

DREAM MAKER

Dream Riders' Newsletter

Web Site: www.dreamrider.org

Vol. 10 Number 1

February 21, 2010

Premier Accredited NARHA Riding Center



Winter and Spring Session

Dates for 2010

Evening Lesson Schedule:

Winter Evening Session:

Monday Evening - Start February 1 end March 8

Thursday Evening - Start February 4 end March 11

Spring Evening Session:

Monday Evening- Start March 22 end May 3

No Classes on April 5

Thursday Evening – Start March 25 end May 6

No classes on April 8

Summer Evening Choice Session:

Monday Evening- Start May 17 end June 7

Thursday Evening- Start May 20 ends June 10

Day Lesson Schedule

Day Session I:

Tuesday Day- Start February 2 end March 9

Day Session II:

Tuesday Day- Start March 23 end May 4

Important Dates to Remember for 2010:

March 18-21 – NARHA Region 3 Conference

April 5-8 – NO LESSONS – Spring Break

April 24- Dream Riders' Rider Recital

May 8- Dream Riders Open Benefit Horse Show

****Be watching for the Horse Show Sponsorship form for the May 8 Benefit horse show!!**

May 29 – Therapeutic Invitational Horse Show for SC riders with special needs

June 21- 24- Tentative Date for NKP Children's Shelter Day Camp

July 12-15 Tentative Date for Epworth Children's Home Day Camp

August 21 - Dream Riders Benefit Dressage and Combined Training show

October 2 - Dream Riders Benefit Dressage and Combined Training show

November 20 – Dream Riders and SC Special Olympics Equestrian Competition

2009 in review and on to 2010

Dream Riders has now completed 11 years providing equine assisted activities for people with special needs here in the Midlands of SC. During the past 8 years Dream Riders has maintained accreditation under the safety standards of NARHA, a world leader in equine- assisted activities. As in the past years this success was made possible through the continuing support by all our friends throughout SC. Dream Riders continues to grow as a Premier Accredited NARHA Riding Center presently offering over 1,200 hours of riding lessons for people with special needs and continues a summer equestrian experience for children from the Nancy K. Perry Children's Shelter located in Lexington and the Epworth Children's Home of Columbia. Dream Riders in 2009 continued to travel throughout SC taking riders to various competitions and schooling dressage shows along with providing demonstrations to various groups. We continued to offer the Special Olympics Equestrian Sport to riders participating in Dream Riders who are enrolled in SC Special Olympics. Plans for 2010 include hosting the 2010 SCSO Equestrian/Invitational Competition for special needs riders on November 20th at the Lexington Recreation Equestrian

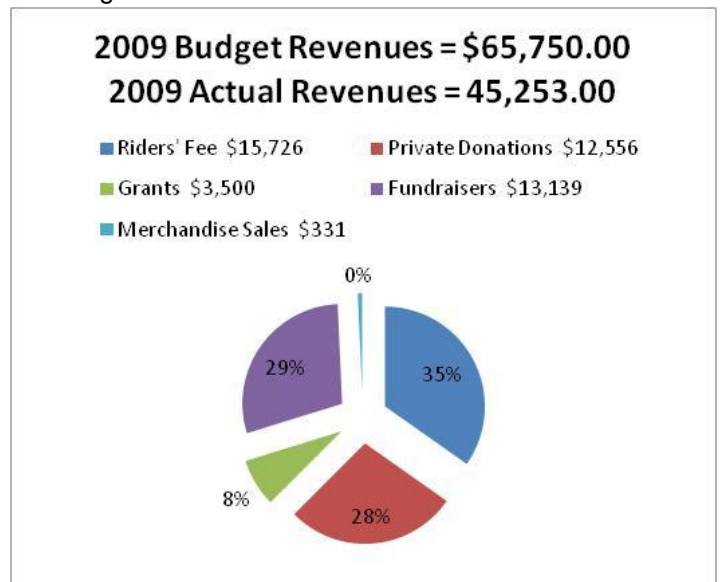
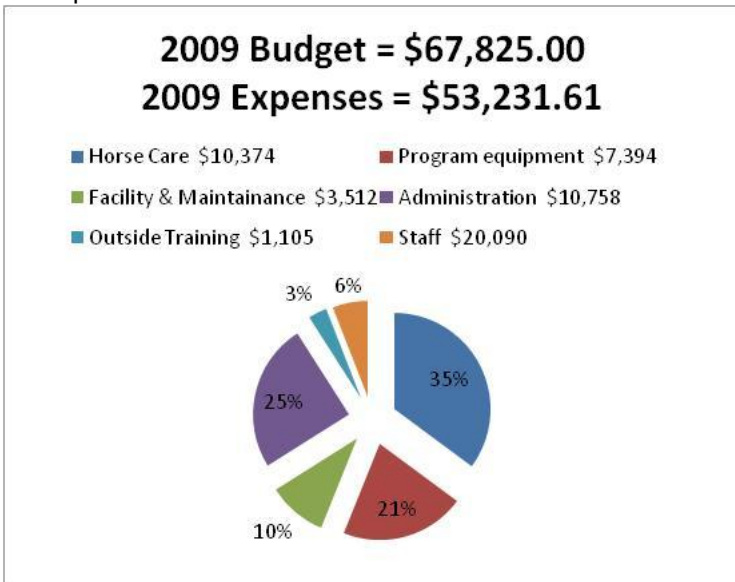


