



PRESS RELEASE

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Therapeutic & Recreational Riding Center Set to Break Ground on Area's First Indoor Therapy Riding Arena

*TRRC Meets \$75,000 Fundraising Goal in Arena Campaign/
Center Aims to Serve Growing Number of Youth with Autism & Other Special Needs*

Glenwood, MD: Therapeutic and Recreational Riding Center, Inc. (TRRC) of Glenwood, MD – www.trrcmd.org - is set to officially break ground on the area's only indoor sensory-sensitive therapy riding arena. The event will take place on Saturday, June 10, 4pm, at a celebration event held at the 55-acre farm on Shady Lane in Glenwood, MD. The indoor arena, once constructed, will serve the growing population of children and young adults diagnosed with autism and other sensory-processing challenges such as Autism, Asperger's, ADD, ADHD and others. Howard County is home to the state's largest population of children with Autism. TRRC currently has a waiting list for those needing treatment.

The groundbreaking event signals success for TRRC's \$75,000 fundraising campaign to "Raise the Roof" on the new arena which was launched in October 2016. [The Finish Line Youth Foundation](#) in Indianapolis, IN awarded TRRC a \$75,000 challenge grant for the new arena provided an additional \$75,000 in matching funds could be raised by this summer. TRRC estimates that construction of the new arena will cost approximately \$150,000 and will be completed by September.

Speaking about the campaign and the arena, TRRC's co-founder and executive director Dr. Helen Tuel said, "Our mission is to treat children and adults with a wide range of disabilities through physical connection with horses. No one should have to wait for therapy, and this new arena will allow us to increase the number of riders we can see. This is so important to both the children and their families." She added, "Horses are forgiving and see riders as they are. So many of our riders view their time on the farm as the best part of their week. We need to make sure more can experience the tremendous benefits of this therapy."

At just approximately 4,100 sq. ft., the indoor therapy arena will be smaller than TRRC's 23,000 sq. ft. main arena, providing seclusion from busier environments. A sprinkler system will minimize dust for children who struggle with asthma and compromised lung function. An existing outdoor mounting ramp will be incorporated for access by wheelchairs, and large heaters will allow for use year-round. Therapy equipment and signage will ensure the safety of riders, and large mirrors will aid them in observing body position. Cones, poles and a basketball hoop—all part of the therapist's tool chest--will make riding engaging, beneficial and just plain fun. The arena will allow direct entrée to TRRC's accessible playground, providing an opportunity to apply improvements made during therapy to the world outside.



“We are proud to partner with TRRC on the challenge grant,” said Finish Line Youth Foundation President Marty Posch. “We had full confidence in their ability to fundraise and are excited to break ground on this wonderful project!”

[The Finish Line Youth Foundation](#) supports TRRC’s mission to serve the growing number of children and youth with sensory processing disorders by providing specially-tailored therapeutic interventions in a space that minimizes distractions and environmental stimulation.

County dignitaries, community leaders, and Finish Line Youth Foundation employees will join TRRC’s staff, riders and parents and other community member to celebrate the groundbreaking on Saturday, June 10 at 4pm. The program will feature remarks by Finish Line Youth Foundation representatives and TRRC’s Dr. Helen Tuel as well as from a parent of a TRRC rider with autism who will benefit from the new arena. Special appearances from TRRC’s equine residents and riders will also be featured. The event will be emceed by Brenda von Rautenkranz, psychotherapist and equine psychotherapist at TRRC and host of Fit To Be Fabulous TV show and well-known local personal trainer. Music will feature songs by youth singers from the TRRC community, and light refreshments will be served. Area elected officials and other special guests will mark the construction start with shovels and hardhats. A bagpiper will close the event ceremony.

[Therapeutic and Recreational Riding Center, Inc. \(TRRC\)](#) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1983 by Dr. Helen S. Tuel and her husband, John, to provide both physical and occupational therapy on horseback, treating a range of physical, mental, and emotional disabilities. These include children and youth with Autism, ADD/ADHD, Downs’s syndrome, cancer, brain tumors cerebral palsy, spina bifida and more; and adults with multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injury, traumatic injury, stroke, military veterans, and a survivor of the Boston bombing. Throughout its existence TRRC has helped thousands of these individuals on the road to a better quality of life. TRRC is the only full-time therapeutic riding center in and serving Central Maryland. It has earned premier accreditation from the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH) and was certified “Best in America” by the Independent Charities of America. The center serves over 200 individuals of differing abilities each week, ages 3 – 77 from the Baltimore-Washington area. TRRC is located on a 55-acre working farm owned and operated by the non-profit. Facilities on the farm include 2 outdoor riding arenas, 2 indoor heated riding arenas, a Ground Therapy Room, Conference Hall, Stabling for 50 horses and ponies, gardens, trails, fields and many pastures.

Interviews with parents, riders, TRRC founders and staff and the Finish Line Youth Foundation leadership are available upon request. Logos, photos and videos are also available upon request. We welcome press on site before and during the event.

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