

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact

Robin Burton, Executive Director
OPAF & The First Clinics
319-235-4318 phone
319-235-4326 fax
rlb@opfund.org
www.opfund.org

McKeever's First Ride Returns to Warwick, New York

October 18, 2011 – Waterloo, Iowa – McKeever's First Ride saw another success in Warwick, NY this weekend at our hosts and sponsors, Winslow Therapeutic Riding Center. This is the third year in a row that Winslow has hosted McKeever's First Ride and the first year that they have served as sponsor as well. Unable to locate a sponsor, OPAF called Winslow to cancel the event and release the date from their calendar. Upon hearing the news, Winslow staff and their volunteer group, WITH (Winslow Incredible Teen Helpers) took on the task of raising the funds to host and sponsor the event on Saturday, October 16. With raffles and gold fish sales as well as direct soliciting of donations, the teens were able to raise enough money for the event to go forward.

McKeever's First Ride saw ten adult amputees as well as two youth participate in the two hour clinic which included grooming and groundwork as well as horseback riding in the enclosed arena. For John Vacca of Poughkeepsie, NY, this was his fourth McKeever's First Ride event and his third at Winslow. Jean Powers and Brigit Aiello traveled over 200 miles from Utica, NY to participate. The NYU Amputee Support Group supplied van transportation free of charge to anyone in the Manhattan area who wished to attend. "...everyone at Winslow was fantastic. I enjoyed myself tremendously" said Jean. "Riding a horse is like balancing the body. This is my first experience and I loved it. I will continue to be active. It is a job" said participant, Kidane Nebarai.

McKeever's First Ride will return to the Atlanta area April 23, 2012 at the Gwinnet County Fairgrounds with our hosts, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. The Atlanta clinic will be expanded to also include adaptive carriage driving and entertainment from Nashville recording artist, Templeton Thompson.

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