Facility, plus several fundraising events such as a Benefit Open Horse Show on May 8th. Dream Riders continues planning and organizing of a sub program to be known as “**NARHA Horses for Heroes**”. The program will be offering therapeutic equine-assisted activities to veterans with special needs from recent conflicts and those in the Veterans Hospital system.

Financially 2009 has been an economic challenge seen by continued increased costs for fuel, hay, feed, etc. followed by a general reduction of 31% in private donations plus 50% reduction in Grants. Dream Riders was able to make it through 2009 again as a result of having built up some financial reserves plus along with doing several things to help maintain a positive financial balance. Again Dream Riders’ progress and survival could not have happened without the continuing support from our donors. This includes both our financial donors and gift-in-kind donors. Our Gift-in-Kind donors help to reduce our cash outflow.

Our Financial Picture for 2009

Our 2009 budget was \$67,825.00 and we continued to provide riding for our special riders at \$20.00 per lesson even though the true actual rider lesson cost is \$88.00. No rider has ever been turned away for not having funds to participate in Dream Riders. Again, thanks to all our donors in supporting our rider sponsorship program and our fundraisers that make dreams become reality for all our special riders. Please note how important Gift-in-Kind donations are in that they help reduce need for additional income so that we can meet all our budgeted needs



Please read through the list of Dream Riders donors and when needing items or services please remember to visit one of our donors listed below. These donors are the ones who allow Dream Riders to continue to have an Equestrian Assisted Activities Program for special needs riders here in the Midlands of SC.

Financial Donors

Anna May
 Bank of America
 Barbara Hammond
 Barbara & Kevin Smith
 Barbara Dickerson
 Becky Shealy
 Betty & John Kubin
 Capital Animal Hospital
 Carol Collier
 Carol Kennedy
 Carolina Wings & Ribs House
 Cherokee Trail Veterinary Hospital
 Cindy Nord
 Columbia Eye Clinic
 Chris Quettlebaum
 Chris & Pamela Thomas
 Cynthia Day
 Cynthia Roberts
 David & Glenna Kinard
 Deanne Boswell
 Deborah Ashcraft, DMD, PC
 Dennis Snowden
 Donald Brady
 Donna Jordan
 Ernie Tate

Flight Deck Restaurant
 Gale & Richard Stoudemire
 George Cole
 George & Charlene Dyer
 Golden State Foods
 Gerald Barnes
 Green Street Storage
 Harry Schultz
 Hurtis & Linda Johnson
 Irmo Optimist Club
 James & Martha Hess
 Jacqueline Hudepohl
 James W. Duckett Jr.
 Janet Davies
 Jennifer Taylor
 Jennifer Stoudemire
 Jinki Sadler Suber
 Joan & Cayce Frierson
 John Schrenk
 Joseph Cole
 Joyce Hampton
 Judy & Art Brooks
 Julie Sessions
 Karen Park Family Dentistry
 Kathryn Allen
 Kathy & Kenyon Wells

KOHL's Store
 Lee & Kimberly Cope
 Lexington Civitan Club
 Lexington County 4H Saddle Club
 Lewis C. Dyer
 Linda Stowe
 Lori DMV & George Hoback
 LTC John Hort
 Mary & Jim Corley
 Martha Hess
 Mary & John Turner
 Marsha Summer
 Massage & Muscle Therapy
 Megan & Brian Peed
 Melanie Burbank
 Merrill Lynch & Co. Foundation
 Michelle Smith
 Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative
 Middleboro Trailer Sales
 Midlands Saddle Club
 Monetta Farrier Specialties, Inc.
 N. Kay Ayers-Garren

