

HorseAbility's

Bits and Leadlines

Straight from the horse's mouth to your Mailbox!



Therapeutic Riding Program
Hippotherapy Program
& Summer Day Camp

A Letter from The Executive Director

Dear Friends of HorseAbility,

Happy New Year! I can think of no better way to begin HorseAbility's 20th year than by sharing some exciting news. It has always been my goal and ambition to have property completely devoted to HorseAbility, tranquil and spacious, a facility that would allow for the growth of our programs as we continue to serve the special needs community. That goal has been realized in a newly-forged partnership with SUNY College at Old Westbury. HorseAbility will be moving to a space six times the size of our current location.



As local history enthusiasts know, the campus of SUNY Old Westbury is the former estate F. Ambrose Clark - industrialist, sportsman, philanthropist, and avid horseman. Although his home, Broad Hollow House, burned down in 1968, the stables remain. In addition to the acres of grassy turn-outs, forty three roomy stalls, an enormous hayloft (that can hold 40 tons of hay), heated tack rooms, and indoor wash stalls, there is *still* space for multiple classrooms

and therapy rooms. This facility will allow us to further expand our current programs and increase with new programs.

The warm welcome and support from Dr. Calvin Butts III, President of SUNY Old Westbury and the tremendous support of Senator Marcellino and Supervisor Venditto is very much appreciated during this transition. Part of our commitment to the community and SUNY College at Old Westbury is to refurbish and renovate the property. Mr. Clark's magnificent barn is still standing however the facility needs extensive renovations and "extreme" updating to create safe, spacious, beautiful, and virtually limitless possibilities for expansion of our services. The creation of a premier riding facility, that provides the best environment for our horses and our participants *that is completely handicapped accessible* is a monumental task.

We have been working diligently preparing the property, building new riding rings, walkways, parking areas, updating all of the facilities, and beginning construction. We have had many people already begin to show their support with financial donations, in-kind service donations and construction (indoors and outdoors) in support of the 2.3 million dollar renovation budget. To accomplish our goals we need the financial support of our community and the generosity of sponsors who share our vision for the future. Our first challenge is to raise necessary funds for our initial move (\$75,000.00). Opportunities to lend a hand are limitless! Join us on Facebook, and Twitter to keep current with all the monumental changes taking place.

More than ever, I am touched by the generosity, kindness, and willingness by our clients, friends, volunteers, and supporters to go above and beyond for HorseAbility. The theme chosen for our Gala, "On Course for Our Future", was designed with this transition in mind. And thanks to all of you, the event was a huge success! We are absolutely on course and heading for our new home!

Gratefully ,

Founder/Executive Director

Winter Newsletter 2012

Important Dates to Remember

Equine Studies Program	Spring 2012
HorseAbility Volunteer Meetings- <i>All volunteers must attend 1 out of 3 sessions offered.</i>	Jan 20,21,22
HorseAbility Spring Series	Apr 2012
HorseAbility LIHSSRD- Show Team Informational Meeting	Spring 2012
HorseAbility Bowl-A-Thon	TBA
HorseAbility Wine Tasting <i>hosted by Rothmann's Steak House</i>	March 12
LIHSSRD Show at The Thomas School of Horsemanship	Apr 14
HorseAbility Spring Horse	TBA
Camp HorseAbility 2011	TBA
HorseAbility's Annual Gala	Nov 2012

HorseAbility

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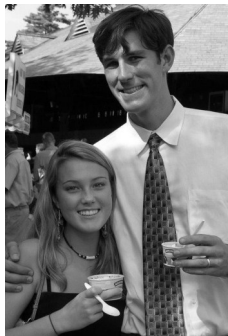
Have an idea or story you would like us to publish in our next issue of "Bits and Leadlines"? Make a submission via email to nancy@horseability.org.

HorseAbility acknowledges the remarkable efforts of Sebastien Saylor!

Sebastien competed in the Tough Mudder Competition on November 12th in memory of his sister Olivia Saylor and Carly LeStrange, both share a love for horses. In their honor he has successfully fundraised over \$16,000 to help "share the gift of horses". The collective contributions will support our campers and fund field trips for the Bayport-Blue Point School.



