

CKRH Initiates Preschool Pilot Program

Many people often wonder what goes on once the fall riding session is over. Believe it or not, the daytime winter hours offer many possibilities for therapeutic activities with the horses that are educational and fun filled for both participants and volunteers. In 2007, a new program on Friday mornings offered four preschool-aged children the chance to get some hands-on horse time while at the same time working on academic and social goals.

The Preschool Pilot Program was created in response to parent interest, and was facilitated by CKRH Lead Instructor, Kim Noreikis. The purpose of the program was to provide services to four preschool-aged participants through non-mounted equine-assisted learning activities. Merrylegs and Laredo, two of our miniature



Kaysyn leads Merrylegs, with the help of Volunteer Lisa.

horses, were used as our trusted equine partners for many of the hands-on activities in this pilot program. The activities and objectives written by the instructor were designed to develop, increase and reinforce the following target skills:

- Fine and gross motor skills
- Vocabulary, verbal and non-verbal communication
- Body awareness
- Integration of the tactile system
- Social skills such as listening, turn taking, and conversation
- Independence in adaptive skills

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Exterior framing is finished, all roofing is complete and the facility secured with windows and doors.



The exterior of the new facility is nearing completion.

Capital Campaign Moving Forward

We made significant strides in 2007 raising funds for the new indoor therapeutic riding center. A total of 89 donors contributed over \$227,460 toward the effort with major gifts from Hagyard Equine Medical Institute, Blue Grass Charity Ball, McDonald's and the Troubled Children's Fund. We are especially grateful to Tom Creech of Charles T Creech, Inc. for the purchase and installation of a hay storage shed which stands adjacent to the new facility.

Nearly \$17,000 of the above mentioned funds came from a spring mail appeal to 3,400 program supporters across Kentucky who responded with generosity and enthusiasm!

As we go to press, we are pleased to say the exterior framing is finished, all roofing is complete and the facility secured with windows and doors. We continue to investigate all fund-raising opportunities.

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Remembering Molly

It is so hard for hay crew to say goodbye to our horses. Unlike most of the volunteers who work with them for a short time, hay crew members are with them for years. We are with them when it is so hot they don't like to move much. We are with them when there is thunder, wind, rain, and some fear on their part. We are with them when it is cold and icy and their hooves get packed with ice and have to be picked. We are with them when they are sick and need some meds or their temperature taken. We are with them when their eyes hurt and need ointment put in. They become part of our lives. We look forward to seeing them, speaking softly to them, touching them. It is hard to say goodbye. I know that it



must be even harder for the barn staff to say goodbye. You spend even more time with them.

I miss Molly. I miss her insistent banging on her stall door telling us to hurry up with her food. I miss her frustration with us when we cleaned her hooves before she could eat or go out. She would stand still only so long and then start moving. I miss her call from the field when we did not bring her in fast enough to please her. I miss the way she would rebel and develop ways to hide her pills in her mouth and spit them out when she thought we weren't looking.

I have memories of Molly during happy times. The smiles on her riders' faces. Her gentle walk when kids were on her back. Her trotting up to the fence at meal time. I'll never forget the time she escaped and we chased her up and down the fence line. She had so much fun that day. She did not really want to

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Preschool Pilot Program

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- Self esteem and acceptance of temporary separation from parents
- Early literacy
- Attention span, attending to speaker, task, or specific stimuli
- Transitioning from one activity to another

This list of target skills was determined by the instructor's assessment of the participants and by parent surveys. Another goal, as noted by parents, was for the children to have fun participating in an activity that provided sensory experiences in a group setting.

Working with volunteers, students learned horsemanship skills such as grooming and leading. Students also learned to approach horses safely and worked on applying just the right amount of pressure to groom

effectively. Students participated in sensory activities such as "cooking" pony pizzas for their equine partners and making finger paint portraits for them. They also learned vocabulary pertinent to each lesson and practiced reading words relevant to the horsemanship skills learned. Each lesson also included opportunities for turn taking, and for group sharing in which all members of the group focused on the speaker. Throughout the session, each student was encouraged to be as independent as possible with all tasks.

