



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Avenue Bank Country Ride 'n Roll for Saddle Up! concert to feature
hitmakers Hummon, Ewing, Johnson, Matthews & Slater**
Benefit concert caps off day of trail riding and family activities

FRANKLIN, Tenn. (August 26, 2008) – Saddle Up! announces today that Marcus Hummon, Skip Ewing, Tim Johnson, Jason Matthews and James Slater will perform “in the round” at the Avenue Bank Country Ride ‘n Roll for Saddle Up! benefit concert on Saturday, Sept. 20.

With hits such as “Bless the Broken Road” (Hummon), “Every Other Weekend” (Ewing), “Someone You Used to Know” (Johnson), “Must Be Doin’ Something Right” (Matthews), “In My Daughter’s Eyes” (Slater) and many more, these five writers have been recorded by multiple top-selling artists. They will be joined by rising writer/artist Luke Sheets, who will open the evening of entertainment.

“We’re thrilled to have such songwriting heavyweights come out to entertain our event participants,” said Saddle Up! Executive Director Cheryl Scutt. “This is a unique opportunity to see some of Nashville’s greatest songwriters perform, while at the same time helping raise funds to serve more than 135 children and youth with disabilities who participate in our recreational therapeutic horseback riding program.”

The concert will take place from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. It will cap off the Avenue Bank Country Ride ‘n Roll for Saddle Up!, which is a two-event combo packed into one day. The day begins with a ride-a-thon trail ride, which is similar to a walk-a-thon, with riders raising funds to benefit Saddle Up!. The key difference is that it’s done on horseback instead of on foot.

Trail riders provide their own horses (proof of negative Coggins test required to participate). Open riding on park-like trails will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. During that time, both riders and non-riders can participate in multiple activities including hay rides, stick horse races, games, face painting, a scavenger hunt and more. The Men of St. Paul will be grilling hot dogs, hamburgers and veggie burgers onsite for participants to savor during lunch. Lunch is included for the ride-a-thon riders and may be purchased by non-riders.

Trail ride participants are asked to register by Friday, Sept. 5, to ensure getting an event T-shirt in the correct size. Riders can also register at the event. Participation requires raising, or donating, a minimum of \$50 per rider or \$100 for a family (immediate family members only), with children under 12 riding free.

“Our volunteer event chair, Colleen LeVert, and her team designed the day event to be a family fun time. So even if you don’t ride, there will be family-oriented activities, and you couldn’t have a more scenic setting for the day,” Scutt said.

“The evening will include excellent music, food and spirits,” Scutt said. “So you’ll want to save the date for both activities.”

Both the trail ride and benefit concert will take place at Duke It Out farm, which is a private, 300-acre farm in Williamson County opened exclusively once a year to benefit Saddle Up!. This is only the second year for the combined trail ride and benefit concert.

“Avenue Bank’s leadership is instrumental to achieving our fundraising goals for this event. We know the event is unique here and with the trail ride and concert combo offers something for everyone,” Scutt said.

“The Saddle Up! recreational therapeutic riding program is certainly one that we are proud to support, and we are looking forward to being a part of this day and contributing to the mission of this great organization,” said Ron Samuels, Avenue’s president and CEO.

For more information about the Avenue Bank Country Ride ’n Roll for Saddle Up!, including how to register to participate in the trail ride, buy tickets for the concert or participate as a sponsor, please contact Development Coordinator Tina Carpenter at 615-794-1150 extension 35 or visit Saddle Up!’s website at www.saddleupnashville.org, where you may also purchase tickets online. Concert tickets are only \$50 each if purchased by September 18 or \$75 at the gate.

Saddle Up! is Middle Tennessee’s oldest and largest therapeutic horseback riding program, and the only one exclusively serving children with disabilities. It is one of only three programs in Tennessee to earn Premier Accredited Center status from the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association, the national organization that sets standards for quality and safety.

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