



**CITY TO SADDLE**  
*...give a child a leg up!*



*Liberty Hill*

## **Liberty Hill Farm Takes on a Working Student**

Liberty Hill Farm in Lancaster, MA is one of many equestrian facilities hosting programs for City to Saddle. Owner, Kelly Quill, who has been hosting since 2006, had a very special year in 2010....find out why.

### **From Kelly Quill of Liberty Hill Farm**

This was an extraordinary year for Liberty Hill (LH), and for me personally with regard to our relationship with City to Saddle (CTS). What made it remarkable for me, and the LH staff, was that we finally saw first-hand the fruits of our labors through the maturity of a CTS success story. Enter.... Maggie

CTS Executive Director, Barbara Zenker, approached me earlier this year about a lovely young girl, (Maggie, age 14) who had been riding with CTS for the past 6 years, and had "graduated" per se through the levels to where she was essentially "overqualified" to participate in the beginner horsemanship and riding program. But she still wanted to be involved, and was capable of giving back with her assistance. I agreed to give Maggie a trial run, and had her participate in an intermediate session with our regular working students and show kids.

From day one it was apparent that Maggie (and her mom Lorainne!) were going to be part of our family (if I had anything to say about it!!!!). What a beautiful foundation Maggie was given, and to say she immediately fit in was an understatement. So, the first week she learned the ins and outs of Liberty Hill and the second week she assisted in the CTS sponsored DREAM program, run by another extraordinary young person, Erin Nagle, as part of her Girl Scout Gold Award. What a wonderful week. What a wonderful kid. What a natural talent and how blessed we feel to have had Maggie and Lorainne join our barn family.

At the end of the two weeks, I was more certain than ever, **and offered Maggie a formal working student position**. She came to our farm one weekend day a week and helped care for the horses, hacked a couple and earned a lesson while she was here helping, learning, achieving, maturing! **Maggie is the kid that everyone wants at their barn**. I can tell you that the "stars" are out there and they deserve the chance to shine.

**The CTS program works...and** even though all of the children may not continue on as Maggie did, or have the talent or passion she has for horses, let there be no doubt that one week will change a life forever. These kids will never forget the time they spent with us. It is amazing, and such a small amount to give and have such a great impact. On Monday, their eyes show astonishment, wonder and insecurity. By Friday, their faces show pride and confidence. Their goodbye smiles are bittersweet. They know they belong here, but also recognize they are done for the year.

What they have experienced is nothing short of a miracle if very nearly dreamlike in their world. They have met Maggie, heard her story from day one, held her up high on a pedestal...she is their hero...living proof that they too can soar...that there are people who will give them opportunity and that it is their job to recognize, grab it and run with it!

I wish them well and tell them that we all hope to see them again next summer and as I walk back to the house, I wish that I could keep every one of them here all year long.

Please visit Liberty Hill on line at [www.liberty-hill.net](http://www.liberty-hill.net)

Kelly Quill

Owner/Trainer

Liberty Hill~Lancaster, Ma