Since the pilot was so successful, we look forward to offering more sessions like these in the near future. If you have a preschooler who would be interested, or if you have daytime availability and would like to volunteer, please let us know!

Harvest Trail Ride: Another Winning Event

*By Laura Whyne
& Judy Donahoe*

Central Kentucky Riding for Hope (CKRH) held its annual trail ride and tack sale on the first Saturday of November. Because of the later date, we called it the Harvest Trail Ride instead of the usual Halloween Trail Ride.

Besides the trail ride, people could find some great bargains at the tack sale, participate in ornament decorating, or compete in costume classes.

For the Trail Ride, people brought their own horses and rode them on a marked trail that meandered through the Kentucky Horse Park and the neighboring Barton Brothers' farm.

Some riders participated in the Ride-A-Thon, having family and friends sponsor them and help raise money for CKRH. We had 174 riders on the trail and between their registrations and the Ride-a-Thon, we grossed \$8,654 for the Trail Ride.

A table was set up at one end of the Steeplechase barn for children to make and decorate ornaments. Ornaments were either for the CKRH Tree that is part of the Kentucky Horse Park Foundation's Holiday Tree sponsorship or for the children's own trees.

Costume classes for all ages were held in the afternoon after the trail ride. Horses and riders appeared in costume and competed for prizes. What creativity and what fun! Check the website for some pictures of the costume classes, the tack sale and the trail ride (<http://www.ckrh.org>).

An event such as this could

not happen without all of our sponsors. Sponsorship increased to \$3,825 this year. The sponsors this year were Central Equipment Company, Grovendale Farm, Bluegrass Tire, Brook Ledge Horse Transportation, Inc., Horse Cents, Trackside Farm, Anggelis & Gordon PLLC, Biederman Real Estate and Auctioneers, Chet Blackey DVM PLLC, Congleton Freezer Beef, Lantern Hill Farm LLC (Suzi Shoemaker), Lochness Inc., Nicholson Insurance, and Nicoma Bloodstock. We are so grateful to all these sponsors for their generosity in support of this event and CKRH.

So many people helped in so many ways before, during and after the event. It is impossible to list everyone who helped out, but please know that we really appreciate your time, effort and support. Some who provided assistance or service include Shirley Gentry, costume judge; Nori Scheffel, coordinator of the outriders; all the outriders; Dave Scheffel, farrier; Kay Fox, photographer; Lauren Javernick, veterinarian (Hagyard's Equine Medical Institute); Tom Mansfield, on trail radios (ARES); Steve Morris, EMS (Mediport); Jim Fields, portapotties (KY Portable Toilet Service), and Saf-Ti-Co, Inc., cones for marking the trail. We also thank the Barton Brothers and the Kentucky Horse Park for allowing us to ride on their property.

The Harvest Trail Ride was very successful and just keeps getting better each year. The event grossed almost \$25,000!

This was our fourth year to

incorporate the tack sale with our trail ride. This year we did not have as many buckets and blankets, but we had a record number of saddles.

The success of our tack sale always depends on the generous donations of all the horse lovers in this area. The old adage of 'one man's trash is another man's treasure' once again comes true.

We would like to say thank you to all who donated their time and hard work to both the tack sale and the trail ride, to each that donated tack and supplies and to all the shoppers.

And remember, it is already time to begin collecting goods for next year's sale!



CKRH rider Sierra demonstrates the new Equicizer recently purchased through the generosity of WHAS Crusade for Children. This unique therapy tool helps riders stretch their muscles before class and instructors assess student progress.

MISSION STATEMENT

Central Kentucky Riding for the Hope is dedicated to enriching the community by improving the quality of life and the health of children and adults with special physical, cognitive, emotional and social needs through therapeutic activities using the horse.

