



# THE "NEIGH"-BORHOOD NEWS

from Dream Catchers at the Cori Sikich Therapeutic Riding Center

Volume 4, Issue 1 --October 26, 2009

Here's the latest . . .

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## Mark Your Calendars

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the annual Williamsburg Christmas Parade down Duke of Gloucester Street in Colonial Williamsburg on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 9 am.. So come out in your warmest holiday apparel and cheer on our riders, our volunteers, our instructors and our horses. Hope to see you there!



## "Support a Dream" 2010 Calendar

Dream Catchers is proud and excited to announce the first ever "Support a Dream" Dream Catchers Calendar.

These calendars will be on sale during the holiday season for \$15 each. Perfect as gifts for the holidays!



"Support a Dream" by purchasing a calendar day in 2010 for \$25. You can honor a loved one, a special friend, even a horse -- and have their name printed on that day. Corporate sponsorships are also available. Please call us at 757-566-1775 to reserve your day(s). Thank you in advance for helping to support the dreams of our riders and their families through this very special calendar!



Visit the website to learn more or merely to stay up to date on the latest news in the barn, upcoming events, and general information. If you ever have a question or a concern, you can even reach us through the "contact form" on the website.

Thank you for partnering with us to serve the special riders in our area!

All proceeds go to support Dream Catchers at the Cori Sikich Therapeutic Riding club and all of its endeavors.

Make miracles happen for as little as \$25.00 a month. Each month you will receive a letter from important horses like us.



Please mail your check to: Dream Catchers P.O. Box 1261 Williamsburg, VA 23187

## ADOPT A HORSE

SUPPORT THE HORSES THAT SUPPORT THE CHILDREN  
www.dreamcatcherswilliamsburg.org

Dream Catchers at the Cori Sikich Therapeutic Riding Center is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. Our riders pay only a portion of the real cost of lessons. The balance of our operating costs are generated through fundraising. Your gift enables Dream Catchers to maintain a safe and thriving equine facility -- happy, healthy horses; knowledgeable, nurturing instructors; and well-trained, conscientious volunteers.

## Dream Catchers on FACEBOOK?!

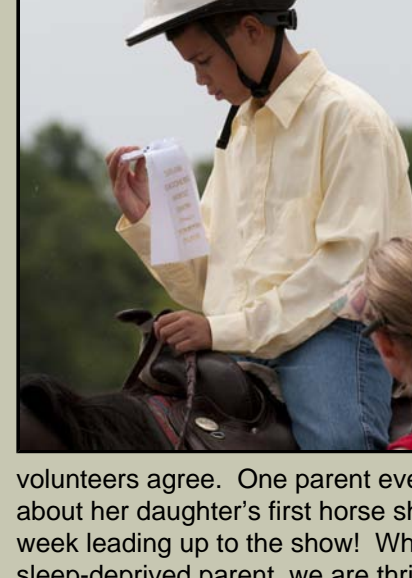
We want you! Click the Link and [BECOME A FAN](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov 07, 2009 • Belk Charity Day
- Nov 14, 2009 • New Volunteer Orientation 1-2:30
- Nov 14, 2009 • Grooming and Tacking Clinic 2:30-4:30
- Nov 21, 2009 • Run for the Brain SK, Governor's Land
- Nov 23, 2009 • No Classes for Thanksgiving Break Nov. 23rd-28th
- Nov 30, 2009 • Winter Session Registration begins for Students
- Dec 04, 2009 • Last Day for Fall Session
- Dec 05, 2009 • CW Christmas Parade
- Dec 08, 2009 • Make Up Lessons Only - Dec. 8-11
- Dec 12, 2009 • No Lessons/Classes - NARHA site visit
- Dec 19, 2009 • Make Up Lessons for Sat Classes
- May 22, 2010 - BRIDLES AND BOWTIES

## Horse Show Success

We have had many exciting horse shows lately, and are excited to share news of our student's successes.



