



Marietta, Georgia, April 5, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HorseTalk Director
Joan Aronson
providing
Hippotherapy to
young rider.

**HorseTalk Hippotherapy Celebrating
10th Anniversary at Open House May 21st, 2011**



HorseTalk is happy to announce the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of its Hippotherapy program. The event will be marked with an Open House at its facilities at the Green Acres Equestrian Center at 345 Bluebird Acres Road in Woodstock on Saturday, May 21st from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. The Open House will offer the opportunity to tour the facilities and to learn more about Hippotherapy and plans for expansion of services of HorseTalk. The public is invited to visit both their websites www.GreenAcresOnline.com and www.GreaterAtlantaSpeech.com for more information.

HorseTalk provides services for children and adults with special needs through speech-language and physical therapy disciplines. Hippotherapy utilizes the horse's movement as a tool to facilitate the attainment of therapy goals. Therapists, parents and physicians have witnessed dramatic changes in patient's communication skills utilizing the Hippotherapy approach. Children with diagnoses of autism, cerebral palsy, apraxia, pervasive developmental disorder (PDD), Down Syndrome, developmental delays, speech and language delays as well as those with mental impairment and sensory delays have all shown significant gains through Hippotherapy. With the enhanced arousal and attention brought on by the horse's movement, the child or adult becomes more receptive to learning and to the therapist's interventions. Learning to give verbal directions to the horse to gain desired outcomes is one way that a patient "breaks the ice" at entering the world of communication. Therapists from across the nation repeatedly report their successes to the American Hippotherapy Association.

HorseTalk was established in June, 2001 by Joan Aronson, M.Ed., CCC-SLP (Speech-Language Pathologist). Joan has been a NARHA (North American Riding for the Handicapped) registered therapist in Hippotherapy since 2000 and is a certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor. Her previous horse experience includes growing up on a horse farm and being an avid rider throughout her life. In addition to Aronson, HorseTalk staff includes Debbie Giannotti (licensed physical therapist trained in hippotherapy) and Kelly Rickard, (therapeutic riding Instructor). Expanding services in June, they will welcome Gina Mervis, a speech-language pathologist also specialized in hippotherapy.

The facilities at Green Acres also include a "Sensory Trail," a trail ride which offers riders stimulation of all five senses. For example, the children will stop and feel various textures like pinecones and seek to identify them. HorseTalk also features a covered riding arena for "rain or shine" therapy. This summer, HorseTalk is offering the NEW program "Summer Social Skills" which gives children the chance to learn to socialize both in a natural, outdoor setting and in the air conditioning campers' lounge. Being in a natural environment at a horse farm, animals and nature are the theme. For more information regarding dates and times, feel free to visit www.GreenAcresOnline.com.

HorseTalk is extremely proud of the accomplishments made in its first ten years of existence and is looking forward to continued growth and success is offering the special needs community with an exciting alternative to traditional therapies through Hippotherapy.

"My son has benefited greatly from the Horse Talk program at Green Acres. Andrew is learning all the steps to groom the horse. This is HUGE as Andrew has sensory issues that impact touch, smell and motor planning. He says, 'It is my responsibility to help brush Tux.' He is NOT ONLY learning responsibility but his confidence is also increasing! Riding the horse has also helped him with balance, stretching and motor planning. He looks forward each week to seeing and talking to Tux. The highlight is to give Tux his carrots, which is a HUGE accomplishment for Andrew, since due to sensory issues he would never have put his hand out. Due to all the hard work of Andrew and his amazing therapists, he is now able to enjoy feeding Tux" (HorseTalk parent).

If you are interested in learning more about *HorseTalk's* programs, please visit the Green Acres Equestrian Center's website at www.GreenAcresOnline.com. You will not want to miss this ONE TIME ONLY Open House on Saturday, May 21st, 2011.

Contact:
Joan Aronson, Director
HorseTalk
greenacresonline@bellsouth.net
www.GreenAcresOnline.com