'Amazing Impact' On Children's Lives

Dear Supporter,

"Walk-on." These two small words evoke an overwhelming emotional reaction. My son, Jack, one of my surviving twins from a difficult triplet pregnancy, uttered these words the first time he rode a horse.

I doubted Denise, his riding instructor and program director of CKRH, would ever get him mounted. After all, he cried and pleaded, "No, no, no!" for what seemed an eternity. He reluctantly sat on the saddle with his shoulders rolled forward and his back slumped. Partially because of his low muscle tone and generalized weakness, but also his insecurity and fear. Within minutes, his head was held high and his posture was straight and tall. As he rounded the ring, I heard his sweet little voice say, "Walk-on Mikey. Walk-on." He is a child of few words, but his confidence and pride were unmistakable. It is a memory I will always cherish.

Initially, we sought out CKRH to improve Jack's balance, coordination, and strength. We knew riding would require a great deal of coordination to control his own body and the horse's movements. Then, we saw how Jack had to anticipate changes of speed and direction, and how this enhanced motor planning and eye-hand coordination. We did not anticipate the carryover we would quickly see at home and school. He immediately developed an interest in caring for his horse and equipment. It was evident that his participation in tacking and grooming facilitated his independence in self-care at home.

This unique experience does more than address physical and educational goals; it also promotes a special relationship between a boy, a horse, and his team. He is building friendships with people who



Jack rides Zippo, with Denise as instructor, Cindy leading and Jerry as the sidewalker.

share a common love for horses. Some days are challenging, but always rewarding.

I cannot describe the joy that I feel each time he dons his helmet and buckles his gear for a ride. We will always be grateful to CKRH and the kindness of strangers who make this program possible. You may never truly know the amazing impact you are making on these children's lives. Without your gracious generosity, many of them would never experience what it feels like to come in first, or the loving acceptance of a horse. For an hour each week, they forget about social isolation and medical interventions. You can see it on their faces. You can hear it in their laughter.

With a grateful heart, I thank you sincerely,

Patricia Truesdell

'Piggy Banks' For Charity Help CKRH

Bank of Lexington is sponsoring "This Little Piggy Program" for charity!

Local charities were given four "Piggy Banks" to paint however they chose and then place in retail spots around town. Bank of Lexington will match dollar for dollar the amount raised in each "Piggy" and the charity that raises the most money will receive a \$2,500 cash prize. Awards will also be given for favorite design, and the best design that represents Bank of Lexington.

Central Kentucky Riding for Hope will have four "Piggies" out in the community:

Miss Priss painted by Gallery B artist Jeanne Owens will be at Sheila's Jewelers located at the Civic Center.

Three Little Pigs painted by Splash of Color artist Marilyn Smedley will be at Buddy's Restaurant in Chevy Chase.

Splash of Color painted by Splash of Color artist Melissa Mulholland will be at Embry's in the Lansdowne Shoppes on Tates Creek Road.

The Dressage Pig painted by Gallery B artist Marci Durocher will be at Wise Choice Tack on

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More Than Riding at CKRH

Equine Assisted Activities (EAA)

The 2007 Summer Newsletter included an informative article entitled "CKRH: An Overview of Programs". This article described in detail Therapeutic Riding, Hippotherapy, Driving and Equine Assisted Growth and Learning. CKRH is continually seeking to expand the services offered to our Community.

The following is a brief description of each activity CKRH plans to offer in 2008 and the proper definition of each. In the interest of clarity and consistency, NARHA's Health and Education Committee has adopted a glossary to describe the activities and participation within a NARHA Center.

Equine Assisted Activities (EAA) is an umbrella term inclusive of all the various offerings of NARHA centers and all of the equine activities and therapies designed for people with disabilities or diverse needs. This term will be used by CKRH to accurately make global statements about center activities.

Therapeutic Riding (TR) is mounted activities including traditional riding disciplines or adaptive riding activities conducted by a NARHA certified instructor. At CKRH these activities are taught in private and group lessons during the day and evening May through October.