Nadene Coats
 New Body Massage
 Nita & Knox McMahon
 Nitas Corly
 Norma Valentine
 Oswald Lumber Company
 Patria Lavach
 Peters Presbyterian Church
 Phyllis Gale
 Price's Country Store
 PUBLIX Grocery Stores
 PW Trinity Presbytery
 Rachel Boland
 Ronald Swearingen
 Rosary & Mario Martinez
 Salley & Jeffrey Richardson
 San Jose
 Sandy House
 Sara Snowden
 SC Special Olympics
 Sean Buckley & Children
 Shealy Coffee, Inc.
 Shelly Schlenk
 Sheri Jordan
 Snelling Personnel Services
 Sonya Motes

Southern Traditions and Gifts
St Andrews Women's Club
St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Stan Construction Co.

Starnes Insurance Agency
Stewart & Bronnie Maurer
Susan Henderson
Sue & Jim Keffler

Tammy & Robert Baxley
The Morning Glories
Tom Girard
Tim Pearson

Wayne Robinson
"WENDY's" Gilbert's of
Atlanta
Woody Stoudemire

Gift-in-Kind (These donors help to free up budgeted money to be used else where in our program)

Almost Heaven Farm
Chris Coates – Farrier
Christina Glass
Cindy & Tony Payne
Domino's Pizza
Dover Saddlery

Flight Deck Restaurant
Jameson & Linda Buckley
Jill Allard
Johnny & Charlotte Hoffman
Julie Sessions
Lynn & Buddy Brewer

Leonard Rish
Lexington Rotary Club
Maurice's Gourmet Barbeque
Mike Scott
Middleboro Trailer Sales, Inc.
Oswald Lumber Company

Petersen Presbyterian Church
Price's Country Store
Radius Church
Teena & Ed Anderson
Transcom Trading Co

Community Group Support

We want to highlight and give special thanks to our local community groups which have continuously supported Dream Riders and our mission. These special groups assisted by raising money, helping out at rider recital day and family day, donating various items found on our wish list, and inviting us to make presentations during various club meetings. Many church groups (adults and youth) have volunteered time to do general grounds clean up and trimming. Schools have had drives for normal every day supplies used here at Dream Riders and Lexington High School and White Knoll High School Service Learning Classes have supplied volunteers allowing us to offer equine-assisted activities during the day time on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Petersen Presbyterian Church
Lexington Civitan Club
Lexington County 4H Saddle Club
Irmo Optimist Club

SC Special Olympics
St Andrews Women's Club
Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church
Lexington High School
White Knoll High School

Volunteers

There is only one paid employee at Dream Riders, which is the Head Riding Instructor. A dedicated team of volunteers carry out all other program needs. Volunteers are the true life blood of Dream Riders without these volunteers, our riders with special needs would not have Dream Riders. Please take time to review the list of volunteers below and let them know that you appreciate their help in assisting people with special needs.

Atkins, Beth
Baxley, Tammy
Bhonsle, Meera
Bischofberger, Nancy
Blanco- Martinez, Sonia
Boland, Rachel
Brooks, Rosie
Bush, Zoe Griss
Burbank, Melanie
Burke, Lindsay
Carter, Molly
Cooney, Nicola
Cox, Miranda
Crossland, Janet
Davies, Janet
Dyer, Corky
Dyer, Lewis

Floyd, Alex
Frierson, Joan
Hale, McKenzie
Hammond, Barbara
Hasenauer, Taylor
Johnson, Gracie
Jordan, Sheri
Keffler, Sue
Krantz, Gina
Kubin, B.J.
Langley, Patty
Lercara, Sabrina
Lucas, Casey
Lynch, Jessica
MacElderry, Lisa
Malphrus, Cyndi
Maurer, Andy

Maurer, Bronnie
Maurer, Stuart
McCann, Meredith
Metts, Dianne
Pfaff, Sue
Poe, Kayla
Quattlebaum, Christina
Rainwater, Bethany
Renalds, Anne Marie
Rogers, Jen
Salonich, Ashley
Sessions, Julie
Smith, Patrice
Snowden, Dennis
Snowden, Marla
Snowden, Sarah
Spires, Amanda

Stoudemire, Jennifer
Stoudemire, Jeremy
Stoughton, Katie
Stowe, Linda
Sutton, Bobby
Sutton, Norvelle
Taylor, Morgan
Tison, Jennifer
Vlahovski, Fran
Wactor, Beth
Watts, Brunson
West, Emily

Through the generous support from various organizations and people of the Midlands, Dream Riders has continued to expand. We hope to continue our efforts and plans to do the same during 2010.

