



# *CITY TO SADDLE*

*...give a child a leg up!*



## **City to Saddle Kids Flourish at Woodsong Farm**

Woodsong Farm, in Brewster MA, holds a special place in the heart of Kim Summers, City to Saddle Co-Founder. “I grew up riding with Bette Avery, Woodsong’s head trainer and owner, starting at the age of six, so for me to see our CTS children being taught by Bette brings things full circle and feels very special.” Woodsong has been a host facility for many years and generously allots twelve camper spots for children in need in the lower Cape area. Kim and Bette work primarily with the schools in the area as well as Big Brothers and Big Sisters. The Social workers and school principals have become very involved with our partnership—it is not uncommon for us to see them driving the kids to camp, and assisting with each and every

application.

In early July, twelve students enjoyed learning how to groom, tack, lead to and from paddocks (and scoop manure from those paddocks!), as well as riding in daily private lessons, enjoying crafts and games, and attending horsemanship lectures. Head camp counselor, Brenna McLoughlin who is an accomplished equestrian and a student of the UMASS Honors program, has a way about her that finds the children as in love with her as they are with the ponies. Elizabeth Noyes, a ranked Pony Clubber, assists the children with all activities and keeps the busy lesson schedule running smoothly. Judy Dragonette patiently teaches the beginner students with a soft hand under the shade of large old trees. The small intimate feel of the farm, with a large scale abundance of equine knowledge, lends itself well to an amazing week-long experience for CTS children.

Kim adds, “we have many students each year waiting to return, and also there is the need to allow new students the opportunity. We just don’t have the funding to handle the need but in the meantime, until we find an “Angel Donor”, which would allow hundreds of more children the opportunity, we give one child at a time a leg up! Thank you to all of you who give your time, farms, funding, and your love of the sport and the children...we are truly grateful and you are changing children’s lives forever.”

