



**GIVING ALTERNATIVE  
LEARNERS UPLIFTING  
OPPORTUNITIES, INC.**

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*Sam with Fudge*



*Waverly Wyld*

## **GALLOPNYC ANNUAL REPORT 2009**

### **A MESSAGE FROM GALLOPNYC'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

2009! I'd like to let our riders, teachers and volunteers take the bits in their mouths, and say, in words and photos, as much as possible about the marvelous year we've had. Simply surviving in 2009 would have been a success, but we did better – we **GREW! And we could never have done it without YOU.**

We've gone bi-borough! We have started offering lessons at Lynne's Riding School in Forest Hills Queens, one day a week. Lynne has been very generous and we are very excited

to be at her beautiful barn with her charming, sturdy horses. We are still in Brooklyn 4 days a week this winter and hope to add weekend sessions in the spring.

Another proud moment of 2009 was our second annual "horse show" on Father's Day in Prospect Park, with celebrity judges Parks Deputy Commissioner Kevin Jeffrey and Prospect Park Alliance President Tupper Thomas. Instructors Ben Goldberg, Diane Montegue and Suzy Marquard made sure that all of our riders' skills were trotted

out -- an impressive display. A big turnout of volunteers made the day possible. The rain stopped just as we began our parade, with Parade Marshal John Franzeb and puppets our riders made with funds from the Park Slope Civic Council.

### **NEW STAFF**

Starting with us as a volunteer, Peter Byrne joined our staff as Program Manager early in 2009. He has the challenging job of organizing our schedule, a challenge he more than meets.

### **2010 AND BEYOND**

Looking ahead for GALLOPNYC, we plan to continue what we have been doing – **GROW GROW GROW.**

We plan to add **MORE** riders and train **MORE** instructors and encourage **MORE** volunteers as we work towards a full time program, always keeping in mind our commitment to quality and good horsemanship. We have started actively

working on our long term plans to secure a full time dedicated location, and will continue to increase our lesson hours, build our board, strengthen our community ties, and maintain a strong financial base. We hope we can continue to count on your support to grow too!

**TROT ON 2010!**

—Alicia Kershaw

### **SAVE THE DATES**

Our Ride into Spring Fundraiser March 18, 2010, at the Dumbo Arts Center, featuring The Difference—we'll be finding new rhythms for sure!

Dr. Temple Grandin will speak April 25, 2010 at the Park Slope United Methodist Church.

*Kris, Marilyn & Commissioner Sapolin*



*We were invited to the Mayor's thank you BBQ for volunteers—and got a photo to prove it*

*We actually got Peter on a horse this fall*



*"Who would have thought I'd be working at GALLOPNYC! In my past life as a business executive, I never rode horses, apart from a pony ride or two. But I've learned that special needs children + horses = smiles, happy tears, cheers, applause, confidence and fun. GALLOPNYC has become a new life for me, just as it has for our riders, their families, and many of our volunteers. Who would have thought!"*

—Peter Byrne

*"I have marveled to see how much people are capable of when no one puts limits on their expectations."*  
 —GALLOPNYC volunteer

## OUR FABULOUS VOLUNTEERS

As we grow and welcome more and more volunteers, we have come to realize that the growth and development of volunteers is a key part of our mission.

GALLOPNYC's success with our teen volunteers and those with disabilities starts with the warm, inclusive welcome that all of our parents, riders and volunteers give to them. Thank you all for supporting our volunteers!

Congratulations to Marilyn Connor, our volunteer coordinator, who became a NARHA certified instructor this year. We are tremendously proud to say that several volunteers are working towards certification or considering or embarking on careers as therapists or social workers after spending time with us.

We also welcome teen volunteers from ICD,

Groundwork and Good Shepard Services, and several local high schools, such as City As School, the Green School and the Brooklyn School for Collaborative Studies. Our teens have proven to be strong, reliable volunteers, and many are considering careers in animal care or therapy.

Thanks to generous donors, we have started a pilot intern program with ICD, offering small stipends to our youth volunteers. Many of our teen riders cannot afford metro cards, so the stipends help them get to GALLOPNYC, and add a bit of spending money.

Speaking of volunteers, the Goldman Sachs Community Teamworks program fielded volunteers at the Prospect Park horse show, and on a bridle path repair project. We participated in the Martin Luther King

Day of service, which introduced several new volunteers to GALLOPNYC. We also fielded a riding day for people with Huntington's Disease, with funds raised by Deanie Barth, a member of our Board of Advisors. And Cornell's Alternative Spring Break program sent us a team of committed, energetic, wonderful helpers.