To learn more or make a donation:
<http://www.crowdrise.com/Ssaylor/fundraiser/SebastienSaylor>



From The Director Of Clinical Services

Eileen Booth, MS,OTR/L

Warm wishes during this chilly season!

I would like to share with you my excitement on HorseAbility's new adventure. Our new home, located on the campus of SUNY Old Westbury offers our clients a richer environment with more sensory opportunities. We will have a large grass track where we will build a sensory trail to challenge clients balance and strength, while incorporating new sights, sounds, and textures. There will also be trails nearby, and a wonderful ring dedicated to hippotherapy. As we move towards the future, HorseAbility is grateful for your continued support and we are honored to be your chosen facility to offer your family members quality Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapy Services.

From the Instructor's Saddle...

(A Guide to Therapeutic Riding Column for Riders, Parents & Caregivers)

By Wendy Schonfeld

As a therapeutic riding instructor, I have come to learn that inspirational coaching has been the most effective in stimulating endless possibilities for my riders.

Inspirational coaching to me is a fusion of encouragement, trust, and praise. It helps a novice rider unlock his true potential and provides a fresh approach to learning for the skilled rider. My goal as an instructor is to consistently empower my riders and volunteers. This includes using motivational tactics, constant reinforcement and effective communication. I find these aid independence, builds on self esteem and promotes decision making and problem solving. The specific skills we teach in the ring also benefit our riders outside the ring. These skills also help foster courage and celebrate confidence in their everyday lives.

These skills would not be possible without the practice and patience of our horses. For years I have witnessed the mystical connection between a horse & rider and know how truly life changing it can be. Each lesson, each victory and each hug we experience with our horses creates a deeper appreciation, stronger connection and significant triumph not only for horse and rider but for instructors, like me, who are blessed to be part of the journey.

A Letter from The Ride School Director

Sue Haggerty

As the Fall Series comes to an end and the Winter series and New Year is upon us, it is a great time to reflect on the programming offered this past year at HorseAbility.

Countless lessons gave the "gift of Horses" to our riders as they overcame anxieties, improved self esteem, attention spans, cognition, physical mobility or simply enjoyed an equine experience while feeling good about their accomplishments at the end of each lesson. HorseAbility Field Trips this spring and fall or "Days of Fun" as the participants would like to call them, gave students from surrounding school districts an opportunity to learn how to groom a horse, ride a horse and enjoy a picnic lunch on the "hunt field". The Spring and Fall Horse Shows were great successes allowing clients to demonstrate their riding as family and friends cheered them on. Special Programming such as Equine Facilitated Therapy, the Equine Studies Program and Peer Mentoring has provided both our riders and non-riders with ground horse- related activities that are great for the "soul". Our HorseAbility Summer Day Camp was once again proven to be the best week on Long Island providing numerous fun filled activities for the campers such as including swimming, horseback riding, sports, arts & crafts and special activities such as drum circle and karaoke and an Equine Studies Program.

Being a part of HorseAbility and this programming has given me a great sense of fulfillment, satisfaction and many great memories. As HorseAbility undertakes its new path to its next phase of growth in a beautiful location full of opportunities, I too will enter a new phase of my life as a horse owner and trainer. Owning a young horse is a big commitment and therefore it is with mixed emotions that I announce my resignation as the Ride School Director at HorseAbility. I feel truly blessed to have had the opportunity to meet such inspiring clients and parents, dedicated volunteers, beautiful, giving horses, hard working staff, social workers, therapists and motivating instructors with unique personalities and teaching styles. It is because of all of you and our belief in the HorseAbility mission of providing safe Equine activities with benefits to the special needs community that this year's Therapeutic Ride Series was such a great success. I will miss you but have entered my life's next phase (named "Bijou") with great anticipation and excitement as I will continue to learn and teach something new every day. I wish you all the best and a Healthy and Happy New Year.



Greetings from the HorseAbility Herd!

The barn has picked up again after the holidays and the HorseAbility herd is ready to get back to work!
During these winter months it is important to have the extra volunteer help to keep the horses happy and the barn area safe for both horses and humans. The horses are in need of volunteers to continue to give them their daily TLC and grooming even if the weather is too cold for lessons. Also, the barn will be in need of volunteers on a regular basis who can help salt the arena and barn area to keep the ground from freezing, as well as strong volunteers to help shovel us out when the snow comes. Please let Spirit or Antoinette know if you are interested in being part of the winter volunteer team at the barn.

