

2 0 1 2 S P R I N G E D I T I O N

RTES *Riding High*

Richmond Therapeutic Equestrian Society * Making a Difference in the lives of Children with Disabilities

MEET KATELYN

My daughter Katelyn is 10 years old. She is diagnosed with Sensory Processing Disorder (similar to autism), Generalized Anxiety Disorder, Developmental Co-ordination Disorder, and a benign tremor in her right hand. While Katelyn “looks” like a typical child, she is not. She struggles on a daily basis to do what comes naturally to most people in their daily routine. Just making friends is a difficult task and she has a hard time doing much of anything that involves people. Three years ago she was sent to Glen Eden Multimodal Centre in Vancouver by the Richmond School board where she receives one on one instruction and help with her disabilities.



Our “experience” at RTES started last summer after riding at another Therapeutic Facility for several years. We were on the RTES wait list for quite some time and were “finally” accepted into the summer program for two sessions per week in July 2011 and then for a one week camp in August 2011. Katelyn’s experience was amazing! She loved her time at RTES and wanted to go back on a regular basis. She made some friends, enjoyed riding and learning about a whole new set

of horses. The instructors and volunteers were wonderful, so wonderful that I even had a break. The love and care provided by RTES is absolutely amazing.

In the fall of 2011 we were able to get a spot on Monday afternoons – after school. While Katelyn has never really talked to anyone about her riding experience in the past, she raves about her Monday riding lesson on Tuesday's to all of her Instructional Therapists at Glen Eden. This is something that is “hers” and she is taking pride in something that she can do. When I watch her at her riding lessons, I see a smiling face and I know she is having fun while learning something that she truly enjoys.

I am very thankful for the RTES program. It has immensely helped a little girl who so desperately wants to find her way in life.

Leanne Martin



Thank you to our 2012 Corporate Donors:

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NEW SADDLE!

One of the RTES volunteers asked her friends and family to make a donation to RTES instead of buying her a Christmas gift this year. With an astounding total donation of \$1600.00, RTES was able to purchase a much needed new saddle.

From everyone at RTES, riders and horses included, thank you to you (you know who you are) and to your wonderful family and friends, so very much for this wonderful gift.



Volunteer Spotlight - Michelle Reynolds

Michelle is a dedicated volunteer at RTES. She began volunteering 5 years ago because she wanted a volunteer opportunity where she could combine her horsey background with her experience in Human Resources. She began volunteering as a Side Walker and is now a Leader at RTES. Michelle regularly volunteers with the program on Wednesday afternoons.

Can you tell us a bit about your background with horses?

M: I grew up in England where I owned a Connemara pony named Esso. She was a Blue Roan (which means that she had a black face and grey body), and together we competed in show jumping.

Which ponies/horses do you currently lead at RTES? Do they have any characteristics that stick out to you?

M: I lead IR and Dusti. Because IR is grey, he gets dirty quickly and always needs a good groom before lessons. Dusti always looks like she wants a kiss! I tell people that I know a pony that has a Mohawk and they get a real kick out of that!

What are some of the reasons you enjoy volunteering at RTES?

M: I like spending time with the horses and seeing the kids learn how to ride. I really enjoy watching their improvement.



What are some of your favourite memories at RTES?

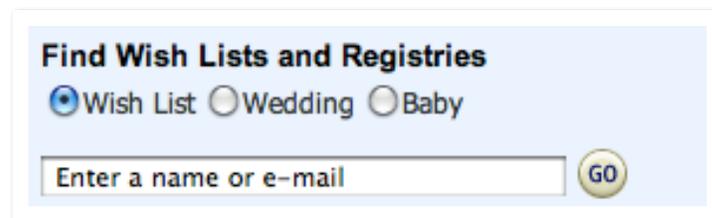
M: I enjoyed serving cake and cookies at fundraiser that was held at a local Safeway store. Other hits were Champagne Luncheon and the pony rides that were given during the Twin Oaks Derby.

Michelle's organization skills came in handy when she created a map for the Champagne Breakfast to show guests where to sit. Her enthusiasm and eagerness to help and be a part of RTES is clearly evident. Michelle has a big smile and a big heart, and it is a joy to have her as a volunteer at RTES.

RTES WISH LIST

Have you ever thought of purchasing something for RTES off our wish list? Well, we've just made it a bit easier for you by posting a list on amazon.com

When you go to www.amazon.com home page, you can search 'Richmond Therapeutic Equestrian Society' in their wish list section on the right side of the screen. When you find our list, simply select an item you wish to gift us and the item will be delivered right to our door.



COAST TO COAST COMPETITION

RTES had 15 riders enter various classes of the March 2012 Coast to Coast Competition held by Para Equestrian Canada.

For this competition, riders were filmed riding a set pattern that they prepared for and practiced in classes leading up to the day of competition or video taping day. Entries were then sent to Equine Canada in Ottawa, where they will be judged against other riders in the same classes from all across Canada. Riders will receive feedback from the Judge once all the videos have been watched and placed.

Good luck to all our riders and congratulations for helping RTES take another step forward in the opportunities we offer to our participants.



Our Mission

To provide a quality therapeutic riding program for children and youth with disabilities in order to promote physical, social and psychological well being.



RTES Membership (\$25 annually) and Donation Form

All donations are tax deductible. Registered Charity # 89415 0135 RR0001

I wish to support the Richmond Therapeutic Equestrian Society.

Enclosed is \$ _____ for Membership and/or \$ _____ for Donation.

Name _____ Date _____

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