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Photo Credit: Peppermint Pizzazz being treated by Dr. Neff in the NCMT tack room due to poor weather conditions and lack of protected treatment area. Photo courtesy of NCMT.

New Canaan Mounted Troop Formally Announces Building On Tradition Capital Campaign

New Canaan, CT – January 26, 2007 –New Canaan Mounted Troop, Inc. (NCMT), a non-profit educational and charitable youth organization devoted to building leadership, responsibility, and confidence through sound horsemanship, is pleased to formally announce that the Building on Tradition Capital Campaign has reached its half-way mark and is now officially a public campaign.

“We began a \$3 million Building on Tradition Capital Campaign two years ago to replace our facility that, after almost 70 years of service, has fallen into serious disrepair and must be rebuilt,” reported Michelle Schmerzler, president of NCMT. “We have raised \$1,425,000 toward our goal and are now set to move forward with the public phase of the campaign to raise the funds necessary to complete the project. We hope to be able to count on members of the equestrian community, whether they are individuals, corporations or foundations, for their support.”

“Since 1939, NCMT has provided a comprehensive program for children from a variety of backgrounds the opportunity to participate in the equestrian sport,” continued Schmerzler. “Interest in the program has never been greater, yet we are facing our biggest challenge. Time has taken a serious toll on our barn and indoor ring.” She explained, “A new facility will provide

our students, staff and horses with a far safer and more functional environment, with room to expand our programs and allow us to continue for many future generations.”

As one of the most sought after horsemanship programs in the area, NCMT currently has 145 children enrolled in its program and a long waiting list for newcomers. In addition to the children’s program, NCMT hosts two university equestrian teams, Pegasus Therapeutic Riding, and a full adult horsemanship program. Twenty-eight lesson horses, which were either donated or lent to NCMT, are the true heart of the program, and the Building on Tradition Capital Campaign will directly benefit the living conditions and care that these horses receive.

“There are very few barns that really teach all aspects of horsemanship,” stated Schmerzler, “and none that I know of use our methods. We are thrilled with the response we have gotten thus far, but do have a ways to go before we reach our goal. We hope the equestrian community will generously support our effort to raise the remaining \$1,500,000. We want to be able to provide this unique experience for many more generations and, to do so, we will need more help.”

To help with this initiative or to learn more about NCMT, please visit their website at www.newcanaanmountedtroop.org.



Photo Credit: Peppermint Pizzazz being treated by Dr. Neff in the NCMT tack room due to poor weather conditions and lack of protected treatment area. Photo courtesy of NCMT.