



HIGH HOPES

*High Hopes Therapeutic Riding, Inc.
A Tradition of Excellence in Therapeutic Riding*

October, 2011

Dear Friend of High Hopes,

As High Hopes celebrates its 38th year, we would like to share some of the current happenings around the farm. This fall we have enrolled over 240 participants who are taking part in a variety of equine assisted activities or therapies. To give you an idea of the many publics who come to High Hopes there are individual students but we also serve groups each week from school based programs in New London, Haddam-Killingworth, Lyme/Old Lyme, and East Lyme. Other group participants include mental health clients from Connecticut Valley Hospital and Riverview Psychiatric Hospital. And we continue to identify new segments of the population including a veterans program and, most recently, this summer's Horse Sense pilot program that serves youth at risk groups.

High Hopes' amazing army of volunteers, donating more than 36,000 hours of service this past year, helped in countless ways. The majority of these hours were spent by dedicated volunteers caring for our horses and facility and working with our varied population of participants as leaders, sidewalkers and ELP coaches but there are important roles in other areas of our organization. For example, this past June over 100 volunteers contributed time and talent running our incredible fundraising event, Here Come the Mummies and helping to raise much needed operating revenue.

Despite our growing level of activity, High Hopes is not insulated from the current economic climate. We are extremely fortunate to have a modest endowment to cover a portion of our operating expenses, but this too has suffered from the stock market losses. To ensure our financial stability the High Hopes Board of Trustees, Finance and Development Committees are working hard to ensure the continued sound fiscal management of our resources. We are actively evaluating everything from detailed cost analyses to possibilities for potential revenue generating programs.

As you know, High Hopes subsidizes each and every lesson offered. The current fee covers 25% of the actual cost of one lesson. The remaining cost is covered through our fundraising efforts. Many of our families have been particularly hard hit by the sluggish economy with over 51% requesting scholarship aid with actual award increases of 5% over last year, and 39% over the last 3. Most of our participating groups, such as schools and other social service agencies, have experienced deep budget cuts and it is only with scholarship support from High Hopes that they can continue to participate. These requests have put a severe strain on our scholarship funds and while High Hopes will strive to continue to serve all who can benefit, regardless of financial need, we are reviewing our scholarship process and reevaluating our fee structure.

Our committees are working hard to attract new supporters by hosting open houses and program demonstration events that allow us to share the mission of High Hopes with a wider audience. We are researching new grant funding prospects and we are actively building a planned giving program that will be formally launched in the New Year. Special events will continue to provide critical funds for our operating budget and scholarship funds. The June benefit event will feature some exciting changes both musically and in location. The High Hopes Hoedown and Holiday Market will take place on November 20th and provide us with a great opportunity to introduce hundred of folks to our facility while sharing in the holiday spirit. More details on all our upcoming events can be found by visiting our web site: [www.highhopestr.org/What's New/Upcoming Events](http://www.highhopestr.org/What's%20New/Upcoming%20Events).


Participants and families are always encouraged to become involved as volunteers in a variety of ways: sharing your story with others helps us inform the community of the work that we are doing; helping out with our fundraising and program events; assisting with daily and seasonal upkeep of the facility. If you have a special talent to contribute from grounds keeping to fundraising, or even just an hour or two each week you can be here to help out as needed, please let us know.

This October at our annual meeting, High Hopes celebrated the events of the past year and recognized all the hard work, vision and generosity that have guided us to our current position of strength and leadership. This opportunity to thank our donors for their generous philanthropic spirit, our volunteers for their amazing constancy and fortitude, our horses for their strength and patience and our staff for their talent and dedication is always a very special occasion. Most importantly, we recognize our participants and their families. Their courage, perseverance, laughter and spirit inspire everyone connected with High Hopes to achieve our goals.

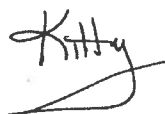
As we refine existing programs and develop new ones the staff at High Hopes works to instill our institutional core values such as honesty, responsibility, respect, courtesy, integrity into all our daily activities. This includes our volunteer training, staff development, fundraising events and instructor training programs. Our goal is to create a community of unconditional acceptance and positive reinforcement, where we celebrate not only the achievements, but also the efforts made.

Thank you for being a part of the High Hopes community and for your role in the fulfillment of our mission.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Heffernan
Chairman, Board of Trustees



Kitty Stalsburg
Executive Director