Thanks for caring!

What Keeps Riders & Volunteers Coming Back??

We decided instead of writing words from the instructors in this newsletter, we would write words from the volunteers and riders. We asked this question to our riders and volunteers. ***"What Keeps YOU Coming Back??"*** Below are some of the responses we have received:

"It is the smiles and laughter of our kids and the staff. Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to work with you, the children and the horses. I look forward to my Thursday afternoons with Dream Riders." BJ

"Being able to do the same activities that typical children can do but with a **Bigger Smile!!** Not being judged for my happy clapping and yelling when I am riding the horse." (Phillip Lloyd)- Lisa Lloyd

"The thing that keeps me coming back to volunteer is the children's laughter and smiles. I love to see the happy connection that takes place between the horses and the riders. And, the 3 girls (Kasey, Marlo and Sophia) at the Thursday lesson are just amazing at what they have accomplished with their riding skills. Last, but not least, I love to work with Corky and Jennifer who are incredible with working with the children and providing such incredible role models for us." Nancy Bischofberger



"Myself and my whole family feel very strongly about Dream Riders. Our daughter, Jameson, is a survivor of infant stroke. She has cerebral palsy and has been in therapy since she was three months old. Dream Riders offers Jameson an alternative to traditional therapy as well as the opportunity to truly succeed in an individual sport. We were excited about therapeutic riding ever since we learned of it and we feel so grateful that Jameson was accepted into the program at Dream Riders. We have watched our daughter grow in many ways since beginning the program over one year ago. Jameson talks with pride about "her" horse, she is excited on her day to ride, she loves the people who encompass Dream Riders and she feels comfortable and at ease on the farm, so much so that she lets her silly side show. Dream Riders has worked diligently with Jameson to strengthen her right side and to elicit more flexibility in her range. Jameson's core was weakened by her stroke and therapeutic riding is an excellent

way to rebuild core strength which in turn enables her to overcome even more physical challenges. I can envision that Jameson may one day pursue horse riding on her own accord, and not just for therapeutic reasons, because Dream Riders has provided such a safe and caring environment for which she can truly succeed. We love the people and the horses of Dream Riders and we look forward to many more successful years for Jameson and her therapeutic riding." Dianne Buckley

"DREAM RIDERS HAS BEEN A BLESSING FOR MY SON ROBERT. ALL OF HIS AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES HAS ALWAYS BEEN SEEING THIS DOCTOR OR GOING TO THIS THERAPY. HE ASKED WHEN DO I GET TO DO SOMETHING FUN LIKE MY SISTERS. THAT IS WHEN I FOUND DREAM RIDERS. IT MAKES MY HEART FEEL GOOD EVERYTIME WE COME. HE ALWAYS ASK WHEN DOES HE GET TO GO RIDE!"

Ruthie Mosser



"Seeing and experiencing the joy and laughter that these riders get from this time, helps me appreciate life and the challenges we all face every day." Beth Adkins

"I can't tell you how much the experience of working with you has meant to me. It has been completely different in perspective needs and focus from anything I have done before. I am so lucky to be a part of your team!" Dr. Keelin Redman, Avoca Equine, LLC, veterinary & chiropractic services.



"Dream Riders accommodates two passions that I have in life, the love of horses and the love for helping people. I have been involved in this program since 1998 and every experience is challenging in many different ways. I have met many new friends and hope to make more. This program has helped many people in their lives including myself. It is as much therapeutic for the volunteers as it is for the riders. I had to stop this program for a couple of years due to life's little hurdles. I felt something was missing in my life at the time. Being back at Dream Riders, I now know what was missing.

Thanks to the Dyers for this wonderful program and making dreams come true. Below is my story as it happened to me.

