



SPIRIT

Open Equestrian Program, INC.
2011



This is a short story with a lot of pictures about

Spirit Open Equestrian Program in 2011.

The 2011 is the year when we became official vendors for equestrian activities at Frying Pan Farm Park and Fairfax County Park Authority. Thank you!



This is the year when, first time since we were founded we have full facility, stables for our horses, and storage for our equipment. Our field is mud-free, safe for kids and easy to maintain. Spirit is thankful for this to our special friends at:



and

The Leeps Foundation Inc

We awarded 120 lesson hours of dull scholarships for families in need with kids clients in the our therapeutic riding program. Thank you

Washington Forrest Foundation

for that!

The Spirit Volunteer and Staff Team realized thousands of working hours in main program activities, horse care, facility maintenance activities, administration, and management. List of names is endless.

They are giving a life to Spirit! Thank you!

Numerous known and unknown friends helped with donations and gifts in nature

Sam Grant and Oliver Spalding, helped us to feed our horses with hay. Thank you, friends!



Takes care for our horses, and we are thankful for their service.

We have the best in the world, Deb Kerr, Dan Dalrymple and FFPF.

Life is so much easier with them ☺

Thank you!

We realized more than thousand lesson hours (1.056) in the Therapeutic and Educational Classes and more than 5.000 volunteer work hours.

Take a time to see the photos and reminders of some moments in 2010



January was cold and snowy.



But we did all lessons in indoor facility

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February



First Classes with FFPF

March





Cold but fun!



First trail rides and some sunshine.

April



May



We started pasture first time this year at our tinny field.

First actions, filling with dirt and organizing field with rented bob-cat.



And the great lesson time in May!





June



Summer camps, great time , fun and hard work for volunteers.



July

More Summer Camps AM and Therapy at PM hours.



August



Colby is gone to live retirement life at the field with his old buddy. New Morgan mare, Glory, came to our field.

September



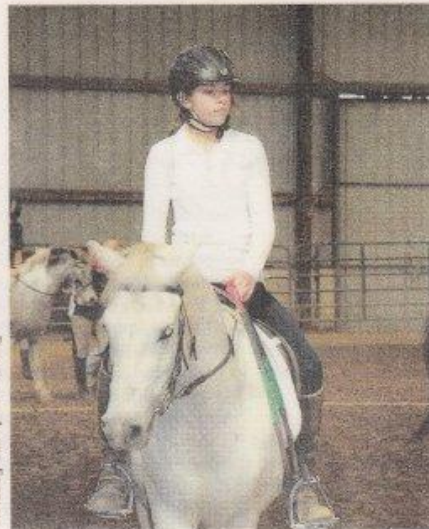
Joy of work with our clients in Therapeutic Program.



And pasture in function.



Davorka "Dada" Suvak with a rider during the Spirit Open Equestrian Exhibition.



A rider participates in synchronized riding during the Spirit Open Equestrian Exhibition held at Fryling Pan Park.

PHOTOS BY AMIEE FREEMAN

Courage on Display

Therapeutic riding exhibition at Fryling Pan Park.

BY AMIEE FREEMAN
THE CONNECTION

More than 30 riders presented their skill on horseback Saturday, Oct. 22 as part of Spirit Open Equestrian's exhibition to raise awareness about the benefits of therapeutic riding. Riders demonstrated their abilities in the areas of dressage, synchronized riding and general horsemanship.

Therapeutic riding instructor and Spirit Open program director, Davorka Suvak, known to her students as Dada, explained that the goal of the program is to assist in "improving life skills through equine-assisted activities."

This exhibition provides public visibility for therapeutic riding and is part of the therapy for the participants. So often, said Suvak, children with developmental disabilities are not included in exhibition events such as this one. "This type of exhibition includes them as part of the community and gives them a goal to work toward," said Suvak.

THERAPEUTIC RIDING improves muscle memory and balance, helps with social communication and improves self-confidence for riders with developmen-



Griffin Sinonsgaard, with her mom, Cy Sinonsgaard, shows off her trophy for "Around the World," a horseback riding maneuver, won at the Spirit Open Equestrian Exhibition held at Fryling Pan Park.

participated in the exhibition. Sinonsgaard and her daughter travel from Falls Church to work with Suvak, even though as Sinonsgaard said, there are programs closer to their home.

"The program is amazing. Dada is so gifted with horses, but more gifted with our kids. There is no low bar with her because the bar is always set high. Dada manages the kids so well to do their best."

Sinonsgaard said that the therapeutic riding program helped her daughter with her vision issues and improved her self-confidence. "It challenged her to do her best," said Sinonsgaard.

Wendy Shugal, of Centreville and a 1984 Paralympic gold medal winner in dressage, has been working with Suvak for three or four years, she said.



10/22 - Ride For Spirit event

November



December

Infinity is gone to the happy field of the President of Spirit -Louise Peterson.
Thank you, Louise for love and care you provide for this great aged mare.

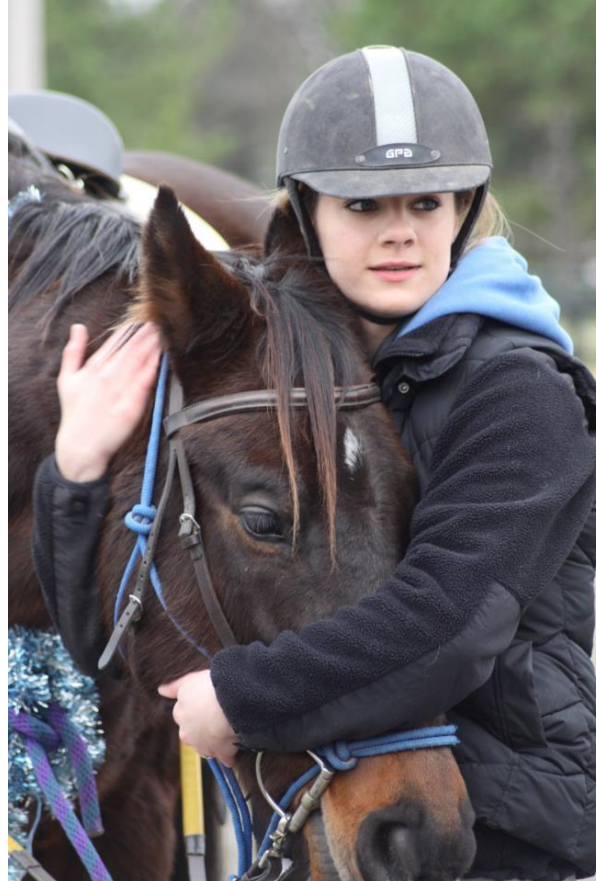


New barn and final landscape work.

Santos, new 10 years old TB gelding came to our field.

We invite friends and families one more time at the end of the year.







At the end of the year, 12/30/2011, we painted new barn and Spirit is first time, ready for winter, with warm stalls, and dry field.