

Ear To The Ground



Volume 1, Issue 1

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Director's Message

There is so much to report, I barely know where to start. The riders at From the Ground Up Therapeutic Horsemanship, Inc. started the 2008 riding season at a new home on April 26!! Jill & Vic LaFrenz of Windy Meadows Farm have graciously offered the use of their beautiful facility for our lessons. But wait, there's more. they have also graciously offered two of their "solid citizens" to add to our equine staff, Bennie and Mack. The riders at From the Ground Up now enjoy an indoor arena with sound system, and many lovely trails complete with a cross-country course! Words cannot do their generosity justice. Everyone at From the Ground Up is very grateful and honored to be part of the Windy Meadow family. But wait, there's still more!! The LaFrenz's next door neighbors, Alexandra &

Kevin Coursen have graciously offered the use of their unique, 200 year old, completely renovated barn which was moved to their property from Cazenovia. Our equine staff now lives at the Coursen's and we are again so grateful and honored to be part of the Coursen family as well! The equine staff now has large pastures with run-in shelters and roomy box stalls with windows! It's common (and comical) to drive up and see Lucky's head poking out of the barn! Deepest thanks go out to Jill, Vic, Alexandra and Kevin for so warmly opening up their homes to us. FTGU can never thank them enough. On a programming note, lessons now take place on Monday evenings, Wednesday afternoon and evenings and all day Saturdays. Many of our riders are now working on their equitation and spe-

cial skills for our Independence Open Horse Show at Cazenovia College on August 2. Since this is an opportunity for our riders to showcase their horsemanship, showmanship and sportsmanship as well as our major fundraiser for the year, we are asking them to go a step further and help raise money for this event. All riders are asked to go to their local merchants for a donation to our Silent Auction that takes place at the show. We feel that this is an opportunity for our riders to venture out in the community and spread the word about their achievements at FTGU as well as a chance to learn how an event like this comes about. At your next lesson, ask for forms to take along when you visit your local merchants. Thanks in advance to all the riders and their families! Thanks to everyone at From the Ground Up for making this program happen and for all you do!!



Horses For Heroes Program getting Underway

From the Ground Up is happy to announce a grant from Oprah's Big Give CNY. From the Ground Up wrote to Channel 9 to apply for funds for a pilot program that we hope to start this year. "Horses for Heroes" is a program that pairs returning injured/disabled servicemen and women from Iraq and Afghanistan with horses for rehab, therapy and recreation. This program is operating at

Fort Myers using the Caisson Battalion horses. It is our hope and dream to be able to give back to our Wounded Warriors by offering them our horses and staff. On April 16, Channel 9 visited Windy Meadow Farm to videotape and interview riders, parents and staff. Tim Fox from Channel 9 presented us with a plaque and the award of \$1,800 for adaptive equipment for the pilot

program!! If you know anyone in the military or family/friend of military, please tell them about this program. We are looking for retired or active military personnel to be sidewalkers and leaders as military helping military works best for this program. Other volunteers will be needed as well. Extensive training will be provided. A special thanks to Channel 9 for helping to get Horses for Heroes off the ground.

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The 4th Annual Independence Open Horseshow



Fourth Annual
Independence Open
Horse Show
For Riders of All Abilities
August 2nd 2008
Cazenovia College
Equine Center
Cazenovia, New York

Back by popular demand is the 4th Annual Independence Open Horse Show for Riders of All Abilities hosted by From the Ground Up Therapeutic Horsemanship, Inc. The focus for this competition is on sportsmanship, horsemanship and showmanship among riders of all abilities. Returning to **Cazenovia College on August 2, 2008** this is the only show of its kind to be held in Central New York. Classes to be held include Equitation, Futures ("relaxed" dressage, rider judged, not horse), Showmanship, Pole-Bending, Timed Race, Costume, Pairs and more.

From the Ground Up is a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization that provides horse-related activities and riding

instruction for persons with all types of disabilities. Volunteers are the backbone of the Independence Open and From the Ground Up as well. Colella adds "As the scope of this show expands, so does our need for sponsors and volunteers. We know the Central New York community will continue to embrace this event and support it by competing, sponsorship, and volunteering. Sponsors for the horseshow are always needed. Horseshow sponsors will be listed in the Show Program, on the website, and in the newsletter. **For more information on supporting the Independence Open, please call 315-382-3664. All donations are tax deductible.**

For registration and class information, email kosborne@twcny.rr.com. For volunteer information, email ftguvol@hotmail.com or call 457-6903.