First of all, we had our own Annual Student Horse Show on Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, which was a huge event for all of our students and their families. We had over 50 riders compete in trail, dressage and equitation classes. To support and encourage them, we had 60 volunteers on hand, including family members, friends and neighbors. It was a beautiful day, with just enough of a sprinkle of rain to keep things at a comfortable temperature. Many parents comment that this is their favorite event of the year, and most of the staff and

volunteers agree. One parent even said that she was so excited about her daughter's first horse show that she couldn't sleep for the week leading up to the show! While we hate to hear of another sleep-deprived parent, we are thrilled to provide an opportunity each year for each and every one of our special riders to shine and show off their riding skills. As parents, caregivers, volunteers, friends, and instructors, it is a blessing to witness their profound achievements. Our annual student horse show in particular reminds us of why we do what we do day in and day out as we have a chance to celebrate each and every rider's achievements in a tangible way. A big thank you to those of you who braved the heat and came out to support our students that day!

Next, we had the privilege and opportunity to participate in special classes at the **Crabtree Arabian Annual Celebration at the Airfield 4H Center in Wakefield, Virginia, over Labor Day weekend.** We were able to take three riders and two horses to be a part of this special show, as arranged for by our own instructor, Skip Mollenhauer. It was a beautiful show and a beautiful weekend all around. We shared our program and our rider's accomplishments with horse lover's from all over the east coast -- and heard great feedback as lifetime horse trainers were impressed by the riding skills they saw our student's demonstrate. It was a fun experience to gain exposure in the greater horse community, and our students enjoyed being a part of a different kind of show. Thanks to all who came out and supported our rider's at this event!

Finally, we recently returned from the annual **TRAV Horse Show at the beautiful Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, Virginia.**

The show took place on October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, and we took fifteen riders and four horses to this annual two day event. In addition, we had four staff members, eight volunteers, and many family members attend to support our students. It was an amazing weekend where we were able to enter in a variety of classes to demonstrate our rider's skills. We had many students in walk only trail classes, all the way up through training level dressage. We are so proud of our students who performed their best at this prestigious venue and brought home ribbons of all colors to show off their accomplishments. This was the second time we attended this show in conjunction with Capernaum Williamsburg, and we have named the weekend the "Ride 'N Romp." Again, many thanks to all who traveled with us to make the entire weekend a tremendous success. We are already looking forward to next year's show!

We anticipate more shows in the future and will be excited to share the details of our rider's accomplishments in 2010!

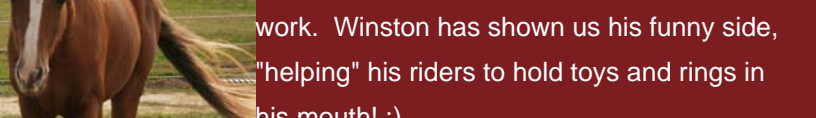
## New Members of the Family!

We are so pleased to welcome two great horses to our special herd.

Reba is a 16 year old Percheron/Paint mare. She came to us last month from Georgia where she worked as a trail horse. Reba is currently job sharing with Bonnie while Bonnie is out on maternity leave. Soon they will both serve our riders who would most benefit from their sturdy draft conformations and quiet, sweet temperaments.



Winston is a Tennessee Walker gelding from North Carolina. He also came to us last month and set some definite records for enjoying well and going straight to work. Winston has shown us his funny side, "helping" his riders to hold toys and rings in his mouth! :) Come by and say hi to the newest members of our Dream Catcher's Family!



## A round of applause for Sue Pearce!

### She won the prestigious Cruikshank award from United Way!

This award was established in 1993 by the United Way Board of Directors to honor the first recipients, Nan and Pete Cruikshank, for their service in the establishment of the UW Information and Referral Service. This year is the Seventeenth Annual Cruikshank Spirit of the Community Awards.

The awards are based on the following criteria:  
Need: Nominee who has contributed to a needed service to the community  
Action: Nominee who has been physically active in service, not just a figurehead  
Initiative: Nominee started a new program, used new methods to solve problems or initiated activities  
Impact: The activity of the volunteer service produced positive changes and set an example for other volunteers  
Time: The amount of time devoted to the activity, service or agency was significant

This year recognition is being awarded in three categories: 1. A group 2. Adult (ages 18+) and 3. Youth/ Youth Group (under age 17) Sue Pearce was nominated in the Adult Category for her Exceptional Services rendered to Dream Catchers. She helped to elevate Dream Catchers from a small unknown not-for-profit in Toano to a leader in the broader local community as well as the professional therapeutic riding community by 1) developing and implementing a strategic plan to provide equine activities to students with an array of disabilities and by 2) developing the board and the staff to achieve those goals. Sue is an integral part of our DC Family and we are so very proud of her and her gifts! We are truly honored to have her as a part of our team; as a part of our family. It is these accomplishments that make Dream Catchers Shine!