*Jefferson, Virginia and Roger are teen volunteers from ICD*



*Cleaning the bridle path, Prospect Park*

*The Cornell team plus GALLOPNYC riders and volunteers*



*"Some of the kids are extremely shy and nervous, and riding these gigantic animals really builds confidence."*  
 —Julianna, Case Worker  
 Good Shepard Services

*"I am so incredibly happy and excited and my son was so proud of himself, I can't stop smiling. It's the best thing that's happened for him in ages. Thank you, thank you, thank you."*  
 — A parent

## OUR PARTNERS

Brooklyn School for Collaborative Studies  
 Cooke Academy  
 Good Shepard Services  
 The Green School  
 Groundwork  
 Human Care Services  
 ICD (International Center for the Disabled) YES  
 Hard Working Mustangs  
 Kensington Stables  
 Lynne's Riding School  
 Mary McDowell Learning Center  
 NARHA  
 NYCares

New York Institute for Special Education  
 New York State Horse Council  
 New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disability  
 OHEL  
 PS 231K at 215, P226M, PS 255  
 The Rebecca School  
 The Riders' Closet  
 StableBrooklyn  
 Volunteer Match  
 VolunteerNYC



## WISH LIST

- A new video
- Event planners
- Riders' web site
- Admin help
- Books for kids on horse topics
- Icons/posters for arena

**YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT** goes entirely to providing lessons. In 2009 GALLOPNYC offered tuition waivers (no cost or reduced price lessons) to the more than two-thirds of our riders who have low incomes, with a value of about \$61,000. In addition, because of the needs of the community we serve, we have set our fees below our costs, covering the difference, about \$123,000, with your generous help.

**OUR PARTICIPANTS**

GALLOP in 2009 provided more than 2000 lessons, offering services to about 100 riders per week.

We held 170 days of lessons plus a day of Huntington's Disease camp, which served 12 campers with disabilities (HD). Lesson days included a new one week session of equine assisted psychotherapy in August, combining therapeutic riding lessons taught by Suzy Marquard and counseling sessions with Susannah Gersten, a first for us and a very well received program. We also offered a day each week of hippotherapy with Physical Therapist Diane Garcia.

**SURPRISING GALLOPNYC STATISTICS**

- 65% of our riders are male
- 12% are adults
- 67% are ethnic minorities
- 54% are from Brooklyn
- 6% of riders have CP
- 46% are on the autism spectrum
- 13% have an emotional concern or disability



*Danilo with Ayesha and Diane*



Waverly Wyld

**OPERATING BUDGET 2009 (UNAUDITED)**

<b>Revenue</b>	
Fees for service	\$107,921
Tuition waivers	(\$60,935)
Net riding fees	\$46,986
Contributions	\$73,380
Grants	\$25,800
Contributed services	\$70,080
Fundraising events	\$18,812
Interest	\$496
Other income	\$32
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$235,586</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Horse rental	\$38,545
Insurance	\$1,303
Fundraising costs	\$8,163
Staff Payroll and taxes	\$127,275
Other program services	\$19,863
<b>Total program services</b>	<b>\$195,149</b>
<b>Support services</b>	<b>\$36,176</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$231,325</b>
Change in assets	\$4,261
Net assets FYE	\$103,362



*Ride with Pride with John Franzeb, Parade Master. Puppets courtesy of Park Slope Civic Council*

*“This is a great program and I feel truly fortunate to have my children being a part of it. Whether or not they continue riding into adulthood, I am certain that they will look back at this as being one of those great childhood experiences that contributed to them being the happy, confident children I know them to be.”*

*—A parent*

**CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION SUPPORTERS**

- |                                  |                                     |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| The Ambrose Monell Foundation    | Google Grants                       |
| The Ben Appelbaum Foundation     | Goldman Sachs                       |
| The Bloomberg Sisters Foundation | The Laura J. Niles Foundation, Inc. |
| Corcoran Cares                   | The Lee & Cynthia Vance Foundation  |
| CVS/Caremark                     | New York Mercantile Exchange        |
| [Anonymous]                      | Charitable Foundation               |
| Downey Family Foundation         | Park Slope Civic Council            |



*Samantha wins a raffle prize*

Parents, riders, teachers, friends and volunteers gathered at two fundraisers. Our Ride with Pride event at the Montauk Club featured students from ICD and Commissioner Matt Sapolin from the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities. GALLOPNYC also hosted a premiere showing of *The Horse Boy* in October. Rupert Isaacson joined us for dinner following the premiere. Thank you for all the support for these events.