Hippotherapy (HPOT) is a physical, occupational or speech therapy treatment strategy that utilizes equine movement. Services are provided by a licensed/credentialed PT, OT, SLP and are offered through a partnership with Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital on Tuesday and Friday May through October.

Therapeutic Driving is activities related to carriage driving conducted by a NARHA certified driving instructor. The driving program at CKRH provides individuals who may not be able to ride, due to contraindications, the experience of equine movement. Lesson times will vary depending on instructor/participant/equine availability between May and October.

Therapeutic Horsemanship is equine activities organized and taught by knowledgeable and skilled instructors to people with disabilities or diverse needs. Students progress in equestrian skills while improving their cognitive, emotional, social and behavioral skills.

Horsemanship skills are taught in every non-therapist facilitated lesson at CKRH. Horsemaster and Pony Club lessons offered during the day and during non-riding seasons teach horsemanship skills in depth.

Competition is individual or team sports at the local, regional, national, or international level. This will be offered through Pony Club activities, Special Olympics and Paul Frazer Horse Show. Participants must meet eligibility requirements prior to entry.

Equine Facilitated Mental Health (EFMH) is inclusive of equine assisted activities and therapies with a focus on mental health issues. At CKRH these activities and therapies typically do not include riding or horsemanship skills and are lead by a licensed/credentialed mental health professional working with an appropriately credentialed equine professional. Examples of therapies are psychotherapy,

marriage and family counseling and grief counseling. These services will be offered on weekdays as requested by partnering agencies.

Equine Facilitated Learning (EFL) includes equine activities incorporating the experience of equine/human interaction in an environment of learning or self-discovery. EFL promotes personal exploration of feelings and behaviors in an educational format.

It is conducted by a NARHA certified instructor, an educator or a therapist. Goals may be related to self-improvement, social interaction and/or education. At CKRH these activities do not include riding and may be lead by an educator, instructor or therapist.

Examples of the EFL academic programming include the **Primary Literacy Unit** designed for school

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'Piggy Banks'

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Georgetown Road from Feb 5th thru 23rd and Mickler's on West High Street from Feb 25th thru March 21st.

So go visit your favorite "Piggy" today! Let's show Lexington that Central Kentucky Riding for Hope is the biggest supported charity in the Bluegrass!

Also, remember to thank the host business for letting us place our "Piggy" with them! Watch for further news on Channel 27, the Lexington Herald and Insight!

Jeanne Cox-Owens,
President, CKRH

CKRH A Recognized Pony Club Riding Center!

In September of 2007, the United States Pony Club recognized Central Kentucky Riding for Hope as a Pony Club Riding Center. As a recognized Pony Club Riding Center, CKRH is able to offer the Pony Club program through its current lesson program to participants who previously would not have been able to

participate due to not owning a horse.

CKRH Pony Club members will participate in non-mounted and mounted lessons, following an established curriculum, in order to learn skills pertaining to riding and horsemanship. Participants will periodically have the chance to demonstrate their knowledge

and ability in order to achieve Pony Club ratings. Participants will also have the opportunity to earn achievement badges in both mounted and non-mounted areas. The purpose of the badge program is for Pony Club members to develop a sense of achievement between ratings while working at the D (beginner) levels.

For Additional Information: Contact Denise Spittler at 859-231-7066 or denise@ckrh.org.



Please go to www.ckrh.org and choose the calendar option for the most up-to-date information.