The HorseAbility Herd Winter Needs:

- **Waterproof blanket boxes with secure lids
- **Snow Shovels
- **Large Salt/Seed Spreader
- Rubber mallets (to break the ice out of the buckets)
- Saddles (pony size up to draft horse size)
- Rainbow reins



Adjustable Crank Helmets (X-small, Small, medium, large and x-large)

Volunteer News Spirit Seabre- Director of Volunteers



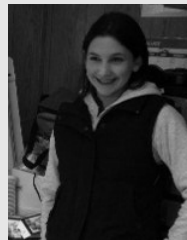
*Thank you to **Caroline Schrama***

Caroline forfeited her 8th birthday gifts, and requested donations be made towards a scholarship to Camp HorseAbility for her friend Sarah.

Thank you for your generosity and kindness.

Volunteer Dedicates Her Time for Mitzvah Project

Jane Friedman dedicated her bat mitzvah (charity) project to the Saturday volunteers, in honor of their hard work and commitment to our organization. Jane donated a pizza lunch, bottled water, munchkins, and cookies which were enjoyed and appreciated by all of the volunteers.



Thanks Jane!

Volunteer of the Month



October Volunteer of the Month **Katie Braunstein**. She is one of the most requested volunteers because she is a strong leader and sidewalker, she is very reliable and professional. In addition to helping with TR lessons and Hippotherapy, Katie is also a LIHSSRD Show Team volunteer.

November Volunteer of the Month is **Julia Bassin**. Julia is a reliable and hard working volunteer on Saturdays. Julia is not scheduled to work on one certain team but she is always ready to jump in wherever and whenever needed.



December Volunteer of the Month **Gabby Gusumano** has quickly and successfully learned to groom, tack, sidewalk and lead for both hippotherapy and therapeutic riding. A reliable volunteer who earned the 100% attendance award and always gets her horse in the ring early.

Welcome Baby Caeden!



We are very excited to announce the birth of Caeden James Thomas-Martin to the proud parents Jamie & Tristan Thomas-Martin. Born on December 14th, 2011 at 2:29 pm- 7lbs 9oz, 19.5".



Annual Appeal Donations - Our Sincere Thanks!

We would like to *sincerely thank you* all for your many **Annual Appeal** donations. Your generosity is truly appreciated. It is because of you that we are able to continue the programs that make the difference in the lives of so many.



A Special Thanks for All of Your Support!

We are so greatly appreciative for all the donations of financial contributions, goods and services made to HorseAbility. Your support makes it possible for HorseAbility to offer such amazing programs!

(List compiled from donations 4/15/11-12/1/11. We apologize for any errors- Please inform us if your name is misspelled or missing from our list)

Monthly donations in honor of Barry Hershfield in honor of Linda Wigandt

*The Likit Corporation for donation of Lickit toys for each of our **HorseAbility** horses*

*David & Minnie Meyerson Foundation for their generous donation in support of Camp **HorseAbility**.*

Jericho-Brookville Lions to sponsor a Camp HorseAbility camper

*Coliseum Deli for donation of salads & side dishes for the Camp **HorseAbility** Family Fun Day BBQ*

*Glynis Humphries & Sue Haggerty for in kind donation of Fly Spray for the **HorseAbility** Herd*

Jane Schwartz & Richard Leland for donations towards Hughie's monthly care

Stephen & Bebe Barbella in honor of Mr. & Mrs.

Joseph Valentino Celebrating 50 years of marriage!

