

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

Saddle Up! Receives \$20,000 Grant from Jacob G. Schmidlapp Trusts, Fifth Third Bank, Trustee

FRANKLIN, Tenn. (February 18, 2008) – Jacob G. Schmidlapp Trusts, Fifth Third Bank, Trustee awarded a \$20,000 grant to Saddle Up!, the region's oldest and largest recreational therapeutic horseback riding program, and the only one exclusively serving children with disabilities.

“We are grateful to the Jacob G. Schmidlapp Trust and Fifth Third Bank for selecting Saddle Up! as the recipient of this generous grant,” said Saddle Up! Executive Director Cheryl Scutt. “Especially during these times of economic challenge, it is a wonderful way to start the new year. As we do with every penny, nickel, dime or dollar entrusted to Saddle Up!, we will be watchful stewards and put the funds to work to keep our riders riding.”



“In representing the Jacob G. Schmidlapp Trust, I am honored with the opportunity to award some of the community's most deserving youth the chance to learn, grow and develop by participating in the equine assisted activities programs,” said Connie White, Marketing Director at Fifth Third Bank, N.A. “Saddle Up! programs provide a safe and fun environment in which the weaknesses of a child are complemented by the strengths of a horse allowing each student to learn new skills, self confidence and sense of freedom.” The Jacob G. Schmidlapp Trust is pleased to extend its resources in support of the educational aspects of Saddle Up! programs.

In 2008, Saddle Up! served 179 children and youth, ages 4 through 18, with documented disabilities through more than 4,800 lessons. The program's participants are from throughout middle Tennessee, with the majority coming from Davidson and Williamson counties. They daily deal with more than 40 types of disabilities that include physical, speech and language, cognitive/learning, psychological/emotional, and developmental disabilities. Autism and cerebral palsy are the two most common.

Saddle Up! has also earned the designation as a Premier Accredited Center by NARHA (formerly the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association), the national organization that sets the standards for quality and safety for almost 800 centers in the U.S., Canada and abroad. For more information about Saddle Up! please call 615-794-1150 or visit the website, www.saddleupnashville.org.

PHOTO CAPTION:

Emily Holly, left, commercial credit analyst of Fifth Third Bank, and Joe Dillingham, right, commercial middle market manager of the bank, visited Saddle Up! to present the \$20,000 check from the Jacob G. Schmidlapp Trust, Fifth Third Bank, Trustee, to Saddle Up! Development Coordinator Tina Carpenter, center. The funds will be used to help provide weekly horseback riding lessons to 120 middle Tennessee children and youth with disabilities.