## RIDE INTO SPRING AUCTION AND RAFFLE DONORS

Joan Ai  
Georgina Bloomberg  
Susan Riley Chagrin  
Maria Cooper  
Leslie Jensen  
Alicia Kershaw  
Jackie Kudo  
Anna Leath  
Meredith Little  
Suzy Marquard  
The Riders' Closet  
Detective Ron Savarese  
Illana Sheinman  
Becca Walker

Kim Walker  
Brett Whysel  
Big Apple Circus  
Brooklyn Academy of Music  
Brooklyn Botanic Gardens  
Build a Bear  
Crossroads Café  
Dover Saddlery  
National Museum of the  
American Indian  
NBC Experience Store  
Flatbush Farm  
Flatbush Saddle Co.  
Glass Horse Tile

Kensington Stables  
Lobo  
Lone Wolf Tattoo  
Posh Pets Grooming & Boarding  
Prospect Park Zoo  
Root Hill  
Red Horse Cafe LLC  
Pat Richter Consulting  
Sleepy Hollow Riding Academy  
Smartpak  
Unicorn Editions, Ltd./ Leather  
Therapy  
Zao Naturals

## OUR BOARD

**Suzanne Marquard has kindly agreed to take on the post of Board President!** Suzy has been a board member for 2 years and became certified as a NARHA instructor with GALLOPNYC. She teaches on Fridays and volunteers on Tuesdays. A retired attorney and active horse woman, she will bring a wealth of experience and skills to GALLOPNYC. She will lead us to new heights, supported by Vince Smith as Treasurer, Linda Bogin as Secretary, and Terry Lawler as Vice President, as well as our very active and skilled board, and Alicia Kershaw as Executive Director.

Linda Bogin  
David Ciriello  
Hans LaVerge  
Allan Kramer  
Suzy Marquard, President  
Sheila Patel  
Terry Lawler  
Vince Smith  
Boriana Tchobanova  
Kim Walker  
Brett Whysel

## OUR NEW BOARD OF ADVISORS

As part of our growth we've invited our "founding members" to join our Board of Advisors, a group of sage supporters we can – and do – call on for expertise and comfort!

Andrea Anderson ~ Deanie Barth ~  
Rose Bonamusa ~ Kelly Darby ~  
Ben Goldberg ~ Art Goldberg ~  
Leslie Jensen ~ Maggie Kulik ~ Jean Smith

*"GALLOPNYC has become a very important and rewarding part of my life. It is just wonderful to be able to combine a lifelong passion—horses—with a new found one -- providing life-enhancing opportunities to people with challenges. And now, I'm absolutely thrilled and honored to be taking on the role of Board President at this critical juncture on GALLOPNYC's trail into the future. Teaming up with our committed and talented Board of Directors, Board of Advisors and staff, I'm looking forward to helping GALLOPNYC achieve its most noble vision."*

*—Suzy Marquard, President*

## SPECIAL THANKS

Maggie Kulik for graphic design, and Manhattan Consulting Group for printing services.

Aaron Nagler for color printing all the brochures we need and our retreat materials.

Suzi Shelton, a parent, for donating proceeds of CD sales from her Suzi Shelton Band concert.

Jeff Ackerman and Dawn Ewing, our mentors from the Ben Appelbaum Foundation.

Cornell Alternative Spring Break for a spring volunteer project.

Waverly Wyld, for the splendid photographs she has taken of GALLOPNYC.

Joe Kriesberg and Rita Caliendo for our compelling new brochures.

Barry Soloff for hours of highly effective strategic planning and marketing consultation.

Cynthia and Lee Vance for pilot support of our youth intern project.

Jana Van Singal and Ricky Liu for supporting our dreams with architectural drawings so we can envision the future.

Miranda Feldmann for hours of work on our fundraiser and Horse Show.

Mew Lee for Tee Shirt Design for the Ride with Pride horse show.

Dacie Kershaw for hosting a summer lunch for our ICD riders and our supporters.

Kensington Stables staff for accommodating us and our gear.

Bunches of carrots to our patient and kind animal helpers at Kensington Stables.

*Elinor with Snickers*

