

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saddle Up! instructor chosen as Region V Instructor of the Year



FRANKLIN, Tenn. – Saddle Up! Instructor Nancy Swindell has been chosen as the Region V Instructor of the Year by the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA), the national organization that sets the standards for therapeutic equine programs in the United States.

Swindell has been an instructor for 11 years and has been a volunteer for 13 years at Saddle Up!, which is the oldest and largest recreational therapeutic program in the region. Saddle Up! is also the only program that exclusively serves children, and it is one of only three programs in Tennessee to earn Premier Center accreditation from NARHA. All Saddle Up! instructors are certified by NARHA.

NARHA has more than 700 centers as members with more than 2,500 NARHA instructors. The nation is split into 11 regions and programs in each region nominate instructors for the award. Saddle Up! is part of Region V, which includes six states – Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee – that have nearly 300 NARHA certified instructors.

Swindell was nominated by parents of some of her students, volunteers and staff at Saddle Up!. She will be recognized as one of the regional winners at the NARHA national conference in November, when the national Instructor of the Year will be announced.

“I’m truly honored and humbled to be nominated for this award,” she said. “When I’ve had the opportunity to attend the NARHA conference, I’ve always been moved by the tributes to the instructors who were being honored because of the high standards they set and commitment they gave. I never imagined that one day I would be blessed to be one of those honorees.”

This is the second consecutive year that Saddle Up! has had a NARHA regional winner. In 2006, Saddle Up!'s remarkable equine, King Bee, was chosen as the Region V Therapy Horse of the Year.

For more information about Saddle Up!, please call 615-794-1150 or visit www.saddleupnashville.org.