

R.I.D.E

HOLIDAY NEWSLETTER

2020

Student and Parent Spotlight

Meet Emma and her mom Darlane!

Emma has been a student with the RIDE program since she was two years old after a diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy. Emma is now 12 and thriving, Emma has grown so much throughout the years and has become an independent rider. She started on one of our ponies Dandi and has since moved up to Rio. Emma is a great example of the astounding effects of horse therapy programs. We could not be more proud of the confident young rider she has become.

Darlane has been a Garfield RE-2 teacher, Gifted and Talented Coordinator, and a Gifted Education Resource Consultant for the State of Colorado. Darlane saw the need that the RIDE program had and has been writing our grants for the last 3 years. Thanks to her dedication and hard work, we have received grants for our new tack room, student lessons, and outdoor equine education tools. She is an important part of the RIDE program and we could not be more thankful for her and Emma and look forward to many more memories with these amazing ladies!



Live. Love. Ride.

I am proud and extremely honored to have such a dedicated staff at RIDE this Summer and Fall. We at RIDE worked extremely hard to make sure everyone was safe and healthy. The challenges we faced and the adjustments we made to make sure everyone was safe were worth all the smiles and laughter we heard every day. We had a strong plan in place and our devoted volunteers stepped up to the plate. We will continue to offer our community this unique form of equine activities. RIDE extends its heartfelt thanks to the community, sponsors and volunteers and we hope everyone stays safe and healthy!

-Dee Stiers

Welcome to Holland
By Emily Perl Kingsley

I am often asked to describe the experience of raising a child with a disability - to try to help people who have not shared that unique experience to understand it, to imagine how it would feel. It's like this..... When you're going to have a baby, it's like planning a fabulous vacation trip - to Italy. You buy a bunch of guide books and make your wonderful plans. The Coliseum. The Michelangelo David. The gondolas in Venice. You may learn some handy phrases in Italian. It's all very exciting. After months of eager anticipation, the day finally arrives. You pack your bags and off you go. Several hours later, the plane lands. The stewardess comes in and says, "Welcome to Holland." "Holland?!?" you say. "What do you mean Holland?? I signed up for Italy! I'm supposed to be in Italy. All my life I've dreamed of going to Italy." But there's been a change in the flight plan. They've landed in Holland and there you must stay. The important thing is that they haven't

taken you to a horrible, disgusting, filthy place, full of pestilence, famine and disease. It's just a different place. So you must go out and buy new guide books. And you must learn a whole new language. And you will meet a whole new group of people you would never have met. It's just a different place. It's slower-paced than Italy, less flashy than Italy. But after you've been there for a while and you catch your breath, you look around.... and you begin to notice that Holland has windmills....and Holland has tulips. Holland even has Rembrandts. But everyone you know is busy coming and going from Italy... and they're all bragging about what a wonderful time they had there. And for the rest of your life, you will say "Yes, that's where I was supposed to go. That's what I had planned." And the pain of that will never, ever, ever, ever go away... because the loss of that dream is a very very significant loss. But... if you spend your life mourning the fact that you didn't get to Italy, you may never be free to enjoy the very special, the very lovely things ... about Holland.



Our Phenomenal RIDE Family

Executive Director- Dee Stiers

Executive Manager- Poke Stiers

Instructor Coordinator- Stephanie Hinkley

Volunteer Coordinator- Brandi Smythe

Grant Writer- Darlane Evans

Instructors- Dee Stiers, Stephanie Hinkley, Melissa Moor, and LaPriel Armijo



We will not be having full lessons until March 2021, however if you would like to schedule "Private horse time" this winter please call Dee at 970-876-2987



Thank you Sponsors!

A HUGE Thank You to these amazing sponsors, for sponsoring our new tack room!

Clough Foundation, Alpine Bank, A&F Fabrication, Master Petroleum, Casey Concrete, Lowe's, Flag Sand and Gravel, Silt Mesa Excavating, Michelle Pfeifer, K&K Lumber, Valley Lumber, Mountain High Paint, Greg Williams, Collbran Supply, Cheval Colorado, CED, JBS Construction, and Eco Electric & Mollie Harte.

We would also like to thank you for all of the support and donations that we received on Giving Tuesday! We could not do what we do without the support of this amazing community!



Coming Events:

RIDE Family Drive-Through Celebration- December 12th, 2020 at the RIDE facility from 12:00pm -2:00pm

This event will be for our amazing sponsors, students, volunteers and their families. Join us for a COVID style Christmas Celebration. There will still be Santa and fun gifts from the safety of your car. All volunteers for the event will be masked, you will be able to drive through the property and enjoy Santa and our Christmas ponies and elves.

Please contact Dee for additional details on this event and upcoming events in 2021

970-876-2987

