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President's Report

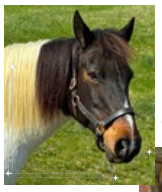
LAURA MARTLOCK

As the beauty of spring returns to the Valley, it brings with it a renewed sense of hope, growth, and possibility—values that are at the very heart of Ride With Pride. For more than three decades, our organization has been dedicated to empowering individuals with physical, emotional, and intellectual challenges through the transformative power of equine-assisted therapies. Each day, we witness the **incredible connection** between horse and rider—where confidence is built, trust is nurtured, and meaningful progress takes root in ways that traditional therapies often cannot replicate.

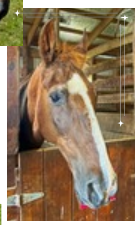
At Ride With Pride, our programs are thoughtfully designed to **meet each rider where they are**, offering a supportive and inclusive environment where participants can grow physically, emotionally, and socially. From developing balance, strength, and coordination through adaptive riding, to fostering independence, self-esteem, and emotional resilience, **our work goes far beyond the arena**. The bond formed between our riders and our carefully selected horses creates a powerful pathway to healing, connection, and personal achievement.

As our season starts, we are reminded that none of this work happens alone. Our **dedicated volunteers, generous donors, and committed community partners** make it possible for us to continue serving individuals and families across our region. As we step into the promise of spring, I invite you to be part of this journey whether by volunteering, supporting our programs, or simply sharing our mission. Together, we can continue to open doors, change lives, and ensure that every rider has the opportunity to experience the joy, confidence, and empowerment that Ride With Pride provides.

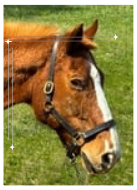
Our Newest Horses



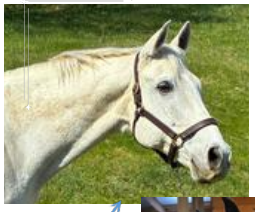
CHESNEY IS A 16 YEAR OLD **DRAFT/ PAINT CROSS**



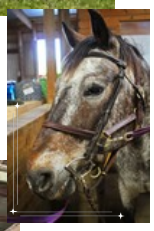
RUDY IS A 28 YEAR OLD **MISSOURI FOX TROTTER**

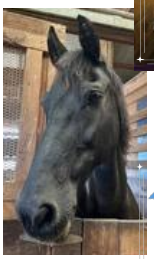


BALTHASAR IS A 17 YEAR OLD **ARGENTINIAN THOROUGHBRED**



SHADOW IS A 16 YEAR OLD **THOROUGHBRED**





COOKIE CRUMBLE IS A 19 YEAR OLD **APPALOOSA**

ABIGAIL IS A 17 YEAR OLD **FRIESIAN**

Year In Review

WE PROVIDED SERVICES FOR **XXX** STUDENTS ACROSS FOUR SEASONAL SESSIONS

A great time was had by all attendees at our annual **5K Colorful Run & 1K Family Fun Run/Walk.** Thank you to the JMU students who organized this event!

Our first **Art Circle** was a great success. Stay tuned for additional Art Circles to be held in 2026.

Thank you to **Redbeard Brewing Co.** in Staunton for hosting multiple events to benefit Ride With Pride. Everyone had a blast at trivia night!

Our **Annual Gala,** held at the Blackburn Inn, was a wonderful night of food, friends, and FUN!

Student Spotlight

WALLACE MCDONALD

Wallace started the program in the **winter of 2023.** He was struggling with ADHD and some anger issues. Being a part of this program has changed so many things. Today, he is back in a public school, thriving, making friends, and participating in many different activities. This program made **such a difference.**

Wallace now **rides independently** at lessons as well as helps others. He is president of the Junior Board and wants to complete his Eagle Scout Project at the barn.

***If you are interested in participating** in our program, please reach out. We look forward to working with you!*

Seeking Your Support

Director's Report

For many individuals with cognitive, physical, or emotional challenges, independence can feel like a distant goal, something shaped by limitations rather than possibilities. Adaptive riding and therapeutic horsemanship programs are **changing that narrative every day**, offering not just horseback riding lessons, but life changing opportunities for growth, confidence, and connection.

At its core, adaptive riding and therapeutic horsemanship is about **empowerment** and how students gain the confidence to make decisions and communicate clearly

Volunteers

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Becky Halterman is an amazing volunteer. She has been volunteering for **6 years.** She works tirelessly to help students each week with grace, patience, and kindness.

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