



Backside News

APRIL 2009

APRIL EVENTS:

APRIL 6th— CHURCHILL VITA
(Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) 10AM-2PM

APRIL 21ST—
SPRING OPEN
HOUSE 11AM-1PM

**APRIL 25TH-
APRIL 30TH** —
DERBY GIFT SHOP
AT BACKSIDE
LEARNING CENTER

UPCOMING EVENTS:

MAY 1ST-3RD —
DERBY GIFT SHOP AT
NATIONAL CITY BANK
PARKING LOT OFF
4TH AND CENTRAL
AVE

MAY 3RD— DERBY
GIFT SHOP AT BACK-
SIDE LEARNING CEN-
TER

MAY 11TH— GROOM
ELITE 101 BEGINS

MAY 14TH— VOLUN-
TEER/STUDENT REC-
OGNITION PARTY
5-7PM

APRIL CENTER HOURS:

MONDAY-FRIDAY
CHURCHILL
11:30 AM-5PM

Written by: Rachel Brokaw

For the past two years, The Backside Learning Center has run a Derby gift shop fundraiser. Each year, we have sold Derby souvenirs, including t-shirts, glasses, hats, and more, with all of the proceeds supporting our programming. However, each year the gift shop has looked a little different.

In 2007, the Learning Center building went from being a school to a store. Since we usually suspend programming during Derby week, we put the desks and tables for classes and tutoring to good use by stocking them with souvenirs. Having access to the backside was immensely profitable, and the Learning Center made \$12,000 in proceeds.

Unfortunately, that was not to be repeated in 2008, due to licensing agreements. Instead, the Learning Center gift shop was moved to Central Station, a nearby shopping center. Faulkner Real Estate, owners of the development, provided free use of an empty store front for the two weeks before Derby. Derby Central, our first off-site gift shop, was a very different experience. Even with a location so close to Churchill Downs, there was not the same access to foot traffic. While the

Shop for a Cause

event helped to raise the surrounding community's awareness of our organization, it was not as successful at raising money.

This year the Learning Center's Derby gift shop will take yet another form. While licensing agreements still prevent us from selling on the backside on Oaks and Derby Days, the week leading up to Derby weekend we can take full advantage of our backside location.



Store Front of the Learning Center's Derby Gift Shop in 2008

On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, we will shift locations. We are renting a spot on the National City parking lot at the corner of 4th Street and Central Avenue. This spot is right in the middle of Derby foot traffic. On Sunday, for the first time we will run gift shops at two separate locations, as we will be able to sell from the backside again while keeping the merchandise tent open at National City.

Our gift shop fundraisers depend on the contributions of volunteers. Each year, volunteers have helped every hour our gift shops have been open. They have waited on customers, ran cash registers, stocked product, and represented the Learning Center with enthusiasm.

As the former manager of the Kentucky Derby Museum gift shop, Judy Bortner's volunteer service in 2007 and 2008 was very helpful to our fundraisers. She said what she enjoyed most about working in the gift shop was the opportunity to "spread the word" about the Learning Center.

"The Learning Center benefits from the exposure it gets because of the Derby time gift shopping opportunity," she said. "The Louisville community is familiar with the 'front side' of Churchill Downs, but the 'backside' is relatively unfamiliar to most."

With two gift shop locations open simultaneously over Derby weekend, the Learning Center needs a lot of volunteer support this year. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Rachel Brokaw.

Even if you are not able to volunteer, support the Learning Center by buying your 2009 Derby souvenirs from us!

Student & Volunteer Profile



Toni McAfee at
Trackside Louisville

Written by: Kevin Oberhausen

Interview with Toni McAfee

When did you begin using the services of the Learning Center?

I started coming when I was stabled at Churchill Downs about 3-4 years ago. Now I work year-round at Trackside so I only come during the winter.

Which services do you use at the Learning Center?

I mostly use the Computer Lab and

the Library.

How did you begin working with horses?

Through my boyfriend. I came with him one day to feed the horses and after that I wanted to learn more. A trainer in the barns needed a hot walker, and I've basically been doing it ever since.

What books do you like to read?

Any kind really, but I like the authors Jackie Collins, Danielle Steel, and Dean Koontz.

Is there anything else you would like to say?

Yes, I think the Learning Center is a great thing for the workers on the backside.

Interview with Alayne Wright

When did you begin volunteering at the Learning Center?

In 2004 when it opened.

How did you become involved?

Someone mentioned to me that if I didn't have anything else to do I could volunteer at the Learning Center.

What kind of things do you do at the Learning Center?

Well...recycling, I do soccer, I help with English practice, take Spanish classes here, and whatever else you all need me to do.

What have you learned from volunteering at the Learning Center?

Some Spanish, but it's a work in progress. I've also learned that people on the backside are the hardest working and nicest people there are. They are the nicest people I've ever known and they are willing to help me with anything.

What has been your favorite Learning Center experience?

Probably just getting to know some of the students on a personal level, because I'm a people person.



Alayne Wright at The
Backside Learning Center
at Churchill Downs

Team Notes

APRIL CLASS SCHEDULE:

**BEGINNING ESL
PRACTICE** - TUES-
DAY-THURSDAY
11:30AM-1:00PM

SPANISH - TUESDAY
5:30PM-7PM

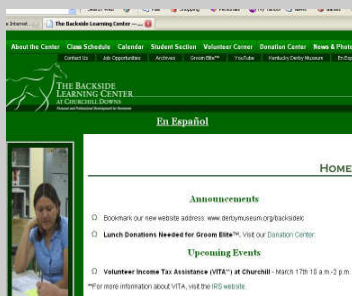
Written by: Melissa Johnson

There have been many changes going on at the Learning Center lately. One of the biggest changes is the website. At the beginning of March, the new website was launched and the web address changed to www.derbymuseum.org/backsidelc. We also changed our e-mail address at the Learning Center to: backsidelc@derbymuseum.org.

The old web address and e-mail address will redirect to the newer addresses for a few months which will allow everyone time to make the changes.

The changes to the website focus on meeting the

needs of our students, volunteers and donors and also on making our website more user-friendly. There is a new Student Section where students will be



The new homepage of the
Learning Center's website

able to learn more about the classes and services we offer. There is also a Volunteer Corner where we hope to provide

more teaching and tutoring resources for our volunteers. We also have a Donation Center on the website where everyone can see the Learning Center's Wish List and donation needs. We hope to offer a "Donate Online" option in the future.

More importantly, we hope to build and maintain community through our website. We hope that students will continue to visit it when they are traveling so that they can keep up on the happenings at the Learning Center. Eventually, we would like to provide more learning resources on the website so they can continue their studies while they are traveling.

CENTER WISH LIST:

- Any book for adults written in Spanish
- Bilingual books
- Audio books with accompanying texts, particularly shorter or easier books, poetry or adult-appropriate learning-to-read books
- Spanish-English dictionaries
- Soccer shoes (size 8, 8 1/2, 9, 9 1/2, 10, gently used is fine)
- Soccer balls
- Class supplies, especially notebooks, binders, pencils, dry erase markers
- 2 Updated GED textbooks in English
- 2 Updated GED textbooks in Spanish
- 10 Pimsleur Inglés: English for Spanish Speakers with Audio CD textbooks
- Air pump for soccer balls
- 2 2009 Road Map Atlases—United States, Canada and Mexico

Class in the Spotlight: Groom Elite



Written by: Kevin Oberhausen
Every year the Backside Learning Center hosts the Groom Elite Program. A major objective of this program is to improve the care horses receive, reduce the number of injuries to horses and humans, and increase the self-esteem of backside workers. Since the Learning Center began offering this program, over 50 students have graduated as certified grooms.

The Groom Elite Program will make three different courses available this year at the Learning Center: Groom Elite 101, Groom Elite 201, and a Trainer Exam Prep Class. In order to receive certification, students must attend 80% of all class sessions and score 70% or above on written and hands-on exams. Once certified, students receive a Groom Elite diploma and an official Groom Elite jacket. Students who graduate from multiple classes receive recognition patches for their jackets.

The Executive Director of the Elite Program is Reid McLellan. Reid found it very gratifying when the program finally gained national recognition. "The Welfare & Safety Summit indicated in both of



Groom Elite 101 in Spring 2008 at Churchill

their sessions that the safety of the racehorse and the horseman could be improved through the offering of more programs like Groom Elite," Reid said.

Learning Center volunteer and certified Groom Elite instructor Sara Dorman thinks Groom Elite is an essential program for any horseman. "Racehorses are fragile animals and are exposed to a lot of physical labor in their workouts. They live in confined ar-

reas and are around several other horses," she described. "These horses are people's investments, and it's important that the people who care for these animals are educated about them."

Sara says that if Groom Elite students can only take away one thing from a course it should be "a sense of pride in knowing why they do the things they do. A lot of equine care workers get caught up in the motions of their work, but never stop to think about why they're doing certain things. Groom Elite explains the whys behind the motions."

Reid agrees with Sara, but expanded on her thought. "Everything we do is for them to understand that they are truly important in putting racehorses on the track. Many times, only a groom can provide a trainer with information about a horse. They should know that they have a very important position with regard to the welfare of the horse. Their job is very significant."

VOLUNTEER CORNER

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Contact Rachel Brokaw at the Learning Center if you are interested in volunteering.

ESL TUTOR: Provide personalized instruction, encouragement, and support to an adult English language learner. Plan lessons and work one-on-one with your student. Time commitment: Two hours a week, Mondays at 1pm.

ESL CLASS SUPPORT: Provide instruction to new and/or struggling adult English language learners. Use class curriculum in a one-on-one or small group setting to prepare students to enter (or re-enter) the classroom. Time commitment: Two hours a week, or every other week.

CONVERSATION PARTNERS FOR BILINGUAL CONVERSATION TABLES: Converse with adult English language learners during bilingual conversa-

tion tables. Use both English and Spanish to affirm students' knowledge and create a non-threatening environment. Conversation prompts will be provided. Time commitment: One hour a week, Thursdays from 6-7pm.

CONVERSATION LEADER FOR BILINGUAL CONVERSATION TABLES: Plan bilingual conversation prompts for multiple levels of language ability. Assist in matching conversation partners and adult ESL students. Act as a conversation partner when needed. Time commitment: one to two hours a week, Thursdays from 6-7pm.

QUILTER NEEDED: Someone has generously donated materials for a quilt. We need a talented quilter to put these materials together and make a quilt for us to sell for a fundraiser.

For more information, visit the Volunteer Corner on our website!

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR HARD WORK AND TIME!

SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS

NEEDED: We are participating in several upcoming Silent Auctions. Volunteer to help us collect items for the auctions or donate items!

RECOGNITION PARTY SPONSORS: We need 2 sponsors for every party to bring drinks and party snacks for about 20 people. Parties are usually the second Thursday of the month from 5-7 PM, starting in May.

THE OUTRIDER'S SOCIETY

The Outriders Society is the volunteer organization of the Kentucky Derby Museum. Since we are a Derby Museum program, all Learning Center volunteers are eligible to join, and your volunteer hours count towards Outriders benefits. Contact Julie Henry at 637-1111, x336 or online at: <http://www.derbymuseum.org/>