



Welcome to making strides, our news letter. 2009 was a great year and 2010, although starting a little rocky, is shaping up to be a great year.



Out with the old and in with the New!

In November we said goodbye to Sofie. Sofie returned to her original owner, where she will be enjoying her retirement. Sofie was a wonderful friend and she is greatly missed.

2010 has been a very busy year. We started lessons in April 2010. This year we welcomed back our dedicated volunteers, Julia, Jessica Z., Debra, Drue, Audrey, Tina, Holly Ronda and Rachel and welcomed new volunteers Joelle, Cindy, Gary, Jessica B. and Andrea. Thanks to help from Joelle, we welcomed two wonderful ponies, Sarah and Babe, who are on loan to us. We were happy to have our riders, Abby, Ella, Jon, Hope, Logan, Sabrina, Emily, Katie, and Lara return this year. We

also have some new riders, Vaughn, Matt, Kimmy and Kristy, Arush, Daniel and Jimmy. Also, a previous student, Shannon will be returning to the program in mid-July.

At the end of May, Babe needed to return home. So we said goodbye to our little spunky friend and hello to Jumping Jack Flash ("Jack"). Another new addition to the program is Winnie. Hopefully we will see Winnie in the ring next spring assisting our riders.

We are continuing to grow and are still hoping to find a barn in the North Strabane area so that we can add additional lessons and put Sam and Abby back to work.



Spotlight

This editions Spotlight is on....

Abby, the rider and Abby, the horse:

Abby is one of our teenage riders. Abby has been attending our program since 2007. She previously attended a therapeutic riding program in North Carolina. Abby has come a long way since her first ride with us in 2007. Abby has progressed to assisted trotting and her communication to our volunteers has improved greatly. There is nothing more wonderful than seeing

Abby's beautiful smile as she is trotting down the long side of the arena.

Abby is a wonderful appaloosa mare that was donated to our program in 2008. The most amazing thing about Abby is that she is disabled herself, Abby is blind. Abby has been a great addition to our program she is absolutely wonderful with our students.

Fundraising News

East End Brewing Company held a fundraiser on May 19th and donated half the proceeds to In-Stride. East End Brewing is owned by the parents of one of our riders. They held a keg ride from the brewery to a secret location. This is a fun event that they host and donate the funds to charity. It was amazing to see so many bicyclists all in one place at the same time. A huge thanks to East End Brewing for their hard work in raising money for our program. Please visit their website www.eastendbrewing.com.

Mylan Classic: Attendees to the Mylan Classic Golf Tournament scheduled to take place in Southpointe this fall can donate 100% of their admission fees to our organization. There is a link on our webpage – www.instridetherapeuticride.org.

Chase is giving away money to the top 200 charities with the most votes via their facebook page. Help support us by visiting our website and clicking on the chase support us link to cast your vote.

Horse Show – we will be hosting a Fun Show in September. Please check the website for details.



Reflections from the director....

Horses are a constant learning experience. There are high points and low points. When working with horses two things need to be considered: the horse and the person. Every horse is different, just like every person is different. As with all relationships there is a leader and a follower. When working with horses it is important to remember that the person needs to always take the leader role. On paper, that sounds like a very simple concept. However, horses don't speak human and learning the language of the horse can be challenging.

Over the next few new letters, I will be sharing my experience with you. I am currently working on reconnecting with my mare, China. China can be a bit pushy at times and does not respect my space. I will also be sharing my experiences with Sam and Abby. I hope you enjoy my stories.

"A good horse understands exactly what you are capable of and is willing to put you to the test." - Jane Savoie

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