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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WILLOW WOOD RANCH HAS CHARITY-FILLED WEEKEND

Representatives of Willow Wood Ranch were on hand for two charity events this past weekend:

Prosper High School Fall Carnival

On Saturday, October 25th the Prosper High School Student Council hosted a Fall Carnival. Event participants included many student organizations but was also open to members of the community. Willow Wood Ranch sponsored a booth and sold baked goods that were donated by volunteers and families associated with their "Walk On!" equine therapy riding program. Funds raised through the bake sale will be used to offset operating costs of the therapy program.

"We were happy to take part in this wonderful event," said Tara Malphrus, Executive Director. "Not only did we raise a few dollars for our program, but also increased awareness of the positive benefits of equine therapy for handicapped children and adults."

In addition, many people expressed an interest in becoming involved with the program as volunteers. Malphrus added, "we thank the Prosper High School Student Council for allowing us to participate in this event, and congratulate them on a job well done."

Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas' 3rd Annual Buddy Walk

On Sunday, October 26th the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas held their third annual "Buddy Walk" to raise awareness for children with Down Syndrome. Willow Wood Ranch staff and volunteers were on hand in Flower Mound, Texas to walk with their "buddy" Michael Bramer and his family. Ten-year-old Michael is enrolled in the "Walk On!" equine therapy program at the ranch and was proud to have his friends on-hand for this event. Actor and singer Chris Burke, best known for his role as "Corky" on the television series "Life Goes On" was the special guest for the day. Willow Wood Ranch participants walked with Michael, Chris, and hundreds of others who wanted to share their compassion for those with Down Syndrome.

"We're very proud of Michael and the progress he has made through equine therapy," said Tara Malphrus, executive director of Willow Wood Ranch. "He is becoming a very confident young man and really enjoys working with the horses and volunteers at the ranch."

Willow Wood Ranch salutes the Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas and everything they do to promote the awareness and inclusion of our fellow citizens with Down Syndrome.

About Willow Wood Ranch, Inc.

Founded in 2003, Willow Wood Ranch, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation located in Celina, Texas.

Our mission is to reach out to children and adults with disabilities in order to facilitate a positive change in their lives using proven equine therapy methods.

For more information please contact Tara Malphrus, Executive Director at (972) 347-9616 or visit **www.therapyriding.com**.