



# SunCatcher

... because we care ...

## Therapeutic Riding Academy, Inc.

6517 Wellington, Drive



Rapid City, SD 57702



April 11, 2001

City Attorney's Office  
300 Sixth Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701

**Attn: City Council** -- Per instructions regarding acknowledgement of our raffle...

SunCatcher Therapeutic Riding Academy is a non-profit organization serving area persons with disabilities/special needs by providing a comprehensive therapy program utilizing horses as a tool to facilitate this therapy. Enclosed is our informational brochure and a copy of our mission statement and goals. We are currently running our pilot program at the Black Hills Equestrian Center in Rapid City. Our Spring Pilot Session will be ending May 19<sup>th</sup>; our Summer Session will begin June 4<sup>th</sup>. It is our intention to hold pilot sessions in the Northern Hills and Southern Hills this summer, as well as to coordinate a few outreach sessions with Children's Care Hospital & School Outreach Program. Participants at this time range from 2 years to adult, with various disabilities. It is our intention to make this therapy available to all qualified participants - regardless of their ability to pay.

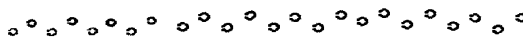
We operate on a small fee schedule, donations, sponsorships and fund-raising. We will be holding raffles from time to time for this purpose. The raffles will be set up as a donation to SunCatcher Therapeutic Riding Academy, and will be used to carry out SunCatcher's programs and/or to purchase equipment for SunCatcher. Our raffle at this time will begin shortly and winners will be drawn at the Monty Roberts' (Horse Whisperer!) Demonstration in Spearfish on June 2. Prizes are being donated by area merchants; proceeds will go to purchase synthetic saddles for use by our participants.

Thank you for your attention; we appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Linda Smedshammer, Exec Dir

Encls.



**Mission Statement:** A non-profit organization, SunCatcher Therapeutic Riding Academy, Inc. utilizes a trained team of horses, instructors and volunteers, working within the framework of a coordinated team of professionals, to carry out its primary mission of providing a comprehensive equine therapy program for children, teens, and adults with disabilities and/or special needs, and disadvantaged children, regardless of race or creed, in the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota.

**Specific Goals for SunCatcher are:**

- ❖ To assist participants in improving balance, coordination, physical strength, and mobility by utilizing the natural movement and warmth of the horse.
- ❖ To provide experiences for participants to develop and enhance self-esteem, confidence, and a sense of responsibility by teaching skills in horseback riding or driving, as well as horsemanship and horse and stable management.
- ❖ To give participants the opportunity to form the special bond that can develop between a horse and human – the bond of trust, cooperation, and camaraderie.
- ❖ To help participants develop their potential, learn new skills, and celebrate their uniqueness, through caring and compassionate interaction among individuals with disabilities, instructors, volunteers and animals.
- ❖ To further enrich participants' experiences by fostering an appreciation of nature and all living creatures.
- ❖ To encourage youth groups/teens to participate in our community volunteer program.
- ❖ To interest and educate the public in the recreational, educational and therapeutic benefits of the care and use of horses by persons with disabilities and/or special needs.
- ❖ To cultivate fellowship and to promote good will between the greater Community of the Black Hills and SunCatcher's Community -- the employees, volunteers and beneficiaries of the work of SunCatcher Therapeutic Riding Academy.
- ❖ To Promote Therapeutic Riding throughout the entire area by establishing Satellite Programs and an Outreach Program.
- ❖ To accomplish these goals by ultimately leasing/owning and operating its own stables and campground facilities with a year round program.
- ❖ To accomplish these objectives hand in hand, heart to heart -- participants, instructors, volunteers, and equines – all links of a powerful chain.