*USA Equestrian Trust for a most generous grant for LIHSSRD show sponsorships for the **HorseAbility** Show Team*

M&M Roofing Co. for donation in the name of Victoria Rae Natale

Patti Grasso in memory of Richard Uhlich

Sue Woodburn & Family in memory of Florence "Mickey" Markey

Kathy Sue Zankel in honor of Robin Needleman

Salil Zavaro & the Sunday Night Tennis Group

Sea Glen Tennis Club Ladies Day Charity Event

*Linda Simpson & Imagination Network for donation of holiday ornaments & unique gifts. Artists Helping **HorseAbility** Holiday Fundraiser*

Mitch & Laurie Beller

Dr. Mitchell Boxer

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Carole Gerrity

Lisa Katz

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Dinah Mark

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Linda Wigandt

Judith Schutzman

The Fint Family

Alan Wolper

Michelle Kannavos

Andrew Criqui

Donations collected by Caroline Schrama in lieu of gifts for her 8th birthday to sponsor a friend to **Camp HorseAbility**

Dr. Eric & Lori Heiger

Theresa & Russel Heier

Shanequa Levin

Matthew McEvoy & Suzanne Manaseri

Donna Cahill

Julie Earley

Christopher & Heather Ross

Eric & Julie Schrama

Andrea Briody

James Mattutat

Nicole Franz

Donations and Sponsorships collected in support of Horses for Heroes

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Bellmore Street Fair

Wardons Deli

Associated Food

Gregg Seibert

Jean Geiger, Vice Flotilla CDR,USCG AUX Flotilla 13-07

Debra & James Martin

Donations in honor of Katie & Danny McGowan's 11th Wedding Anniversary

Thomas Musgrove

Tara & Kevin Anglim

Christine Collura

Donations in support of The McGowan Family Matching Grant

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Donations in honor of Jamie & Tristan

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Donations in memory of Andrew Burrous

The Junior Women's Club of Bellerose

Eugene Schmidt, Jr.

Donations collected by Sebastien Saylor in memory of Olivia Saylor & Carley LeStrange

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Sally Gordon

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Tara Anglim

Keri Anello

Ryan Tomassone

Christine Grahn

Mellisa Waldman

Ronald Bard

Randy Katakofsky

Patricia Lee

Jennifer Corso

Jodi Sleavensky

Kerri Maloney

Keri Vita

Bobby Ashrafi

Kris Almskog

Dena Ferrara

Allison Tessier

Kerry Vann

Randazzo & Randazzo LLP

Donations Continued**All of our Sponsors, Supporter, Donors, Attendees & Volunteers who helped make our "On Course for our Future" 2011 Gala a great success!**

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Molloy College
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Nancy & Katelyn Morrie
Kevin & Christine Moser
Larry Moser

GALA 2011 "On Course for our Future"

November 4th 2011, **HorseAbility** celebrated the 19 wonderful years of our programs at our annual Gala, "On Course for our Future". The exciting news as to why the theme was chosen for the evening was revealed to all of the friends and family of **HorseAbility**, our awardees, and honorees who gathered that evening to celebrate members of our community who have been instrumental in our success. We are delighted at the great success of this year's Gala. "On Course for our Future" is the next step for the future of **HorseAbility**, which will help us to support our financial goals as we begin our transition to our new home at the College of SUNY Old Westbury. The funds raised throughout the evening allow us to continue to provide the programs we offer at highest level of service.

This year, we were pleased and proud to honor the Penzel Family, Mike Dorfman, Tammie Topel, Christine & Kevin Moser and Supervisor John Venditto. Each of the honorees have been steadfast supporters of our programs and have greatly contributed to our success. Kudos to each of them and their great work on our behalf. Program awards were also presented to participants that were selected for 2011 as nominated by staff and peers.



We are currently seeking sponsors, both corporate and individual, on many levels for our 2012 Gala to be held this upcoming November. Also needed are volunteers to join our Gala Committee. We need help with basket assembly, assist with marketing, obtaining donations of goods, services and funds.

Please contact our office and let us know if you are interested in being a part of our committee.

We are counting on you, our community, to help us spread the word of all the great opportunities offered at **HorseAbility** to your friends and families, employers and neighbors. Consider placing a congratulatory ad to honor your child, their instructor or an honoree, all donations large or small are helpful to our future.