Thank you Sue and again, CONGRATULATIONS!!

## Stop and Shop

Show your support for Dream Catchers with your purchase of t-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, travel mugs, coffee mugs, water bottles and sweat shirts, by the Admin building to say hello and do a little shopping.

## Soon-to-Be

Be on the lookout for our ONLINE SHOPPING CART where all of our merchandise can be purchased!

## How You Can Help

Dream Catchers at the Cori Sikich Therapeutic Riding Center is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. Our riders pay only a portion of the real cost of lessons. The balance of our operating costs is generated through fundraising. Your gift enables Dream Catchers to maintain a safe and thriving equine facility -- happy, healthy horses; knowledgeable, nurturing instructors; and well-trained, conscientious volunteers. We depend on your financial gifts as well as your precious gift of time! We are always looking for volunteers, young and old, to support the dreams that our humble organization helps come true!

If you would like to sponsor a horse, sponsor a child, or make a donation in honor of a loved one or friend, please send your donation to:

Dream Catchers  
P.O. Box 1261  
Williamsburg, VA 23187

or donate online at [www.dreamcatcherswilliamsburg.org](http://www.dreamcatcherswilliamsburg.org)

Thank you for your continued support.

## Need a Grant?

Follow the link for the [United Healthcare Children's Foundation](#) for more information!

This Issue of The "Neigh"-Borhood News sponsored by:

**Design Alternatives Inc**  
Move Ins, Makeovers, and More...  
757.890.2664  
[www.designalternatives.net](http://www.designalternatives.net)

Thank you for Supporting Dream Catchers!

Please send comments or questions about this newsletter to [info@dreamcatcherswilliamsburg.org](mailto:info@dreamcatcherswilliamsburg.org)  
Need a printed copy, call us we'd be happy to bring!

## The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ride 'N Romp with Capernaum Williamsburg

Capernaum Williamsburg, under the leadership of Ben Conner (husband to Melissa Conner, our Program Coordinator), partnered again this year with Dream Catchers to establish a unique weekend experience which has come to be known as the "Ride 'N Romp." Capernaum is an organization under the umbrella of Young Life Williamsburg, which serves adolescents with special needs in the Williamsburg area. As Capernaum seeks to provide social outings and life experiences to this special population in a Christian context, and Dream Catchers reaches out to this same population to provide horse-related experiences that develop personal, physical and emotional growth -- it is a natural fit for our two organizations to partner together for certain events.



The Ride 'N Romp took place in conjunction with the TRAV Horse Show earlier this month. Thirty-five high school and middle school students, along with their parents and trained Capernaum buddies, went to experience the adventures at Young Life's premier camping property, Rockbridge, located in Goshen, Virginia. The camp is conveniently located about a 15 minute drive away from the Virginia Horse Center, where the TRAV Show took place. The students, all wearing matching yellow t-shirts sporting both the Capernaum Williamsburg and the Dream Catchers logos, were able to go to the show as a group on their chartered bus on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> -- where they supported twelve of their peers in Capernaum who were participating in classes at the show that day.

During the hunt, the students broke into groups and did a photo scavenger hunt and enjoyed box lunches packed by the kitchen staff from Rockbridge while they cheered on their friends. After the show was over, the students boarded the bus and went back to the camp where they spent the afternoon hiking, playing basketball, tackling the climbing wall, doing the ropes course, relaxing in the hot tub, and enjoying spending time together in the beautiful mountain setting. This enriched the experience of the show weekend in that the students and families were able to spend time together celebrating and building bonds of friendship.

Not only are we grateful to Ben for putting this event together, but we are extremely grateful to the anonymous donors who gave to Capernaum for the purpose of sponsoring all of the riders on the weekend. They, along with a generous grant from Inclusion, covered all of the expenses incurred at the TRAV Show, including entry fees, transportation and boarding costs. Thanks to such generosity, the riders who participated were not charged to take part in the show. We simply can't say enough to express our gratitude at making this experience a reality for these riders.

Not only are we grateful to the donors, but want to thank you all who traveled with us and took part in the weekend. The Ride 'N Romp proved to be a life-changing experience for many as it culminated in a weekend of "firsts" for many of the students, and their families were able to share this experience with them. It was an incredible weekend over all -- and it certainly was a weekend to celebrate together!

