special needs improve motor coordination, muscle strength, verbal abilities,...and gain something more...something impossible to replicate in other therapeutic settings, a sense of self-worth and confidence that comes when a large animal responds to them with gentleness and understanding.

We couldn't have such success stories without these wonderful horses that make the magic happen. While our horses' roles are key and provide outstanding rewards, it happens at a high price. It is a considerable financial challenge to care for these animals that RWP works tirelessly to meet.

RWP's annual operating budget is almost \$100,000. Among the many costs of the operation are a \$100 a month boarding fee for each horse, another \$30 a month to feed him, and another \$100 to keep his stall clean and sweet smelling. I haven't even mentioned what it costs for the doctor/vet bills or shoes.

While the staff and volunteers donate hundreds of hours to the program, it still costs a family \$220 for an 6 week program. The payment of this fee reflects the family's commitment, their interest in having a real sense of ownership and investment in the program. However this fee barely covers 1/3 of these operating costs. For the majority of these costs, RWP depends on people like you, whose tax deductible charitable contributions and in-kind donations of supplies and services make the program possible.

Please consider being our partner in this life changing program.