HorseAbility 2011 Program Awardees

Rider of the Year: Meaghan McAdam		
Hippotherapy Rider of the Year: Kerrick Appostol, Ava Barbera & Amanda Wallace		
Camper of the Year: Charlie Kosina & Billy Schafer		
Volunteer of the Year: Tara Denning, Katie Jackson, Jacqui Nunez, Amy Rimmer & Maria Roman		
Lifesaver Award: Gene Kaufman & Lauren Schnal		
Can't Do it Without You! Jamie Kolodziejski-Thomas		
Who's Better Than You! The Horn Family		
HorseAbility Spirit Award: Nancy Tejo		
LIHSSRD Ed Wrigley Sportsmanship Trophy: Carole Gerrity		
Presidential Service Awards		
Gold Level		
Emily Bobick	Nicole Carboy	Tara Denning
Jenna Dolan	Leslie Eisenberg	Rebecca Fetherston
Katarina Fielding	Jane Friedman	Megan Gargiulo
Gabriella Hernandez	Katie Jackson	Katelyn Morrie
Brianna Murphy	Jacqui Nunez	Angela Porchetta
Amy Rimmer	Tristan Thomas	
Bronze Level		
Julia Bassin	Deirdre Cooney	Anita Greenhaus
Karen Bogner	Patti Grasso	Caeley Looney

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 Arun & Sonia Myer
 John, Roxanne & Danielle Napoli
 Pat, Rae, Lexi & Tory Natale
 Anthony & Loretta Natelli
 Jennifer Navaro
 Nelson & Pope Engineers
 Newbridge Securities
 George Nieves
 Bob Nobile
 North Shore Autism Circle
 NuBest Salon & Spa
 Laurie, Miguel & Jacqui Nunez
 Patrick Reid O'Brien's My Town Art
 Linda O' Brien
 Ohm in the Home
 Pat Olds
 Grace O'Leary
 On Parade Diner
 Outback Steakhouse
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 Pavlova Salon
 Mark Pearlson, CA/PFS
 Lisa Pellegrino
 Fred, Wendy & Joe Penzel
 Perillo Family
 Phase 1 Removals Inc & Thomas Daly
 Phils Pizza II
 Piccola Bussola II
 Piccolo/Mill Pond
 James E Picken & The Town of Oyster
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 Polar Mechanic Corp & Joseph Yannaco

Pomodorino Restaurant
 Angela Porchetta
 Judith Price
 Primavera Italian Store
 Prime Petroleum Corp
 Printers 3
 Prism Power Group & Mike Davis
 Jordan Puccio
 Marvin Rafe
 Diane Rafferty
 Random House Children's Books
 David & Catherine Rapelje
 Sheri & Kelsey Renz
 Philip Rhoads
 John Rhodes & Rhodes Farm
 Rice Farms
 Jennifer, David & Amy Rimmer
 Michelle Roberts
 Rocco's Italian Gourmet Latticini & Pork Store
 Mr. & Mrs. Eric Rolley
 Lumi Rolley
 Miguel & Maria Roman
 Ronmar Industries
 Marvin & Zita Rosen
 Mr. & Mrs. Asher Rosenberg
 Ellen Rosengard
 Erica & Austin Rosh
 Rothmann's Steakhouse
 Runyons Restaurant
 RW Educational Strategies
 Denise Ryder
 Saf-T-Swim
 Errol & Lura Salm
 Andrew Sandler
 Mara & Ricky Sandler
 Sandra Johnson ,CPA
 Sebastien & Gemma Saylor
 The Schafer Family
 Karen Scharnberg
 Alyssa Scherer
 Dr. Meredith Jaffe & Dr. Richard Schloss
 Lauren Schnal & Simaan Gaffrey
 Drs. Wendy & Michael Schonfeld

Christa Schorn
 Judith Schutzman
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 Ellen Schwartz
 Roxanne Schwartz
 Neil Schweitzer
 Mr. & Mrs. Chad Sciarillo
 Spirit Seabre
 Seagua Deli
 Sefarth Shaw
 Janet Seitz
 SFA Interiors Inc.
 Shari's Place
 Shawnee Mt. Ski Area
 John & Kathy Sherry
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 Jesse Silverman
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 Simons Hardware
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 Joshua Skolnick
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 Sportime at Roslyn
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 Marilyn Stefans
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 Dave & Donna Stefans-Haber
 Mr. & Mrs. Leigh Steffann
 Stew Leonards
 Helaine & Jeffrey Strauss
 Todd & Valerie Street
 Terri Stryker
 Jean & Mike Sullivan
 Richard Sumcizk
 Syosset Speech & Hearing
 Syosset Taxi
 Helene Talsky
 Nancy, Carlos & The Tejo Family

