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FIFTH ANNUAL “RIDE TO THRIVE POLO CLASSIC” TO BE HELD OCTOBER 10, 2009
Exciting new location in Northern Virginia will feature high-intensity polo, incredible cuisine and live performance by local band, The Winn Brothers

Clifton, Va. (June 11, 2009) – The Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program will host its fifth annual Ride To Thrive Polo Classic Saturday, October 10, 2009 at the exclusive Merriweather Manor, in Leesburg, Virginia, situated just 20 minutes outside Washington, DC. Gates open at 230 PM, with the First Chukker Foundation match beginning at 3:30 PM followed by the Ride To Thrive Polo Classic, featuring Team Booz Allen Hamilton vs. Team Warren Capital, beginning at 5 PM. Tickets for this one-of-a-kind event are priced from \$85 and available for online purchase at www.ridetothrive.org. 100% of the proceeds benefit NVTRP, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching the lives of children, adults, veterans and youth-at-risk with disabilities through the challenging, physically active sport of horseback riding.

Polo is a high-speed, intensely physical game where the players advance on the field of play, often at a full gallop, riding 1,000-pound horses. A match features “chukkers,” in which riders score by using a mallet to drive a 3-inch in diameter ball between uprights at each end of a field the size of ten football fields. “The Ride To Thrive Polo Classic is NVTRP’s largest annual fundraiser, and 2009 will be the highest attended classic to date, with an expectancy of more than 500 guests coming out for our cause,” says Janelle Stevenson, Chair of the Ride To Thrive Polo Classic and member of NVTRP’s Board of Governors. “I am thrilled to host Ride To Thrive at Merriweather Manor this year and bring the event to Northern Virginia which is home to our program, riders, their families and the community that NVTRP has been a vital part of for nearly 30 years.”

The Ride to Thrive Polo Classic will feature two full-length polo matches as well as various activities including the traditional divot stomp, and a performance courtesy by The Winn Brothers, a seven piece group out of Washington, D.C. known for playing a variety of music from Jazz standards, Motown, Funk, Classic Rock and 80s hits. In the early evening, several young equestrians from Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program will treat match-goers to a therapeutic riding demonstration, while guests enjoy incredible fare by Design Cuisine, and sweet treats from Georgetown Cupcake. Sponsors for this year’s event include Booz Allen Hamilton, The Warren Capital Group, Gold Dog Communications, Design Cuisine, Georgetown Cupcake, Laura Crayton Photography, Merriweather Manor and Paradise Springs Winery. For more information and to purchase tickets please visit www.ridetothrive.org.

About Ride to Thrive

All proceeds from the Ride to Thrive Polo Classic benefit The Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program which provides equine assisted activities for children and adults with disabilities, youth-at-risk, veterans, and their families in an inclusive, community setting. By focusing on each rider's ability rather than disability, we have enjoyed a high rate of success in areas such as improved balance, coordination muscular strength, social skills, and self-confidence. Our program is accredited and nationally recognized by the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA). Lessons are taught by NARHA Certified Riding Instructors assisted by up to three volunteers per rider, which enables our riders to participate in a challenging, physically active sport. Through this unique riding opportunity, our students achieve enriched quality of life. For more information and to purchase tickets please visit: www.ridetothrive.org.

About First Chukker Foundation

The First Chukker Foundation is an organization committed to positive social and environmental change as well as increasing the awareness of Polo in the Greater Washington Metropolitan Region. For more information please visit: www.firstchukker.com.

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