



THERAPEUTIC HORSEMANSHIP

SERVING THE GREATER ST. LOUIS METROPOLITAN AREA



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Dear TH Riders and Parents/Guardians:

On behalf of everyone at Therapeutic Horsemanship, we are looking forward to your continued participation in our programs! Enclosed is the 2010 enrollment packet that includes all the materials you need to get yourself or your child signed up for therapeutic riding.

The year 2010 marks the 35th anniversary of Therapeutic Horsemanship (TH). What once was a very optimistic, seemingly unattainable dream of three very dedicated women, Sandy Rafferty, Susie Deusinger and Laura Carpenter Balding, has in so many ways become a reality. Countless riders/families and volunteers have benefitted from the hard work and dedication of these founders and the very unique and caring TH family. This is a year to celebrate TH's success ...and we will. Look for updates, get involved, and let's make the 35th year a memorable year.

At the same time we all know how dynamic our world is. Change isn't an option; it is an everyday reality. The needs and desires of our TH family are dramatically different than they were 35 years ago, significantly different than they were 5 years ago, and changing as I write this note. To meet some of these changes and address some of the challenges that riders, volunteers, and staff have presented to me, over the next year we will be:

- Adding new and extending existing programs; examples include Horses for Heroes (for veterans), a carriage driving program, volunteer riding classes, and a program for geriatric riders.
- Starting classes on Fridays and Sundays and broadening current offerings and available times to provide additional options for current riders and to address our current waiting list – no person should have to wait to receive needed therapeutic services. We know managing family schedules is an ongoing challenge so hopefully the additional time slots will assist in this area.
- Examining satellite center options to better serve some of our current and potential riders ...and many more ideas yet to come.

IMPORTANT NEW APPROACH: We are initiating a **once-a-year enrollment process** to eliminate multiple registrations and the need to pay for an entire session in one payment. We know family budgets are tight so we are introducing a new payment process. You prepay one month at a time. **With your registration, which is due by December 15, 2009**, you will pay for the month of January. On the 15th of January you will pay for the next month, in this case February. This process will continue throughout the year, guaranteeing your current schedule unless you decide to change time slots or discontinue riding.

These are exciting times. The changes may be disruptive at first, so patience will be needed as well as open communications. If you like something, let us know - if you don't let us know. If you have a great idea - share it with us



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We'd like to reiterate a few policies that are important and give you some much-needed information.

- **Class fees will increase slightly.** As you know, our class fees represent only 33% of the actual cost to deliver the program. Because of the current economy, foundation and trust grants are more difficult to acquire and are often far less than what was granted in previous years. We have worked hard not to raise the fees, keeping them the same in 2008 and 2009. The new fee structure is:
 - \$40.00 for Group Sports lessons, Private TH lessons, and Gaitway lessons
 - \$60.00 for Hippotherapy and Carriage Driving lessons
- **Once-a-year registration.** As mentioned earlier, we are initiating a **once-a-year enrollment process** to eliminate multiple registrations and the need to pay for an entire session in one payment. We know family budgets are tight so we are introducing a new payment process. You prepay one month at a time. **With your registration, which is due December 15, 2009**, you will pay for the month of January and a \$25.00 yearly registration fee. On the 15th of January you will pay for the next month, in this case February. This process will continue throughout the year, guaranteeing your current schedule unless you decide to change time slots or discontinue riding. If you wish to pay for multiple months at one time, talk with Shelly to arrange this form of payment. If we bill your third party insurance company, a \$25.00 yearly fee is also due by January 1, 2010.
- **Families will not be able to register nor participate in the next month's class** unless unpaid balances are addressed prior to registration or the beginning of the next month.
- **Medicaid, First Steps and Regional Center recipients** will be handled as they have in the past. If you have any questions, please give Shelly Nanney (636 332-4940) a call to discuss.
- **As a reminder, there are no make-up dates.** Due to the complexity of the program and the number of staff and volunteers needed to carry out a lesson, we do not offer make-up dates or monetary refunds/credits for cancelled or missed lessons. However, we do offer alternative therapeutic activities if it is too hot or too cold to actually ride horses. If it is necessary for TH to cancel a lesson, we will give a monetary credit.
- **In inclement weather**, please call TH's main number to check if class is cancelled (636-332-4940). Our main voicemail system will be updated with the latest information about class cancellations. This includes ice, snow, and heat related cancellations. Also, we will list our snow cancellations on Channel 4.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of us. Thank you for riding with TH.

Respectfully,



Dennis Costello
Executive Director



Sandy Rafferty
Program Director



Amy Willard
Sports & Gaitway
Program Coordinator