Margaret Terribile
 The Carlyle on the Green Table 99 Restaurant
 The Dinan Family Foundation
 The LiRo Group & Rocco L. Trotta
 The Nate Berkus Show
 The Prince Lumber Company & Guy Apicella
 The Riders Choice
 The Tack Shop
 The Tailored Sportsman
 Tesoro Restaurant
 Donald Theide
 Jamie & Tristan Thomas
 Thomas School of Horsemanship & Nancy Thomas
 Tammie & Alan Topel
 Touro Law
 Town Bagel
 Tropical Smoothie Café
 Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Tunkel
 Supervisor & Mrs. John Venditto
 WABC-TV News
 Renee Wagenberg
 Donald Wainlands
 Joanne, Robert & Amanda Wallace
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 Dr. Deborah Weinstock
 Steve & Vivian Weiser
 Western Suffolk Psychological Services
 Linda Wigandt
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 Whitestone Lanes
 Whole Foods
 Wolfper Estate Vineyard
 Sue Woodburn
 Youngs Farm
 Lisa Zito
 Zorns Poultry Farms





Join us for our Annual Wine Tasting Event

This elegant evening offers a unique opportunity to meet and mingle with friends as we celebrate the opening of our new facility.



6319 Northern Blvd., East Norwich, NY

March 12, 2012, 6:00p.m.

\$75/pp

Select wines from vineyards across Long Island will be presented along with the finest selections of hors d'oeuvres!

Please RSVP 631-367-1646 by March 1st

LIHSSRD and the HorseAbility Show Team

Nancy Tejo, HA Show Team Manager

HorseAbility Show Team News



Caitlin Chan riding Topaz in the Independent Class.

The 2010 – 2011 Show year culminated on September 4th at the LIHSSRD Championship Finals at the Hampton Classic. Many of our riders gained enough points over the course of at least four shows to be invited to compete in the LIHSSRD Finals. Congratulations to Cailin Chan on winning the Independent Champion Class at the 2011 Finals!

Throughout the past show season the competition has been quite competitive. The first Division, with a record number of entries, has often been split into two divisions.

Our strong team of riders, instructors, volunteers and horses continue to place very well at all the shows with lots of smiles and hugs all around. Welcome to our newest Show Team Riders for the 2011-2012 season, Vicky Russo and Joshua Gootnik.



Joe Penzel trotting in the Independent Class on

The next show is **Sat., April, 14th 2012**, at The Thomas School of Horsemanship.

For more info. about our Show Team and LIHSSRD please visit www.horseability.org, call the HorseAbility office 631.367.1646 and ask for Nancy Tejo, or speak with your riding instructor.

The Long Island Horse Show Series for Riders with Disabilities “LIHSSRD” was created to offer an opportunity for riders with disabilities to experience the same fun and excitement of competition at recognized horse shows as any other riders.

Why join the Show Team? Participation on the **HorseAbility Show Team** helps to build stronger riders, develop good horsemanship, sportsmanship and confidence. Many of our HorseAbility Show Team-LIHSSRD riders, volunteers, trainers and families have formed bonds and cheer each other on at the shows, at the barn or outside in their personal lives through the supportive community at **HorseAbility**.

Our Team Needs You! The HorseAbility Show Team wants riders like you, who want to experience the thrill of equestrian competition at recognized horse shows on Long Island and work towards an opportunity to compete in the LIHSSRD Finals at the Hampton Classic Horse Show.

Double Your Donation with Corporate Gift Matching

Many companies have programs through which they will “match” the charitable contributions made by their employees. This may also apply to retirees. Through corporate gift matching, your employer can multiply your gift to **HorseAbility**, making it go further.

Check with your company’s Human Resources office to see if they offer gift matching. If your employer does offer this program, your Human Resources department should provide you with a matching gift form to send to **HorseAbility** along with your donation. Complete this form and mail it with your donation to: **HorseAbility, 238 Round Swamp Road, Melville, NY 11747**

HorseAbility will verify receipt of your gift and return the form to your company for matching funds.



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& Summer Day Camp

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Therapeutic Riding Program
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& Summer Day Camp

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Name on Card: _____

HorseAbility is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible.