

Volunteers needed ? Caledon Equestrian School hosts program for special needs riders

The Pegasus Program, run by Caledon Equestrian School (CES) is an equestrian program for children and adults with special needs, both physical and developmental.

The program provides therapy for the students, as well as a form of recreation. Not only are the students getting therapy from the horse's movement, but the bond that is formed between the horse and rider is immeasurable.

The program is volunteer based and its survival depends on committed volunteers. Each rider needs up to three helpers ? a leader and two sidewalkers, so the need for volunteers is enormous. A commitment to the whole session is important, as the continuity in the relationship with their helpers is essential for the kids.

Horse experience is not necessary. Training is provided by the CES staff. Volunteers learn to lead and how to sidewalk safely. If they are interested, they can also learn how to help in the barn to prepare and put away horses.

The program runs at CES, 13441 Airport Rd., about one kilometre south of King Street. Pegasus runs every Sunday from Sept. 10 to Dec. 10, except Thanksgiving Sunday (Oct 8) and Oct. 22. Volunteers arrive at 11:45 a.m. and stay until 4. The program is also expanding to Thursday evenings for the fall session.

The people who come to help with Pegasus, receive great satisfaction in helping the kids and developing a relationship with both riders and horses. The help give students the chance to ride on a horse and acquire the movement they might not get otherwise. This is an amazing opportunity and provides a rewarding volunteer experience.

Those interested in volunteering can contact Susan Fripp at coach_1@sympatico.ca, or at 905-584-2022.