<i>January 4 - March 7</i>	Equine Assisted Learning Session (2 hours once per week)
<i>January 19</i>	Instructor Workshop (Lexington, KY)
<i>January 30</i>	Instructor Workshop (Lexington, KY)
<i>February 2</i>	TRAKY (NARHA) Meeting (Bowling Green, KY)
<i>February 9</i>	Instructor Workshop (Lexington, KY)
<i>February 16</i>	Instructor Workshop (Lexington, KY)
<i>March 1</i>	Instructor Workshop (Lexington, KY)
<i>March 13 - March 16</i>	NARHA Regional Conference (Lexington, KY)
<i>March 17 - April 14</i>	Pony Club Horsemanship Lesson (2 hours once per week)
<i>March 18 - April 15</i>	Equine Assisted Learning of Life/Social Skills Session (2 hours once per week)
<i>March 19 - April 16</i>	Pony Club Horsemanship Lesson (2 hours once per week)
<i>March 19 - April 16</i>	Equine Assisted Learning Session (2 hours once per week)
<i>March 20 - April 17</i>	Equine-Assisted Pre-School Class
<i>March 21 & 22</i>	Easter Holiday - Closed
<i>March 29</i>	Paul Frazer Horse Show (CKRH Fundraiser)
<i>April 21 - May 10</i>	New Volunteer Orientation and Training Sessions
<i>April 24 - April 27</i>	Rolex Kentucky 3 Day Event
<i>May 2 - October 31</i>	Hippotherapy on Tuesday and Friday (1 hour sessions from 9:00 a.m. - 6:00p.m.)
<i>May 5 - May 9</i>	Therapeutic Retreats
<i>May 10 - June 28</i>	Therapeutic Riding Lessons
<i>May 18</i>	High Hope Steeplechase (CKRH Fundraiser)
<i>June 21</i>	NIGHT OF THE STARS '08 (CKRH Fundraiser)
<i>July 7 - July 26</i>	Therapeutic Retreats
<i>July 26 - August 2</i>	New Volunteer Orientation and Training Sessions
<i>August 4 - September 27</i>	Therapeutic Riding Lessons
<i>August 29 - October 24</i>	Equine-Assisted Academic Learning Program
<i>October 6 - October 17</i>	Therapeutic Retreats
<i>October 18 - October 24</i>	End of Year Festivities
<i>October - 24 & 25</i>	Breeders Cup
<i>October 29 - November 1</i>	NARHA National Conference (Hartford, CT)
<i>November 1</i>	Harvest Trail Ride and Tack Sale (CKRH Fundraiser)

Molly

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get away, just play with us a bit. She would trot ahead and stop, waiting for us to come. When we got close, she would take off again. Just a short way. Just enough to make us come as quickly as we could. She would double back and trot by the small ring, stopping to look back to make sure we were hurrying after her. She was so full of energy and having such a good time. She finally stopped toying with us and let us take her into the barn for supper. A fun day for her.

Now she is gone from us but I believe she is running and having fun again. She will continue to live in our hearts.

--Russell Enzie

Did You Know?

- Bob McCleary, long-time CKRH volunteer, helped the program participate in Bank of Lexington's Piggy Bank Charity Program.

- Neil Tollner and Dave Schneider always take the Thursday after Christmas off from work and spend the entire day at CKRH working their way through our maintenance wish list.

Under-Cover Campaign Donors to Date

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The John Creech, Jr. Family
Kentucky Horse Park
Toyota Motor Manufacturing, KY, Inc.
The Oxley Foundation

To the Under-Cover Campaign

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Anonymous

In Honor of Travis Lynn

Tissie Downing

In Honor of Justin O'Malley

Pat and Lynn Costello

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Sara Metcalf

In Honor of Jas & Miriam Sekhon's

30th Anniversary

John and Jo Mink

In Honor of Zachary Womack

Charles and Sally Womack

In Memory of John Alexander

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Kahn

In Memory of Sandy Berger

Wendy W. Devier

In Loving Memory of Dr. & Mrs. Harry

A. Burns

Helen Coleman

In Memory of Katherine Prewitt Fishback

Anonymous

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Tamara with Rocket Boy and Kelly with Dillon



Robbie on LeSabre with Instructor Kim Noreikis, Leader Cindy Parkill and Jeriann Falls..

