

December 2018

Dear Friends of City to Saddle,

A mere vision 16 years ago, **City to Saddle** flourishes today thanks to dedication and hard work by our all-volunteer non-profit organization, collaboration with community youth organizations, affiliations with select riding facilities, and you...**our kind and generous supporters.**

Many already know our story...the origin and mission of City to Saddle. But, to sum it up, we identify children living in situations of economic disparity—often in urban neighborhoods--and afford these deserving youngsters “a level playing field” with the opportunity to experience the very special world of equestrian activities. Not *just* the opportunity to visit a farm for the first time, to sit atop a pony, or pat the soft muzzles of our gallant school horses, but also to benefit from the ability to explore the unique joys and challenges of horsemanship and riding.

Our youngsters learn what it's like to overcome fear during their first grooming effort as they begin to brush an “oh so huge!” animal, practice patience and perseverance as they mount their ponies, and build confidence catching their balance on that first trot, develop trust and compassion as they learn to manage their steady mounts, value hard work through well earned accomplishments, and see satisfaction from the team-work required to help keep the stables safe and clean.

As my first riding instructor, Bette Avery, said so well, “**we do turn out good riders, but it is the life lessons our children leave with that show the true value of what we provide**”.

This past summer our programs included:

City to Saddle at Mesa Farm, Rutland MA: 60 children in week-long summer riding programs with an additional 20 that participated in month-long, once a week program. Another 4 children rode weekly throughout the year through City to Saddle sponsorship.

City to Saddle at Woodsong Farm, Brewster MA: 4 children attended week-long riding programs through the Monomoy Community Services program, and Cape Cod Children's Place.

City to Saddle at Wildstar Farm, Sherborn MA : 24 boys and girls from the Framingham schools and youth organizations. 4 week-long riding programs with 6 children per week.

City to Saddle at Bear Spot Farm, Concord MA: Saturday morning programs with 3 children from Waltham MA elementary school.

City to Saddle/Appalachian Region, Surgoinsville, Tennessee: Serving children in northeast Tennessee and southwest Virginia Appalachian region. 80 children from Girls Club.

Having successfully established equestrian opportunities for over 700 youngsters, we now witness the first generation of City to Saddle “alums” finishing high school, graduating college, and applying for their first jobs--often still riding and working part time at riding stables!! And all are beneficiaries of **your past contributions to our organization.**

These little riders now have become delightful young adults- capable of accomplishment, and ready to “pay it forward” to others in their communities.

Please join our effort once again to help shape the lives of many more boys and girls. No gift is overlooked!
With your generous donation, City to Saddle can continue to *give a child a leg up!*

Best Wishes and Happy Holidays!

Kimberly Summers, Co-Founder and Board Member

Barbara Zenker, Co-Founder and Board Chair

Dale Perkins, President and Board Member

Your kindness is reflected in the faces of these children...