



Spotlight on Jessica Fisher and her therapy horse, Avery

By Cindy Ross

Jessica Fisher has witnessed the evolution of the SPUR program over the last 21 years. In 1989, she was only five years old when she began riding as a SPUR student at Huber Woods Park. At that time the program was smaller and there were fewer horses

“Avery is a great horse. I really love riding him,” says Jessica. “We make a great pair!”

occupying the quaint equestrian center. She fondly remembers riding horses named Jolly Rancher, Zee, Ziggy, Smokey and Chester whose therapy horse careers ended prior to SPUR relocating to Sunnyside Equestrian Center. Jessica went on to also ride Aries, Bugsie, Lucky, Nate, Barnegat and Mimosa. “Twelve different horses in all my years,” she says.

In 2009 Jessica met her 12th horse, Avery at Daybreak, when they were partnered for lessons. “Avery is a great horse. I really love riding him,” says Jessica. “He is a load of fun to ride and we are both learning new things to work on together during our lessons.” She adds, “We make a great pair!”

Avery, a 17 year old Welsh Cobb cross, is the newest horse to join the herd of therapy horses at Sunnyside. He was offered to SPUR by another



Jessica on Avery 2010



Jessica with Nate at Huber Woods in 2000

therapeutic riding program that was closing. We were excited to have Avery come to Sunnyside. He was a seasoned therapy horse and had quite an impressive resume. Avery competed for the US team at the 2007 Para Dressage World Championships in Great Britain with rider Keith Newerla.

During the winter session of lessons Jessica and Avery have been learning a pattern that requires certain maneuvers to be executed at specific points in the riding arena. Jessica must remember the pattern and communicate clearly with her horse so that he too

knows what is expected. Such riding requires the use of all the skills Jessica has learned and she embraces the challenge. When asked what she enjoys most about her lessons and riding Jessica says, “Trotting, cantering, patterns and learning about horse behaviors.”

Jessica has experienced the benefits of therapeutic riding first hand. She finds that regular riding has helped to reduce anxiety and makes her feel calm. “It relaxes me. I feel great on a horse. I get to move with his movement. I have to be focused when I

(Continued on page 2)



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A Message from the President

Dear Friends of SPUR,

The days are getting longer, the grass is getting greener, and the SPUR Board of Director's is getting busy! We are planning two events this year in order to reach our scholarship fundraising goal of \$20,000. This is a lofty goal in this market, and we need all the help we can get from our loyal supporters. Our scholarship applications have risen to 25% of all riders in the program, which is approximately \$6,000 per session.

We are in the process of planning the first of two scholarship fundraisers this year; a family concert featuring Danny Adlerman and Friends. **Rock and Roll Family Day at Sunnyside** will be held on June 6th from 1-4 pm at Sunnyside so please **Save the Date** and help us spread the word!! (See announcement insert) Let's have a great showing here at Sunnyside on June 6; the students are counting on us!

In order to plan an event and actually pull it off, you need volunteers. SPUR has many, many volunteers who generously donate their time with horses, students and serving on the Board of Directors. We have three new Board members we would like to acknowledge; Jan Kalman, Colleen Foy and Aviva DeVito. All three of these women have quickly stepped up to help us with our scholarship fundraising mission, and we look forward to serving the program with them over the next few years. We also look forward to seeing you at our 2010 events! Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Kate Götterup & Linda Smith

Co-Presidents, SPUR Board of Directors

Jessica Fisher and her horse Avery

(Continued from page 1)

ride so it helps me with my focus. And, this session I'm learning a lot about horses when I'm on and off the horse. Like how to move with my horse so he knows when I want him to go faster or to slow down." She also understands the importance of reinforcing Avery's training. She makes sure that Avery stands quietly at the mounting block for a period of time after she gets on his back, "So he knows for other students not to just go after they mount, that he has to wait until they tell him to go."

When she is not at Sunnyside, Jessica is busy at work. "I work 40 hours a week at Whole Foods Market as a Customer Assistant pushing carts, picking up baskets, bagging and helping customers." She also helps to train other Customer Assistants. "I know it's scary because I was new once. I like to help them feel less scared about starting a new job," says Jessica with her unique sincerity and ever-present smile. For fun Jessica enjoys hanging out with friends, riding her bike, and going to concerts

and Broadway shows. She also likes to shoot hoops, get errands done for the day, and take walks when it is nice out.

