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February, 2010

40 Centers Proved Their Mettle by Qualifying as NARHA Premier Accredited Centers

Denver, CO—Seven centers offering equine assisted activities and therapies (EAAT) earned NARHA's highest level of accomplishment for the first time and became NARHA Premier Accredited Centers during 2009. In addition, 216 Premier Accredited Centers renewed their Premier Accredited Center status during the year.

To become a NARHA Premier Accredited Center, a member organization must successfully pass an on-site evaluation by a trained NARHA site visitor. Centers' evaluations cover a wide range of areas such as horse management, safety equipment, quality of instruction, facility operations, volunteerism and administrative practices. These standards were developed and field-tested by the NARHA membership to assure that centers follow procedures that are basic to quality EAAT. NARHA accreditation helps assist the public in selecting quality centers that provide safe EAAT for individuals with special needs. NARHA requires that Premier Accredited Centers are re-visited every five years.

By renewing Premier Accredited Center status through NARHA, centers demonstrate that they continue to comply with and exceed the national standards for the EAAT industry.

“By maintaining the NARHA Premier Accredited Center status, NARHA centers demonstrate their ongoing commitment to the highest standards when introducing individuals with special needs to a variety of equine activities,” said NARHA Marketing Director, Kaye Marks. “NARHA Accreditation is a respected benchmark within the EAAT industry. It demonstrates leadership and a commitment to safety and the highest professional standards.”

The following is a list of the equestrian centers that achieved or renewed NARHA Premier Accredited Center status during 2009.

Alabama

Talladega, AL: **Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind Foundation**, original accreditation 9/1/1991



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Arkansas

Sherwood, AR: **Hearts & Hooves, Inc.**, original accreditation 6/7/2004

California

Sacramento, CA: **UCP of Greater Sacramento Saddle Pals**, original accreditation 6/15/1994

Yreka, CA: **HEALTHTHERAPY, Inc. - Equine Facilitated Services**, original accreditation 9/29/2004

Colorado

Steamboat Springs, CO: **Humble Ranch Education and Therapy Center**, original accreditation 7/21/2004

Connecticut

Columbia, CT: **Camp Care Riding Program**, original accreditation 12/1/2009

Florida

Fort Meyers, FL: **Special Equestrians, Inc.**, original accreditation 12/15/1990

Loxahatchee, FL: **Vinceremos Therapeutic Riding Center**, original accreditation 7/24/1989

Tampa, FL: **Traverse, Inc.**, original accreditation 4/15/2002

Hawaii

Waimanalo, HI: **Therapeutic Horsemanship of Hawaii**, original accreditation 8/29/2009

Illinois

Newark, IL: **Equine Dreams**, original accreditation 10/22/2009

Poplar Grove, IL: **Bergmann Centre**, original accreditation 1/28/1990

Indiana

South Bend, IN: **Reins of Life, Inc.**, original accreditation 1/28/1990

Massachusetts

Belchertown, MA: **Pioneer Valley Therapeutic Riding Association**, original accreditation 7/24/1989

Tewksbury, MA: **Tewksbury Hospital Equestrian Farm**, original accreditation 5/8/2004

Maryland

Annapolis, MD: **Maryland Therapeutic Riding, Inc.**, original accreditation 1/1/2000

Barnesville, MD: **Circle of Hope Therapeutic Riding, Inc.**, original accreditation 11/30/1998

Michigan

Augusta, MI: **Cheff Therapeutic Riding Center**, original accreditation 4/20/1989

Middleville, MI: **YMCA Camp Manitou-Lin**, original accreditation 5/3/2004

Missouri

Columbia, MO: **Cedar Creek Therapeutic Riding Center**, original accreditation 4/22/1989

Diamond, MO: **Magic Moments Riding Therapy**, original accreditation 10/2/2003

Wentzville, MO: **Therapeutic Horsemanship**, original accreditation 11/8/1989

Montana

Bozeman, MT: **Eagle Mount--Bozeman**, original accreditation 7/30/1990



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North Carolina

Shelby, NC: **Hearts and Hooves Therapeutic Riding Program**, original accreditation 4/6/2004

New Hampshire

Durham, NH: **University of New Hampshire**, original accreditation 7/28/1993

New Jersey

Allendale, NJ: **STEED**, original accreditation 4/20/1989

Cape May Court House, NJ: **Cape May County Equestrian Facility, Inc.**, original accreditation 11/15/2009

Egg Harbor Township, NJ: **Atlantic Riding Center for Handicapped (ARCH)**, original accreditation 1/28/1990

Hackettstown, NJ: **Therapeutic Riding at Centenary**, original accreditation 6/19/2004

New York

Jamesville, NY: **From the Ground Up Therapeutic Horsemanship, Inc.**, original accreditation 11/14/2009

Melville, NY: **HorseAbility**, original accreditation 1/6/2004

Pennsylvania

Milford, PA: **G.A.I.T.**, original accreditation 1/1/2000

Sciota, PA: **Equi-librium, Inc.**, original accreditation 1/31/1990

South Carolina

Awendaw, SC: **Rein & Shine, Horses That Heal**, original accreditation 9/25/2009

Texas

Keller, TX: **Rocky Top Therapy Center/T.R.A.I.L. Foundation**, original accreditation 5/10/1993

Longview, TX: **Windridge Therapeutic Equestrian Center of E TX**, original accreditation 11/8/1990

Virginia

Blackstone, VA: **Heartland Horse Heroes**, original accreditation 11/14/2009

Great Falls, VA: **Lift Me Up!**, original accreditation 7/24/1989

Leesburg, VA: **Loudoun Therapeutic Riding Foundation, Inc.**, original accreditation 7/21/1989

Williamsburg, VA: **Dream Catchers at the Cori Sikich Riding Center**, original accreditation 12/12/2009

About NARHA:

NARHA was formed in 1969 as the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association to promote equine assisted activities and therapies for individuals with special needs. At almost 800 member centers, a total of 42,000 children and adults find a sense of independence



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through involvement with horses. These member centers range from small, one-person programs to large operations with several certified instructors and licensed therapists. In addition to therapeutic riding, a center may offer any number of equine assisted activities including hippotherapy, equine facilitated mental health, driving, interactive vaulting, trail riding, competition, ground work, or stable management. Through a wide variety of educational resources, the association helps individuals start and maintain successful equine assisted activities and therapies for individuals with special needs. There are more than 30,000 volunteers, 3,500 instructors, 6,300 equines and thousands of contributors from all over the world helping people at NARHA centers.