

BLAZING THE TRAIL FOR



## 2009 NARHA Child Equestrian of the Year Recognition Award Nomination Information

All participants at NARHA centers are unique and deserve recognition. But every once in a while a child equestrian comes along that is simply outstanding. She may be a star at horse show competitions, or he may still be relying on two sidewalkers and a horse leader to get around the area at a walk. But whenever this child appears the hearts and spirits of everyone are transformed. Who will you nominate for NARHA 's 2009 Child Equestrian of the Year Award?

This year NARHA will award an individual membership to the NARHA 2009 Child Equestrian of the Year. Your nominees don't need to be a NARHA member or join. It is our honor to recognize this individual by welcoming him or her into the community that appreciates the power of the horse to change lives. And of course, we hope he or she will be able to join us at the 2009 NARHA National Conference and Annual Meeting Awards banquet on Saturday, November 21.

We want to celebrate with him or her as much as we did with ...

### The Inspirational 2008 Child Equestrian of the Year



Mitchell loves to tackle new experiences both on and off the horse. He enjoys improving his riding skills and has discovered the joys of working with his horse on the ground. Mitchell is always looking to learn about horses: their colors, their breeds, different tack and care. He soaks up the information and writes about it or discusses it with his family throughout the week between lessons. He asks follow-up questions or looks up additional information to satisfy his curiosity. At the horse show he rises to the challenge of his skills class and is visibly proud of his accomplishments. Riding has opened up his emotional growth, which he expresses through journaling, creating art and writing poetry.

Lezah Yeoh, Mitchell's mom writes, "When Mitchell began riding for Pegasus we did not know what to expect. Initially, we questioned how Mitchell who could not walk a straight line, could ride a large horse. My husband and I were astounded to see Mitchell, with his fragile body, sit majestically on a horse. Mitchell, who never spoke freely, who hardly uttered a complete sentence, was conversing freely with his partners. Mitchell has multiple sensory issues, but there he was, affectionately touching such a sweet, gentle horse. It was miraculous.

NARHA Child Equestrian Criteria (age 3 to 12):

- The nominee must be at least 3 years old and no older than 12 by January 1, 2009.
- The nominee must be a participant at an equestrian activity at a NARHA center in good standing and must have a disability.
- The nominee does not need to ride independently.
- Please submit two (2) letters of nomination. Letters should not exceed 500 words and should be double-spaced and postmarked by June 15, 2009.
- Include names, addresses and phone numbers of the nominee's local newspaper, equine magazine and other appropriate publications. Press releases will be sent for all award recipients.
- Nominations must be received via email no later than June 15, 2009.
- Please do not send any photographs at this time. The NARHA office will contact you if photos are needed.