There was a little girl (about 3 yrs old) that came to the program about a year after I started. Lenise could not walk at the time. Her goal was to be able to walk. We worked with her every week to strengthen

her muscles to accomplish this goal. One day, she and her mother pulled up and I went to help her out of the car. Her mother made me stop and wait about 100 yards from the car. Lenise got out of the car with all smiles as usual and proceeded to walk towards me. So many emotions came over me at the time. It was the greatest feeling in the world. Later that year her family moved and she was not able to continue with the program. Last year, I was at the market with a friend and a lady came up to me and asked if I volunteered at Dream Riders. Over nine years had passed and I met up with this precious young lady again in life. She was as tall as me with the same beautiful smile. The same feelings came back to me as though I was seeing her walk for the first time again. It was amazing."
Patrice



"I am fortunate to have grown up with horses in my backyard, was on my college equestrian team, and have a mom who loved doing hunter paces with me (some of my favorite family time memories). After graduating college and moving out of state my ability to ride transitioned to helping others ride. I started volunteering at different NARHA centers when I live in CT and was working as a marine mammal trainer. Through the years as my career took me to different states I always looked up the nearest NARHA center to start volunteering so now I have been doing this for 15 years. I was thrilled when I moved to SC eight years ago. However, Dream Riders is not like all the rest I had spent time with. The family of Dream Riders has also become like another family to me. Now that I've started my own program to help people with disabilities I am often asked why I struggle to make it out to Dream Riders with so many other demands. The truth, part of me is selfish. It's my therapy too! To see young kids and special adults who I've now know for 5 or more years start as terrified riders to confident young adults is transforming for my soul. To be even the smallest part of it is an absolute gift! Some riders are there for one season and I may never know again, but they have a lasting impact on my heart. Others I take joy in seeing year after year. And on days when I think life is too much to handle I go to the farm and realize how much inspiration can be found in a small pair of boots and an older horse!

Thanks for letting me be a part of it!" Jen

"What has Dream Riders meant to us? Well, let me put it this way:

We blame the ponies, AJ and Malachi, and each of you for:

- helping Aubri to sit more erect, to hold herself up for longer than she's ever done in her whole life,
- helping Aubri to discover a true delight in her life: horses and riding,
- for bringing joy to her at the ranch, and at home, every time she sees a horse on TV, or in a group of toys,



- introducing us to a wonderful group of people,
- for opening doors to a world of opportunity for little Aubri,
- for opening doors into your hearts to let Aubri in.

Words really cannot express the depth of our gratitude to you.
 God Bless you, one and all.” Aubri and Grammy and Grandpa (Ellie and Dave)



“Dream Riders has given me so much. Having MS not only gives you a physical hurdle it presents a self esteem challenge. Thanks to the wonderful staff and giving volunteers I have received valuable physical therapy increasing my core body strength and a huge emotional lift. Having the feeling of bonding with a horse and the increase in self belief from being able to guide this incredible animal always leaves me with a feeling of accomplishment. Even more uplifting is the encouragement from the caring staff and volunteers. They see and believe that I am an able person and not someone with a physical disability. These sessions are always the highlight of my week and I am so thankful for the opportunity that Dream Riders affords me. Thank you Jennifer, Corky, and all the volunteers!” Ernie Tate

A Big Thank You to Two Eagle Scouts



In December 2009 Alex Floyd did his Eagle Scout project here at Dream Riders. He planted butterfly bushes and evergreens on the ugly hill beside the ring. We can't wait for spring to see how beautiful it will look. Thanks to Alex, Troop 221 and Alex's volunteers.



In February 2010 Luke Boland did his Eagle Scout project of installing the beginning of a sensory trail around the outside of the ring. We now have a ball throwing station, noodles to walk under, a fishing spot, a mail box with gloves to learn right and left and pots and pans to beat out the rhythm in our mind! Thank you so much Luke, Troop 307 and Luke's volunteers. The riders will like doing all of these activities which will stimulate their senses.





Another Big Thank You to Midlands Tech Students

We had some extra hands from Midlands Tech students in a freshmen class which requires 10 hours of volunteering. They did needed jobs around the farm: making and painting new signs for the ring, sweeping down cobwebs in the barns, washing the walls of the bathroom and outside buildings, making display boards of the

horses, folding newsletters etc. These are all things that need to be done and the staff doesn't always have the time to do them. Thanks so much for your help!



One of the things I learned while volunteering at Dream Riders was that helping others without getting paid, feels really good inside.

Amanda Story, Midlands Tech Student

I was impressed at how well organized everything out there seemed and was so pleased at seeing how much you enjoy doing what you do. You all definitely touch so many people's lives, as is evidenced by the abundant pictures on display. I was amazed at how much responsibility your job

entails even though I was there for a short time and was able to assist you in this endeavor.