2007 Sponsors

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Dorsh Family | Enders Road |
| Fluid Power Sales | Teachers & |
| BristolMyersSquibb | Therapists for |
| Stickley Furniture | Michael Clark |
| Bridget McMaster | A. Defrancisco |
| Mary Lee Chase | Brian Klepper |
| Diane Galko | F&J Squadrito |
| National Grid | Sue & Jan Farr |
| Julianne Bazydlo | Horse Bits |
| B&B Lumber | Mitchell's Western |
| Coyne Textiles | Lockheed Martin |
| Steven Labarge | Employees |
| M&M Jim Perry | Village Eatery |
| Sherry Cohen | J&B Musell |

'Also, we can't thank you enough - Ethan LOVES horseback riding. he talks about it all of the time and tells everyone at school about it. Last night when he was falling asleep, the last thing he said was "Lucky is my friend" ' Kadi Luchsinger

Parent Coordinator Notes

Just a brief note to thank everyone for making the "big move" with us to our new home. So far things seem to be working out quite well. The atmosphere at Windy Meadow Farm is as pleasant as its name! From the Ground Up really

is on the way UP, and everyone will have a role in helping that happen. Information will be going out soon about the Independence Open Horse Show, the Lorenzo Auction, and golf and lottery ticket sales. And don't forget to wear

those FTGU T-shirts with pride wherever you go in Central New York this summer. You are our best ambassadors as we reach out to new resources in the community to help us move forward! Thank you! Nadine

Volunteer Corner

Kudos and many, many thanks must be given to the stalwart FTGU barn crew. In 2007, the barn crew all performed their chores admirably under sometimes trying conditions. Most also made themselves available for the moving days. The herd appreciated all your efforts also

I know because they told me! Thanks as always also to the lesson volunteers for a successful lessons season. I only panicked once or twice that we wouldn't have enough volunteers to staff the lessons. This season should go more smoothly with only 3 lesson days to

worry about. Most importantly I think all volunteers enjoyed themselves as did the riders. Also thanks must be given to the parents of all of our teen volunteers - they provide transportation and some from quite a distance, Baldwinsville, Pennelville, and Marcellus



United Way Congratulates FTGU volunteer Samantha Page

Samantha Page is among a select group of very talented and dedicated young volunteers to be considered for state-level honors with the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. Although she didn't win a state-level award, she

is an Exceptional Community Volunteer. She has put in over 500 hours over the course of three years at From the Ground Up Therapeutic Horsemanship Inc. (FTGU). FTGU serves people with various disabilities teaching them to learn to ride and care for

horses. During weekly lessons Samantha leads, side-walks, does warm up exercises with the riders and tack up the horses. In April 2007, she and her friend Shawn Sicchio fundraised and contributed some of her own money to renovate and reorganize the program's tack room.

Lorenzo Silent Auction to Benefit FTGU

From the Ground Up Therapeutic Horsemanship, Inc. is pleased to again organize a Silent Auction at The 32nd Annual Lorenzo Driving Competition held at Lorenzo Historical Site in Cazenovia, NY July 19 & 20, 2008. The Lorenzo Driving Competition began in 1975 as a competition showcasing the skill, timing and beauty of carriage driving. It includes an obstacle course, marathon

and driving classes in Working, Reinsmanship, and Turn-Out. It has become a must-see event every summer in Cazenovia. It is held on the Lorenzo State Historic Site mansion lawns overlooking beautiful Cazenovia Lake. It is a great chance to see the beauty of horse and carriage and to relive an age gone by.

"It is indeed an honor to again be part of the Lorenzo Driving Competition. Last year the

Lorenzo Driving Competition Silent Auction donated all proceeds to From the Ground Up. This year From the Ground Up is happy to organize this event that will enable us to continue to change lives through therapeutic horsemanship. We are very grateful to the Lorenzo Driving Competition organizers, competitors and sponsors" states Andrea Colella, Director of From the Ground Up.



CNY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AND GIFFORD FOUNDATION SUPPORT FUNDING FOR CONSULTING SERVICES

From the Ground Up Therapeutic Horsemanship, Inc. received a grant from the Central New York Community Foundation, Inc. to hire a consultant to help the agency expand in order to meet the growing demand for therapeutic riding in the community. In April of this year, Rosamond Gifford Foundation also awarded FTGU a grant to

complete the necessary funding. From the Ground Up will work with KC Henry of Transitions Unlimited of Chagrin Falls, Ohio. Consultant Henry has a proven track record of success specifically in the development of therapeutic horsemanship agencies. In the early 1990's, as Executive Director of Fieldstone Farm Therapeutic Riding Center in Ohio, Henry in-

creased the total number of riders from 16 to 870; developed the volunteer force from 12 to 840; and completed a \$4.5 million capital and endowment campaign in less than two years. FTGU expresses deep appreciation to CNY Community Foundation and Gifford Foundation for their support of our efforts to change even more lives through the power of the horse.



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Visit us on the web
www.ftguhorses.org

*A Non-Profit Organization offering the
unique experience only the horse can provide*



Therapeutic Horsemanship, Inc.

Upcoming Events



June 13/14	KC Henry Strategic Planning Retreat
18	40 Below Involvement Fair
July 4	Manlius Parade March
8	FTGU Board meeting 6:30 @ Feats of Clay
19/20	Lorenzo Driving Competition, Cazenovia NY
August 1	Volunteer meeting for Independence Open
2	Independence Open Horse Show For Riders of All Abilities Cazenovia College
17	Equine & Wine (Board of Directors social event)
September 21	CNY Horse Club Trail Trial, Vespa Stables, Onondaga Hill

From the Ground Up is selling tickets for the
PGA Golf Tournament at Turning Stone Casino.
100% of ticket sales go to FTGU.

The tournament is from September 29th-October 5th.
You can purchase individual day tickets or a booklet for the entire week.

For information call **Steve Crevelling** at 652-8308
or email at screvell@gmail.com

This is a great opportunity to help