

# River Valley Riders Review



RIVER VALLEY RIDERS  
THERAPEUTIC RIDING PROGRAM

Have y'all heard?  
RVR has LAND!



## Letter from the Director by Joan Berg

### SAVE THESE DATES

- April 4, 2009:  
"RVR Saddle Bowl"  
Bowling Tournament
- April 18 & 19, 2009:  
Volunteer Training
- June 20, 2009:  
Walk & Ride-A-Thon

### Special Thanks!

To 3M & RVR volunteers Bill Solva & Steve Hedrick for participating in the 3M Volunteer Match Program. To find out more about this great opportunity contact [volunteer@mmm.com](mailto:volunteer@mmm.com).

To Hagberg's County Market in Lake Elmo & Denise Flaherty for providing the delicious bratwursts & hot dogs on Wednesday evenings. Over \$1,000 was raised for the Capital Campaign Fund!

River Valley Riders is thankful to all the supporters, volunteers, and parents of our program participants and their families. Together we have encountered and overcome many challenges.

The challenges continue, and with each new one there is an opportunity to strengthen River Valley Riders to enhance our mission. We provide horse related activities including therapeutic riding and driving to children and adults by addressing needs in the areas of physical, sensory, neurological, and/or mental health.

A major challenge to executing our mission revolves around the unpredictability of the weather during our all too short riding season. Then there is the predictability that the riding season ends each fall as the nights get longer and the temperature drops. Just as our riders are making astounding accomplishments we are forced to shut down the program until the spring.

I am sure each and every rider wonders why he or she has to stop this fantastic experience they love so much.

The vision of RVR, the Board and all involved is to offer quality sustainable services all year round. A major step toward executing our mission and achieving our vision has been completed with the acquisition of 38 acres of land in Afton, MN.

Through owning property, RVR will be able to develop the facilities necessary, including an indoor arena, to continue our mission year round unimpeded by the elements. Riders and drivers, with their volunteers, instructors and parents will continue the therapy that has been such a positive influence on their lives. RVR will be able to offer more sessions throughout the year and increase the number of children and adults that benefit from the program.

RVR has taken a big step

and the Board and I are committed to building our program that already benefits so many, and has the potential to benefit so many more. Together, with your support and commitment, we will develop a facility for RVR that is an investment in the future. Help us to continue the legacy of therapeutic riding in our area that will serve individuals with special needs and their families for many years to come.

In 2005, as I received the Eleven Who Kare Award, I told the TV audience that RVR is looking for the opportunity to grow and invest in a future for many more children and adults through the purchase of property. I continue to personally advocate and support this vision. Please join me and many other fantastic RVR volunteers as we celebrate our future achievements together.

Thank You!

Joan Dorle Berg  
Executive Director  
River Valley Riders