Jessica has formed dear friendships with fellow students, staff and instructors in her years riding in the SPUR program. "They would definitely benefit from riding here," she says of anyone considering applying as a student or enrolling a child. "I think it's a great place. It's like family."

SAVE THE DATE!

The SPUR Board of Directors is pleased to present

Rock and Roll Family Day at Sunnyside

A Fundraiser to benefit the SPUR Scholarship Fund!

June 6th, 2010

1-4 pm

\$25 per person in advance, **\$30** day of event;

Family Package- \$120

(for 2 adults and up to 4 children)

Put on your boots and join us for an afternoon of
Live music with ***Danny Adlerman & Friends!***

Danny has co-written a Dr. Toy Award-winning album
and has put together a fantastic adult and *kid friendly*
rock band for this event.

In addition to the Concert, there will be refreshments
and activities for children of all ages to enjoy.

For tickets and further information, please visit us at

www.spuronline.org

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The SPUR Board of Directors, the Sunnyside staff, and the student riders thank the following individuals and organizations for their generous support over the past year.

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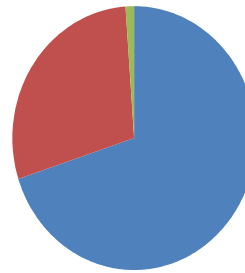
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To those supporters who may have unintentionally been omitted from this list, we extend our most grateful thanks. Please contact us so that we may recognize your generosity in our upcoming Fall 2010 newsletter.



Special People United to Ride, 2009 Annual Report

Income	Donations	\$ 30,337.00	69.93%
	Fundraising Event	\$ 12,590.00	29.02%
	Interest	\$ 456.79	1.05%
		<u>\$ 43,383.79</u>	



■ Donations
■ Fundraising Event
■ Interest

Expenses	Scholarships	\$ 27,800.00	51.26%
	Fundraising Event	\$ 6,008.00	11.08%
	Instructor Training	\$ 234.00	0.43%
	Sunnyside Phase II Donation	\$ 6,723.00	12.40%
	Insurance	\$ 2,360.00	4.35%
	Dues & Fees	\$ 925.00	1.71%
	Horse related Expenses	\$ 8,669.00	15.98%
	General	\$ 1,514.00	2.79%
		<u>\$ 54,233.00</u>	



Net Deficit	<u>\$ (10,849.21)</u>
Prior Year's Accumulated Balance	<u>\$ 155,211.00</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>\$ 144,361.79</u></u>



SPUR 2010 MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

Annual Membership
Single \$30. Family \$50 \$ _____

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I want to do more. Please accept the following gift toward:

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2009 Volunteers of the Year

Our 2009 Junior Volunteer, Dolores Cutler began volunteering at Sunnyside in the spring of 2008 and quickly became one of our most capable and dependable volunteers. An impressive young lady who makes time for us in her busy and challenging academic schedule, Dolores brings a wealth of horse experience to Sunnyside. Her knowledge and skill make her one of Sunnyside's most trusted horse handlers in lessons! In addition to the time she spends assisting with our SPUR lessons, she has helped with many of the programs we offer at Sunnyside, including camps, youth lessons



and special activities. Dolores happily shares her love and understanding of horses with all of us here at Sunnyside. Cheerful, easy-going, flexible and helpful, she is great at keeping the students on task and our horses happy. We are happy to recognize her many contributions to our program by naming her our 2009 Junior Volunteer of the Year.

The 2009 Volunteer of the Year is Jackie West. Since joining us in the spring of 2008, Jackie has demonstrated a great interest in understanding horse behavior and learning a variety of horse handling techniques to ensure that the horses she handles in lessons and the students who ride them have the most positive experience

possible. She has spent a great deal of energy learning the finer points of working with each horse as an individual as they are all so different. Jackie has helped with just about every type of lesson and activity we offer at Sunnyside. She is a versatile and reliable volunteer who can always be counted on to help the lesson go smoothly. Her quiet, positive energy is an asset to every lesson to which she is assigned — and each session, we gladly take her up on her offer to help “wherever needed.” We’re very happy that she is part of our team!

