



HOPE Therapeutic Riding Center

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Website: www.hope-whidbey.org

Fall, 2009

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to HOPE, where you can *"Grab the Reins of Life with HOPE!"* To make the application process smoother, we are providing you with our most current lesson policies and schedules, fee schedule, and application forms. In order to maximize the benefits of the lessons, we also want to clarify our expectations and explain our goals.

It is important that you carefully review the *Student Application Procedures and Policies*. In 2009, HOPE made several important changes in our registration procedures, fee schedule, scholarship eligibility requirements and absentee policy. Many of these changes were not only made to help reduce unnecessary administrative costs, but also to increase student/family involvement in actively supporting our ability to offer quality equine-assisted activities.

HOPE is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that receives no funding from state or government programs. All of HOPE's income is derived from the fees that we charge for our services (about 19% of our income this year), as well as individual and business donations, grants and proceeds from fundraising events. To allow us to charge only \$30.00 per lesson, HOPE subsidizes the cost of lessons by over \$600.00 per student per session. To that end, we must call upon you - our students and their families and guardians - to help raise much of these funds by your volunteer work on special events and fundraisers and by providing other volunteer work. Without your active support, HOPE simply cannot sustain its operations or continue its work to provide you with new and better services. Please join us in our efforts to meet and exceed our goals.

We truly appreciate your interest in and support of the HOPE Therapeutic Riding Center programs! Please be sure to complete ALL of the application forms and mail or drop them by the office along with your payment in time for us to receive them no later than the registration deadlines (dates provided in the enclosed 2009 Schedule). For your convenience, all forms are available to download from our website at www.hope-whidbey.org or we would be happy to mail them to you. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call us at 360-221-7656 or email us at hope@whidbey.com.

Sincerely,

Karen S. Newman
Executive Director

"Grab the Reins of Life with HOPE!"

09/09