## Exceptional Volunteer of the Year



JD Tressler was recently awarded Dream Catchers prestigious Exceptional Volunteer of the Year Award for 2008-2009, which is awarded annually to a student who also serves as a volunteer at the barn. JD first found his way to Dream Catchers in the fall of 2007 when he, along with his classmates from Jamestown High School, took a field trip to visit Dream Catchers. JD immediately fell in love with the instructors and horses here at the barn and has been coming back ever since. JD first started out as a barn volunteer for Dream Catchers and went on to become a regular student. But even as a student, JD still loves to help out around the barn. After any given lesson, JD can be found helping the barn crew with a smile on his face.

JD has competed in several shows including the Mathews Horse and Pony Club and in two of our annual student horse shows. JD also participated in the Colonial Downs therapeutic riding demonstration last July. JD also participated in the Ride 'N Romp weekend this October, which included being in the TRAV show at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, Virginia. JD's time at Dream Catchers has nurtured his love for horses and taught him how to properly ride and care for horses. JD hopes to buy his own horse one day.

We are extremely grateful to have JD as part of our family here at Dream Catchers. His strong work ethic and contagious smile are a huge blessing to everyone around him.

## Volunteer of the Year



On just about any day of the week, Karen Thomas can be found either in the barn working with our students and horses, cleaning out a closet in the Administration building, attending an event planning meeting in the Board room, or representing Dream Catchers at a local fair. Karen wears many different hats as a volunteer, and performs her many jobs always with a giving spirit and a genuine desire to share her gifts and talents with others. It is this kind-hearted spirit and willingness to jump in and do any task needed that prompted the staff to nominate her as the 2008-2009 Volunteer of the Year.

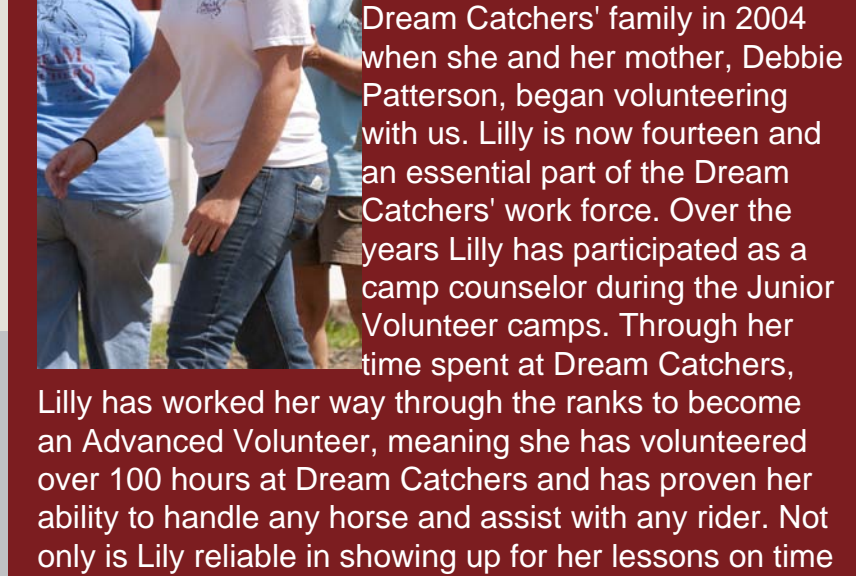
Karen began partnering with us during the summer of 2007. She has an impressive knowledge and love of horses and is compassionate and nurturing to many of our younger students. She has been caught going the extra mile over and over again, and takes pride and joy in her work. She stands out from others in her desire to go beyond expectations and volunteering to do tasks that no one else wanted to take on -- such as re-organizing our storage space and restructuring office spaces to maximize their use. But her favorite part of volunteering is helping our students meet their goals with their horses. She has been a dedicated cheerleader for many of our regular students, and even rearranges her personal schedule each session in order to be available to help out in her student's lessons. It is this passion that sets Karen apart.

You may have called the barn and heard Karen's voice on the other end as she helped out in the office by answering phones, or you may have witnessed her gentleness with our students as she works as a sidewalker in a lesson, or you may have seen her expertly handle a horse during a difficult mount, or you may have been with her when she has given a tour to visitors. She wears all of these hats with grace, knowledge and expertise and we don't know what we would do without her.

