

FREE REIN THERAPEUTIC RIDING

S P O K A N E, W A

**Therapeutic Riding Program Coming to Spokane
June 2008**

FREE REIN THERAPEUTIC RIDING

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To abandon oneself

In the dance with

A horse is to

Touch the infinite

~ Katie Solisti

Free Rein Therapeutic Riding program is coming together!

The concept of our therapeutic riding center is to provide recreational and sport riding to individuals with disabilities.

Free Rein will serve people ages six to adult with physical and mental disabilities as long as they do not have a medical risk that would keep them from being safe on a horse. Our short term goal is to start a pilot program in June and go through the summer. After that we should be up and running. In the beginning we will have three classes two days a week, accommodating 12 riders.

"Slow and steady" is our motto, we are going to gradually build up the program as we carefully

and intentionally develop our resources.

To be ready by June we have a lot of work to do. We will need to move our horses to the program site, train those horses to be comfortable with the special equipment and techniques of therapeutic riding, recruit and train our volunteers and do the publicizing and fund raising that will make our program a success.

This is a huge project but it is amazing how things are falling into place. As we spread the word about what we are doing we get more and more people coming to us with excitement about the program. We believe the community is truly ready for therapeutic riding here in the Spokane area.



We have a Web Site!
www.freereinspokane.org

Thanks to Laura Rice from Flying Change Design we have a website up and running. Check it out and keep up to date on our happenings.

A SOLID FOUNDATION

BY SANDY JONES

This past spring a very special couple from Woodinville Washington began paving the way for Free Rein Therapeutic Riding. Mike and Phyllis Dunmire are longtime supporters of Little Bit Riding Center in Woodinville.

Mike has been involved with Little Bit since it's beginning states in the early 1980's. At one point he served as a board member and then was on the advisory board. Mike has been a key participant in Little Bit's past and present expansion projects, continuing his commitment to make the program one of the most outstanding therapeutic riding programs in North America.

I had the joyful experience of working with Phyllis in the mid

1990's. Phyllis volunteered with me in the physical therapy treatments I was doing at Little Bit. She would always be a bright spot in our day and overflowed with love for the kids that I treated.

Thank you, Mike and Phyllis, for the dedication and love you have for therapeutic riding!

After my first daughter was born Phyllis and I no longer worked in class together but whenever we saw her at the barn she would always have a huge hug and a laugh to share with me and my kids.

When Phyllis and Mike heard that we were starting a therapeutic riding program in Spokane

they were the first to support our cause. The Dunmires began by donation \$20,000 to the program and then followed up with a \$50,000 donation to go towards a permanent home.

Mike and Phyllis, you are kind and generous people and I want to take this opportunity to thank you for the faith you have put into this program. This will be a successful adventure and I know that lies largely in the fact that people like you are willing to support therapeutic riding!



FUND RAISING

Free Rein has been blessed with sizable donations from Mike and Phyllis Dunmire as well as Gary and Diane King. We do have a solid foundation but the next step is to figure out how to build on that. The fees for riding lessons will be that of a typical riding program. Those fees cover about one third of the program cost. Saying that, one of our goals will be to never turn a rider away due to financial issues. The bottom line is that we must come up with a fund raising strategy to cover the cost of the program.

We have bounced ideas around such as ride-a-thon,

Sponsoring a horse, a 5k or ½ marathon, a golf tournament, wine tasting, direct mailing or, of course, an auction. Then there are the smaller ideas like a magazine sale, bake sale or change jars at the corner store.

While we work on all the program development detail such as horses, potential riders, volunteer recruitment, a home for the program, publicity, and mounds of paperwork, fundraising is still just a vague image in our minds. We would love to come up with a community event that draws people because it is fun. I always think of the Christmas trees at the

Davenport. People attend this event to support the symphony but they also participate because it is fun. We want to find our fundraising niche in the community by spreading the word about who we are along with raising the funds to make our program strong. Help us find that niche – help us build up a great idea and bring it to life!

We are in the midst of researching grants and business donors. We know it will take a community to build this program. If you have any input please contact us at freereinspokane@hotmail.com or call Sandy at 448-1592.

~ Thank You ~

As we talk with other individuals that are going through the process of gaining their non-profit status we become more and more grateful to Diane Smith from Berreth, Lochmiller and Associates. Diane has walked us through the process and filed the paperwork for us. Thank you Diane, we would be lost with out you!

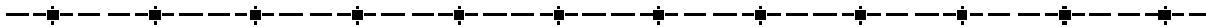
RIDE THE WEST

Ride the West Horse Expo at the Spokane Fairgrounds on May 18, 19 and 20, 2007 was a great way to get out, meet hose people and spread the word about our program. It was encouraging to talk to so many that were enthusiastic about our plans for the future.

We had a successful raffle, Thanks to Paige Lewis for the beautiful quilt she made, to Kathy Thorson and her team at the Barker Center for the cozy fleece blanket, and finally to Duane Rice for the horseshoe hooks. The contributions made for a successful fundraiser!

See you at Ride the West 2008!

Contact us if you are involved with a group or organization that would be interested in having us come and speak to them about our program?



YES, I WOULD LIKE TO HELP BUILD THE FREE REIN THERAPEUTIC RIDING PROGRAM.....

_____ DONATION ENCLOSED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ _____

_____ I HAVE ENCLOSED MATCHING FORM FROM MY EMPLOYER

DONOR'S NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

____ I WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS ON THE DONOR LIST.

GIFT IN HONOR OF _____ IN MEMORY OF _____

WOULD YOU LIKE A GIFT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT SENT TO HONOREE/ FAMILY MEMBER?

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Therapeutic riding programs are very much dependant on volunteer participation.

In the classes with the riders we will need horse handlers, side walkers, and arena assistants. This is a great opportunity to get involved right where the program is happening.

There are also a number of behind the scenes positions. We are going to need fund raising assistance, both with coordination projects as well as assisting with the logistics of the projects. Do you have a knack for journalism? Putting together the newsletter and other publications is somewhere you can help. There is also a need for people interested in publicity and community relations.

To help with these positions please

e-mail freereinspokane@hotmail.com

or call Sandy Jones at 448-1592

Mission:

To provide children and adults

With disabilities a place

To belong and

Participate in the special

Activity of horseback riding.

