



December 12, 2006

Dear Friend:

Wow! What an exciting year 2006 has been for Southern Delaware Therapeutic & Recreational Horseback Riding Inc. (SDTRHR). We have made great strides in carrying out our mission to provide equine-assisted therapy promoting the physical, emotional and educational growth of children and adults with special needs in our community. As one mother of a participant expressed, *"For a half-hour a week, they are taller than everybody else. Instead of looking up at everyone, they get to look down."*

Some of our accomplishments in 2006 were:

- Ø **Enrolled 13 additional disabled participants.**
- Ø **Provided almost 750 one-on-one equine assisted therapy lessons.**
- Ø **Georgia, Kelly & Kerri collectively logged in over 3,000 volunteer hours.**
- Ø **Developed a website—check it out at [www.sdtrhr.com](http://www.sdtrhr.com)**
- Ø **Held two fund-raisers with 172 riders/walkers attending and \$10,967.00 being raised.**

SDTRHR continues to be the **only therapeutic horseback riding program in Kent and Sussex County**. SDTRHR provides an **extraordinarily high level** of quality instruction with a ratio of one NARHA (North American Riding for the Handicapped Association) instructor to participant. Many of our participants reached milestones in the past year. Four participants (1 who is wheelchair bound) learned to canter, 4 participants have learned how to steer and give the appropriate aids to ride independently for the first time and 2 severely autistic children have learned how to groom and completely tack their horses. In addition to the riding accomplishments, participants get so much more out of their lessons. Everyday participants demonstrate improved balance, self-esteem, self confidence and self-control!

Along with our successes in 2006, our expenses have increased significantly. Our aged, four-legged therapists were put on full board so they would not be exposed to weather extremes. We have also started paying partial board for a third horse to meet demands of our ever-increasing enrollment. **This has more than doubled our horse care expenses.** To meet these increasing costs, SDTRHR began implementing fees for services; however, participant fees cover less than 30% of the cost of providing an equine-assisted therapy lesson. Twenty five percent of our participants receive scholarships and we have a waiting list of potential participants seeking scholarships.

So, SDTRHR is seeking your financial assistance through funds for scholarships for our participants, horse sponsorships or a general donation to help us continue to provide our unique, life-changing services to the disabled in our community. Since there is **no paid administrative staff at SDTRHR**, you can be assured your contribution will go directly to fund services provided to children and adults with disabilities such as cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, autism, attention deficit disorder and behavioral disorders. Please complete the attached form and return it along with your tax-deductible donation in the return addressed envelope provided or go to our website at [www.sdtrhr.com](http://www.sdtrhr.com) and make your donation using the secure payment options.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Kerri Shelly  
President/NARHA Instructor

Georgia L. Truitt  
NARHA Instructor

Kelly Smith  
NARHA Instructor

Enclosure