Special Olympics Achievements

On Sunday, October 7th, nine CKRH participants competed for honors at Special Olympics Kentucky. Many of our riders demonstrated how they have progressed in their riding skills by riding in the independent classes and in the walk-trot classes, something that they had never tried before. No doubt, all of our participants will be setting even higher goals for next year!

Following are our horse and rider teams, along with the classes they competed in and their awards:

- **Sierra Pollard and Rocket Boy**
Dressage – Independent, Walk only
Working Trails English – Independent, Walk only
- **Jean Sherrow and Chico**
Dressage – Independent, Walk only
3rd Place with a Bronze Medal
Working Trail English – Independent, Walk only
- **Jeremy Cook and Messenger**
Dressage – Independent, Walk-Trot
English Equitation – Independent, Walk-Trot
1st Place with a Gold Medal
- **Sara Jones and Messenger**
English Equitation — Supported, Walk only
Working Trails English – Supported, Walk only
- **Peyton Meadows and Annie**
English Equitation — Supported, Walk only
2nd Place with a Silver Medal
Working Trails English – Supported, Walk only
- **Robbie Jacina and LeSabre**
English Equitation – Independent, Walk only
3rd Place with a Bronze Medal
Working Trails English – Independent, Walk only
- **John Cottrell and Zippo**
Showmanship *1st Place with a Gold Medal*

- **Kelly Vest and Dillon**

Working Trails Western – Independent, Walk-Trot
2nd Place with a Silver Medal

Western Equitation – Independent, Walk-Trot
1st Place with a Gold Medal

- **Tamara Ralph and Rocket Boy**

Working Trails Western – Independent, Walk-Trot
1st Place with a Gold Medal

Western Equitation – Independent, Walk-Trot
2nd Place with a Silver Medal

We are very thankful to all of the families who encouraged these participants, and we appreciate all you did to get them to the competition. Thanks to our awesome CKRH instructors and volunteers as well, who devoted their Sunday afternoon to helping things run smoothly for our athletes.

Got Milk? Colostrum Bank

Colostrum is the first milk that a mare produces; it is essential for the health of newborn foals. Colostrum banks are maintained at Hagyard Equine Medical Institute (HEMI), Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital (R&R) and Woodford Veterinary Hospital and are operated in association with the Kentucky Thoroughbred Farm Managers' Club. All donated colostrum is tested and stored in freezers by HEMI and R&RC. All funds generated from the sale of Colostrum are donated to Central Kentucky Riding for Hope. CKRH urges all our friends in the horse industry to support the Colostrum Bank by donating to the supply. This unique fundraising is crucial to our program and important to the wonderful equine industry that surrounds us all.

Healing Hooves: An 'Outside' Approach to Griefwork

Hospice of the Bluegrass and Central Kentucky Riding for HOPE (CKRH) have joined together on to implement a new bereavement service, Healing Hooves, in a one-day retreat at CKRH. The new service incorporated the use of horses to facilitate the grieving process for children and teenagers, ages 7 to 17, who have experienced the death of a loved one.

Each participant began the day by being paired in teams of two, and then joined by a Hospice Bereavement Counselor, Certified Equine Specialist from CKRH, and most importantly, a horse! Throughout the day, participants learned strategies to express their grief, reduce stress and isolation and connect with other grieving children. Participants were able to learn new coping skills such as

journaling and expression of grief through art, incorporate problem solving skills, and learn to communicate feelings and emotions through verbal and written communication. One of the highlights of the day occurred when participants were able to decorate and paint their horse to symbolize feelings and emotions related to their deceased loved one.

When asked about their favorite thing about the day, participants indicated painting and grooming the horses, and making new friends who are going through a similar experience. One particularly touching response to the question of "If you knew another child who had a loved one die, what would you tell them



about Healing Hooves" was "It heals you."

The healing will continue this summer with plans for three more Healing Hooves retreats. For more information on Healing Hooves, please contact Brandy Hamby, MSW, LCSW, at 1-800-876-6005. Healing Hooves is open to any child or teenager age 7 to 17 who has experienced the death of a loved one.