We can even see her at one of our Dream Catchers shows as she awes the crowd (and usually the judge!) by her elegance and style as she rides her favorite Dream Catchers horse, Indy.

We are proud and honored to have Karen Thomas as a part of our family and can't thank her enough for her countless hours of service on behalf of our students. Congratulations, Karen!

## Junior Volunteer of the Year

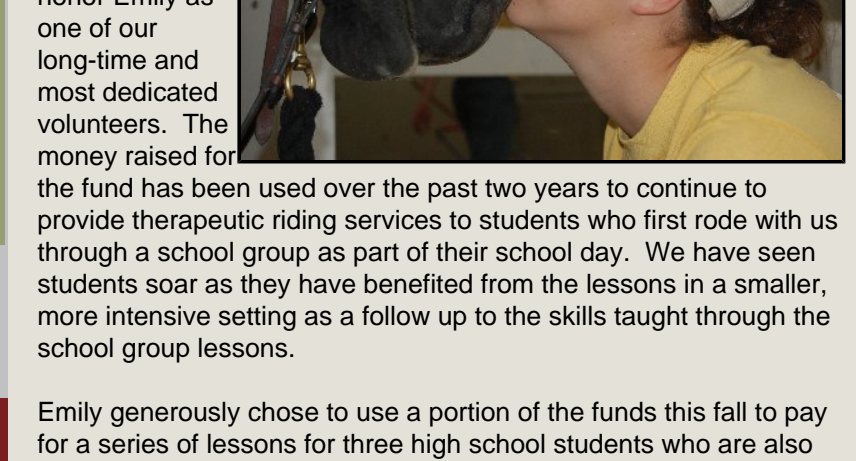


This year's 2008-2009 Junior Volunteer of the Year Award goes to a special young girl who is trying to make a difference in the world of therapeutic riding. Lily Patterson was welcomed into the Dream Catchers' family in 2004 when she and her mother, Debbie Patterson, began volunteering with us. Lilly is now fourteen and an essential part of the Dream Catchers' work force. Over the years Lilly has participated as a camp counselor during the Junior Volunteer camps. Through her time spent at Dream Catchers, Lilly has worked her way through the ranks to become an Advanced Volunteer, meaning she has volunteered over 100 hours at Dream Catchers and has proven her ability to handle any horse and assist with any rider. Not only is Lilly reliable in showing up for her lessons on time but she's also readily on call as a last minute volunteer.

When Lily is not at the barn assisting in lessons or mucking out stalls she can be found tearing it up on the field hockey field. In addition to volunteering at Dream Catchers and showing her own horses, Lily is a member of the Warhill High School field hockey team.

Lily is an exceptional young girl who is a tremendous asset to our program and works well with all our riders and horses at Dream Catchers. Her willingness to do anything asked of her - and with a smile - has greatly blessed students, volunteers, and staff alike.

## Emily Pearce Scholarship Helps Make Dreams Come True



Two years ago Sally Mike and Sally Derrig established the Emily Pearce Scholarship Fund in order to honor Emily as one of our long-time and most dedicated volunteers. The money raised for the fund has been used over the past two years to continue to provide therapeutic riding services to students who first rode with us through a school group as part of their school day. We have seen students soar as they have benefited from the lessons in a smaller, more intensive setting as a follow up to the skills taught through the school group lessons.

Emily generously chose to use a portion of the funds this fall to pay for a series of lessons for three high school students who are also involved in Capernaum Williamsburg, in order to prepare them to participate in the Ride 'N Romp and compete at the TRAV Show. The three students had ridden with their special education classes from either Lafayette High School or Warhill High School, and had not been able to continue weekly lessons with us for financial reasons. The Emily Pearce Scholarship Fund not only met this need but provided the opportunity for them to prepare specifically for the TRAV Show in order to give these three riders a once-in-a-lifetime show experience.

We want to express a big thank you not only to Emily Pearce for supporting these students in this way, but also to those who have given to her Scholarship Fund in the past in order to help make such experiences possible. For more information about the Emily Pearce Scholarship Fund or to make a donation to the Fund, please visit our website at [www.dreamcatcherswilliamsburg.org](http://www.dreamcatcherswilliamsburg.org)