



## 2009 NARHA Independent Adult Equestrian of the Year Recognition Award Nomination Information

So many participants at NARHA centers have worked with their disability to be independent equestrians. Do you know an adult that represents that community in a unique and remarkable manner?

This year NARHA will award an individual membership to the NARHA 2009 Adult Independent 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.

### Join us in recognizing again the 2008 Independent Adult Equestrian of the Year!



Alena Sorm is a woman who perseveres through unbelievable odds, tries harder than anyone you are likely to meet and still has the energy to express her selfless devotion to the Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center.

Alena was born with such a severe form of Cerebral Palsy that her doctors thought it unlikely that she'd live into her teens. She began riding for just a few minutes at a time with two sidewalkers at the age of twelve. She has continued to ride for 32 years! Today Alena rides independently and competitively. She has ridden in every major competition for people with disabilities all over the United States. She has performed as a drill team member. During his life she trained and cared for her horse and she has generously given her time and talent to our industry several times a year by speaking at fund raising events.

Having out survived both her Cerebral Palsy and Cancer, Alena works every day to maintain her riding skills. She rides gracefully and often assists instructors in teaching western trail class maneuvers to the other members in her class.

#### 2009 NARHA Independent Adult Equestrian of the Year Criteria:

- The nominee must be at least 18 years old by January 1, 2009.
- The nominee must participate in an equestrian activity at a NARHA center in good standing.
- The nominee must have a disability and achieved the level of riding independently (without the aid of a leader or sidewalker) in spite of that disability for two or more years.
- 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.