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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NVTRP THERAPY HORSE & COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR TURNS 30 *Peaches is Beloved by Riders and Community Alike*

Clifton, VA – April 12, 2010 – The Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program (NVTRP), a nonprofit organization located in Clifton, VA, is celebrating the 30th birthday of NVTRP’s beloved pony and Community Ambassador, Peachy Keen, or Peaches for short. Peaches, an Arabian-Welsh cross pony, has been teaching therapeutic riding for about fifteen years. As a therapeutic riding instructor, she provides equine-assisted activities to children and adults with disabilities, youth-at-risk, and to veterans to help improve balance, coordination, muscular strength, social skills, and self confidence.

Peaches uses her natural intuition to help riders work through their challenges. “Peaches has a natural way of knowing what a rider needs. She has helped riders of all abilities, some who cannot sit up without assistance and others who are cantering and jumping,” said NVTRP Executive Director Breeana Bornhorst. “I feel privileged to have seen how working with Peaches has benefited hundreds of riders. She holds a special place in our hearts for her service to the community.” Peaches’ skills have even been recognized by North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA) when she won 2002 Region 3 Horse of the Year award.

As a Community Ambassador, Peaches travels to festivals and other events in Northern Virginia to promote NVTRP’S program, riders, and the dedicated volunteers who commit their hearts to NVTRP and community service.

NVTRP recently purchased 5.5 acres of Full Cry Farm in Clifton, VA., and has plans to 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, and provide a “forever” home for Peaches and the other therapeutic horses.

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“We want everyone to stop by the farm and wish Peaches a Happy Birthday. We appreciate all she has done for the community, and we will celebrate by giving her a big carrot cake!” said Bornhorst.

About Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program: 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 to the program or for more information, visit www.nvtrp.org. or contact Breeana Bornhorst at 703-764-0269.

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