Pegasus Travel, CKRH Team To Raise Funds

Central Kentucky Riding for Hope (CKRH) and Pegasus Travel have teamed up to raise funds for CKRH programs.

Pegasus Travel will donate 10 to 15% of its profit from all future cruises, tours and group travel arranged through Pegasus for CKRH supporters or for business referred to them by CKRH supporters.

To qualify for the CKRH donation, travelers only need to mention CKRH at the time they are making their travel plans. Pegasus will automatically track all CKRH-related travel and will forward a check to CKRH quarterly along with a list of travelers that have requested their travel be earmarked for a CKRH donation after their travel is completed. Ten percent will be donated for all individual cruises and tours and 15% for all group travel.

Pegasus Travel is a full-service travel company established in 1989 that is Lexington owned and managed by an active CKRH volunteer. The company is located at 245 Lexington Avenue less than a block from the downtown post office on high street and about two blocks from Samaritan Hospital. The local telephone number is 253-1644 and those outside the Lexington area may call 800-228-4337 toll free; e-mails may be sent to jan.pegasus@vacation.com.

Pegasus Travel's experienced staff of travel counselors arrange trips throughout the United States and to all seven continents around the world ranging from cost-effective getaways to ultimate luxury trips. In most cases and with the exception of airline tickets, Pegasus is paid by the cruise line or travel supplier with

no additional expense to the traveler; often their advice and experience results in greater value and a more memorable travel experience.

In recent years Pegasus has arranged travel for groups as small as ten travelers to ones with more than 800, and everything from a school bus trip to space camp to exotic African safaris.

Next time you or someone you know is planning a cruise, honeymoon, a trip to DisneyWorld or a dream trip to Hawaii or Europe, help yourself to the expert advice and service of Pegasus Travel and help CKRH at the same time. Groups can result in substantial donations to help support CKRH programs, so when your church, school or business is planning a trip or meeting, be sure to refer them to Pegasus Travel as well.

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**July 1 to December 31, 2007 Every effort has been made to assure the accuracy of this report. Please report any corrections or omissions.*



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CKRH Equine Assisted Activities

Continued From Page 5

age children and taught by a special education teacher and NARHA certified instructor. The primary purpose of this unit is to integrate reading and writing skills with social skills and problem-solving skills, while at the same time empowering students to seek new learning through rich experiences.

The purpose of CKRH's **Equine-Assisted Preschool Program** is to provide services to

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preschool-aged children that will develop and reinforce such skills as fine and gross motor, vocabulary (verbal and non-verbal communication), early literacy, integration of the tactile system and temporary separation from parents.

A second example of an EFL program at CKRH is the **Horse Power Life Skills Program**. This program is taught by a therapeutic recreational specialist and focuses on teaching daily life and social skills. The weekly two hour sessions will focus on problem solving skills, respecting boundaries, team work exercises, positive interactions with others, communication and trust.

A third example of EFL programming at CKRH is **therapeutic retreats**. These are typically single session non-mounted group activities. They will be offered on assigned days during the months of May, July and October. CKRH typically partners with other community organizations such as Parks and Recreation to provide these services.

Vocational Rehabilitation is equine related activities that may include work hardening, work re-

entry or vocational exploration. Participants are young adults or adults. CKRH partners with high schools and other organizations to provide these services on a limited basis during the day.

Stars '08 Is June 21

Mark your calendars and your planning books, NIGHT OF THE STARS '08 is scheduled for June 21 at the Keeneland Entertainment Center. This signature fund-raising event is very popular in Lexington and important to CKRH.

The search has begun for locating promising auction items, securing sponsorships, planning the theme and costumes for our willing participants and their wonderful horses. Do you want to work on a great committee? Have a few hours to help us prepare? Please call Pat at CKRH if you'd like to join in the group. Alison Pope is our STARS '08 Secretary and she can be reached at cckrh.stars08@gmail.com.