



Contact:  
Deborah Fisk  
571-334-3526  
Deborah\_Fisk@msn.com

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## **Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Secures Historic Site *Organization Purchases Five+ Acres of Full Cry Farm in Clifton***

**Clifton, VA** – *March 10, 2009* – The Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program (NVTRP), a nonprofit organization located in Clifton, VA, today announced it has purchased 5.5 acres of Full Cry Farm. This purchase completes the first phase of the 29 year-old organization's long-range goal of finding a permanent home, and the next phase in the evolution of this storied equestrian facility.

The farm was originally owned by renowned riding teacher and horse breeder Jane Marshall Dillon. Dillon was the author of *Form Over Fences* among other equestrian training books, and the riding instructor for U.S. Olympic Equestrian Team winners Joe Fargis and Kathy Kusner. She was inducted into the Virginia Horse Show Association Hall of Fame in 1997. After her death in 2000 her son Randy Dillon inherited the farm.

In 2007 NVTRP suffered a devastating loss when the barn at its previous location burned to the ground. Although no horses suffered major injuries, all of the program's equipment, feed, and therapeutic tools were lost. With the help of donations from the community, the program was able to continue lessons in temporary locations, and was invited to move to Full Cry Farm by Randy Dillon in 2008.

NVTRP is now mounting a campaign to purchase the rest of the farm. As the permanent home for the program, Full Cry Farm will allow NVTRP to expand the services that are offered.

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"We have big dreams, and this is our first step in achieving those dreams," said Rhonda VanLowe, NVTRP Chair, Board of Governors. "We want Full Cry Farm to be a place where NVTRP can not only offer therapeutic riding and hippotherapy, but also provide physical therapy, aquatic therapy, and a host of activities and workshops designed to support children and adults with disabilities. Our purchase of Full Cry Farm will give NVTRP that opportunity, and maintain the heritage of the farm as an equestrian facility and a scenic open space in Fairfax County."

"NVTRP's mission is to provide individuals with disabilities the therapeutic benefits of riding and interacting with horses," added NVTRP Executive Director Breeana Bornhorst. "At Full Cry Farm we want to create a place where riders and their families find a community. And we would not be where we are today without the help of the community at large in Fairfax County. We owe a debt of gratitude to those who have provided donations, our volunteers who give of their time, Randy Dillon for his support and encouragement, the residents of Clifton, and companies who have offered pro-bono services such as our law firm Reed Smith."

**About NVTRP:** Originally chartered in 1980, NVTRP is a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization dedicated to providing equine-assisted activities to children and adults with disabilities, youth-at-risk, veterans and their families in an inclusive, community setting. Learning to ride and care for a horse not only improves the physical health of the rider but also generates a critically important sense of accomplishment. Riders participating in NVTRP's program represent a range of disabilities, including attention deficit disorder, autism, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, developmental disabilities, vision and hearing impairments, and genetic syndromes. NVTRP is a Premier Center accredited by the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA), and a member center of the Therapeutic Riding Association of Virginia (TRAV).

To donate or for more information, visit <http://www.nvtrp.org> or contact Breeana Bornhorst at 703-764-0269.

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