Rachel R. Lewis, Midlands Tech Student.



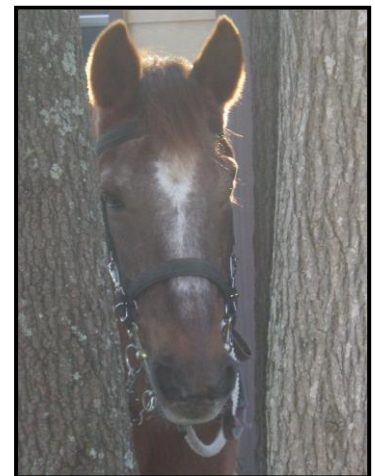
Christmas at Dream Riders

The trees that we had at our facility and at Price's Country Store were a success again this year. Thanks to all who participated.

Delights Inspiration " Clucky "	
SPONSORS	
2009 Dr. Deborah Ashcraft	2009 Donna Jordan
2009 Monetta Farrier Specialties, Inc.	

Horse Sponsorships

We had put the horse sponsorship form in the last newsletter and thanks to our readers it was a great success. Every Dream Rider horse received at least 3 sponsors. Thanks for your support. This was much appreciated in these lean times right now. If you still want to do this, you can download a form from our web page www.dreamrider.org.



New Faces at Dream Riders:

Volunteers:

Norvelle Sutton
Beth Wactor
Ashley Salonich
Bobby Sutton
Meera Bhonsie

Zoe Griss-Bush
Taylor Hasenauer
Morgan Taylor
Nicola Cooney
Emily West

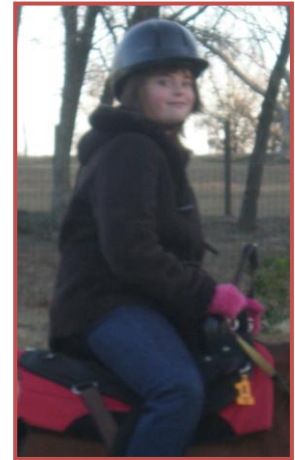


Newly Accepted Riders:

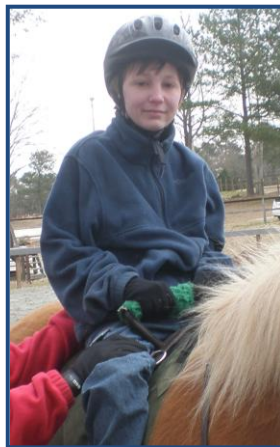
Ryan Unumd



Taylor Keeshan



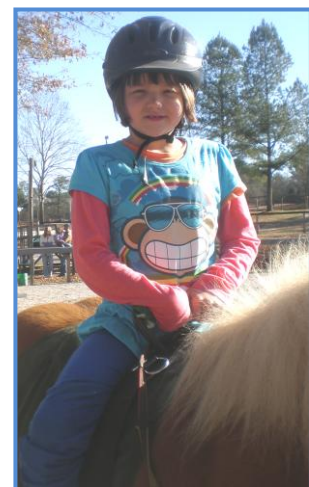
Stephen Strolis



Mateo Aranda



Chloe Roberts



*Look not from the mind, but from the soul.
For the Life that is coming is already before us, waiting to open up the
world,
Just look more closely. Find the eyes to see.
BELIEVE*

Help Dream Riders Change A Life

While equestrian shopping online at Equestrian Collections

It's as Easy as 1 2 3

1. Go to <http://www.dreamrider.org/>

2. At center of home page click on icon
“Shop & Change a Life”

3. Now shop to your delight at Equestrian Collections with a portion of the purchase price

going directly to
**Dream Riders of
Lexington, SC**





When you shop at Equestrian Collections by going through the Dream Riders' web site

<http://www.dreamrider.org> and click on the "Shop & Change a Life" icon Dream Riders' will directly receive 8% of the purchase price. What an easy way to support Dream Riders while shopping for deals at EQUESTRIAN COLLECTIONS.

Picture by Gracie Johnson a volunteer of rider Aubri




All Donations to Dream Riders are Tax Deductible!!

We are always in need of volunteers for both Horse and Non-Horse related jobs. Visit us at www.dreamrider.org

Give us a call at (803) 957-7906 or Email dreamr2@mindspring.com

Come visit us to see dreams become reality here at Dream Riders.

 **Dream Riders**
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