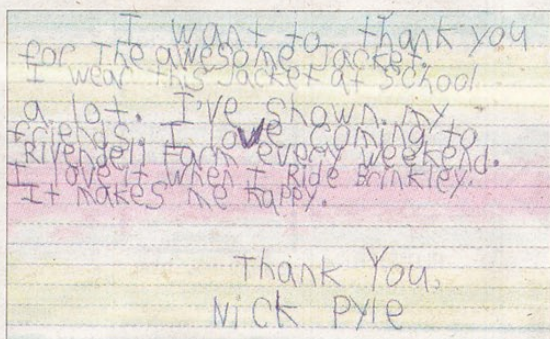




Rivendell Farm



In this Season of Giving, Rivendell Farm would like to give thanks to our fearless riders, dedicated instructors; Lisa Kelly, Maureen Zinser, Pattie Peoples and to our awesome group of volunteers; Becca Parker, Claire Donahue, John Harness, Chelsea Cheslock, Nikki Ventresca, Cady Walker, Bayley Morton, Bridget Nicholson and Ruth Vizard, thank you for all the magical moments we have all enjoyed all year long. And a special thanks to those amazing steeds; Gandalf, Sierra, Arwen, Lego, Monkey, Allegra, Brinkley, Zan and Sporty who give selflessly and work passionately to heal us all.



Welcome to Holland

Author Unknown

I am often asked to describe the experience of raising a child with a disability—to try to help people who have not shared this 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 guidebooks and make your wonderful plans. The Coliseum, Michelangelo's David, the gondolas of 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 guidebooks. 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 awhile and you catch your breath, you look around, and you begin to notice that Holland has windmills, Holland has tulips, Holland even has Rembrandts. But everyone you know is busy going to and 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." The pain of that will never, ever go away because the loss of that dream is a 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.



When Cameron is on Monkey, he is never too slow, or uncoordinated, or confused. It has been magical to watch. Thank you for giving us this gift!

2 Cherry Lane, Durham, CT ~ 860-349-8466

www.rivendellfarm.net