



PRESS RELEASE

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TRRC's Dr. Helen S. Tuel Honored by Vanderbilt University with Alumni Public Service Award



Nashville, Tennessee - Dr. Helen S. Tuel, Founding Director of the Therapeutic and Recreational Riding Center (TRRC) in Glenwood, MD, was honored by Vanderbilt University on October 23, 2015 with the Alumni Association Board of Director's Alumni Public Service Award. The presentation was made at a ceremony held during the University's Reunion/Homecoming 2015.

Thirty years ago Tuel recognized the health benefits of riding horses for children with disabilities. She enrolled at Vanderbilt and obtained a doctorate in education administration—focusing on the value of play in learning—and started the Therapeutic and Recreational Riding Center in Maryland with just a borrowed pony and one child with Down Syndrome.

TRRC is now a premier accredited center with 35 trained, certified staff members. Through TRRC, Tuel uses horse riding to heal catastrophically wounded warriors and improve the attention span, memory, concentration, speech, and confidence of children with disabilities.

“Helen’s commitment to provide therapeutic riding services is an inspiration,” says Jonathan Glasgow, BA’98, awards chair for the Alumni Association Board. “She left a comfortable job, pursued a Vanderbilt graduate degree and now provides a great service to children and adults with emotional and physical disabilities.”

The Alumni Public Service Award recognizes an alumnus/alumna with superior service in the public sector or a sustained pattern of volunteer service in the community, or service to the arts, that has positively represented the university and fellow citizens.

For more information contact TRRC at trrc01@aol.com.

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ABOUT TRRC: The 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 including cerebral palsy, spina bifida, muscular dystrophy, post-traumatic brain injury, autism, ADHD and cognitive disorders. TRRC serves approximately 200 individuals of differing abilities, ages 3 – 77 each week from the Baltimore-Washington area. The Center has earned premier accreditation from the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International and is certified “Best in America” by the Independent Charities of America.