



For Immediate Release

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Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy center announces its new Program Director, Jana Kent-Dewald. The Board of Directors at Hope Springs awarded Kent-Dewald this leadership position to direct the program's continued growth and drive the on-going development initiatives.

Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy, Inc. was founded in 1997 and offers equine related therapeutic and educational programs tailored to the unique needs of our students. Hope Springs has designed these programs using tested methodologies to provide participants with opportunities to achieve tangible physical, cognitive, emotional, behavioral, social, and educational benefits. Participation in our program has enabled individuals with diverse needs, and strengths, to experience more out of life

Equine-facilitated programs are receiving ever increasing validation and recognition from the medical community for providing two primary benefits:

- a) physical improvements including increased strength, endurance, balance, flexibility and coordination
- b) emotional and mental growth including enhanced self-confidence, self-esteem, concentration and improved communication skills.

"We have always been, and will always be, focused on two things: empowering our students in a creative, supportive and safe environment and partnering with other organizations so that we can meet evolving community needs," says Richard Chamovitz, President of the Hope Springs Board of Directors. "When Elena Shaffer conceived the vision of Hope Springs, more than 10 years ago, it was about the children. Since that time, the program has grown to include more students, a highly-effective At-Risk program for teens, and education-based programs for students attending two local education organizations. Bringing Jana on the team will add a new dynamic to Hope Springs. Her experience with other therapeutic riding programs and equine events, as well as her business savvy, will enable her to transition to Hope Springs smoothly and quickly. We're thrilled she can join us!"

Since 1997 Hope Springs has grown from a single program with one instructor, to a full-fledged, community organization with five riding instructors, a committed board of directors, various standing committees and a growing volunteer base of supporters.

"I love Hope Springs and will always be involved at some level," says Shaffer. "I realized, and the Board agreed, that this 10 year mark is an appropriate time for me to transition my role and allow the program to grow beyond my original vision. Jana's personality and skills will generate a new vitality at Hope Springs. We are confident that, as our Program Director, she will excel in guiding the operations of Hope Springs. It's a very exciting time for us all."

Starting in early June, Kent-Dewald will pick up the reins of the Hope Springs program with a long list of projects and priorities. "There is always a lot to do, but we have a wonderful program at Hope Springs. I've been meeting with students, parents, volunteers and staff, so I know the foundation is solid. It's going to be a busy summer and we're all looking forward to that!"

Hope Springs offers different equine related programs at its Chester Springs location Monday through Friday and on Sundays. Contact Hope Springs today to learn more on how your contributions and participation can help Hope Springs help others. Office : (610) 469-6220 or visit www.hope-springs.org