RIDER SUCCESS STORIES

Our riders are taking the reins and making strides!

“Elsa, my horse, helped me feel happier and made me think that there is so much more in life. She just makes me really happy whenever I get to see her and she the best thing in my whole week. We both had to get used to each other and trust each other and the owners say that they see a change in Elsa and me. I love Elsa and I wish I could just take her home with me because she’s the best and I’m really happier than I was before. I will never stop going to that place - it’s the best thing ever for me or for anyone. Everybody should try this is they need help. I have a fun time and I hope to keep going there until I’m in college. I love horses.”

- Jenna, 12 (rider)

“When Adelia was riding Elsa, the train went through and blew its horn. This is a trigger for Adelia, and sets her up for ‘meltdown mode’ or she’ll run. Adelia was so relaxed on Elsa I heard her from across the arena, “woot woot” along with the train horn. I was shocked! Mouth open, jaw dropped shocked, tears of happiness in my eyes.”

- Ailis (rider’s mom)

Want to share a rider success story or picture of your own? E-mail albanytherapeuticridingcenter@gmail.com to see your story or picture in next month’s issue!
VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH: CAROL HARTFORD

“Hands down phenomenal.”

This month, we want to recognize Carol Hartford as volunteer of the month! According to staff members, “She is hands down phenomenal! From taking on barn shore shifts, volunteering at Saturday lessons, putting together and donating raffle baskets, attending any and all of our events, and being there to handle farm emergencies with our staff members, we can always count on Carol to go above and beyond.” Thanks Carol! To get to know this standout volunteer better, we asked her some questions:

What is your favorite part about volunteering at the ATRC?
I love engaging with the students. Seeing the smiles on their faces as they attain new skills or gain body strength is so rewarding. I love to share these experiences with the other volunteers.

When you’re not at the ATRC what do you like to do?
Hang out with my Morgan mare October Skye or play fetch with my 1 year old Golden Retriever Pennie. Squeezing in a beach vacation is also on the list!

If you won a million dollars, what would you do with it?
Donate to my favorite charities (hint ATRC) and buy my own farm. Having my horse in my own backyard would be a dream.

Why do you volunteer at the ATRC?
Volunteering at ATRC affords me the opportunity to give back to my community while fueling my love of horses and helping others. I’m humbled by the courage and fortitude of the students and parents allowing a horse to positively impact their health and well being. Knowing my care of the horses on Saturday morning will ensure a fun (and effective) lesson is so uplifting; I have a smile on my face the rest of the day. Spending time with other like minded volunteers has been a great way to form new friendships. And the horses! They truly take care of their riders.
"Adopt" a Horse!

The gentle giants out at the farm are the foundation of our program. Elsa, Montana, Mr. Tee, and Teddy require a lot to stay happy and healthy and appreciate your support!

When you "adopt" a horse, you are sponsoring that horse monthly for a year. "Adopting" a lesson horse to sponsor is $50/ month at the minimum OR a one time sponsorship donation. Your donation will be used to provide food, veterinary care, farrier care, and other services to a horse at Albany Therapeutic Riding Center.

Although you do not get ownership rights to the horse as part of your adoption, your donation goes a long way toward the ongoing care and maintenance for the horses. You will also receive a certificate of "adoption" for your sponsored horse.

If you would like to "adopt" a horse, please e-mail us at albanytherapeuticridingcenter@gmail.com

Paige and Montana work on an extremely advanced technique at a lesson: the dab! Paige and her family adopted Montana for the month of June.