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Photo Credit: NCMT Holiday Party attendees listen to Tory Grieves speak about what NCMT means to her. Photo by: Richard Killian of Richard Killian Photography. *Photograph may be used only in relation to this PMG press release.*

“Stars Over Waveny House” Holiday Party and Silent Auction Benefit New Canaan Mounted Troop’s Building on Tradition Capital Campaign

New Canaan, CT – November 21, 2006 – New Canaan Mounted Troop, Inc. (NCMT), a 501 (c) 3 non-profit educational and charitable youth organization based in New Canaan, CT, held the third annual “Stars Over Waveny” Holiday Party and Silent Auction on Saturday, November 18, at the historic Waveny House. NCMT is devoted to building leadership, responsibility and confidence in youth through sound horsemanship. Proceeds from the evening fundraiser went to their Building on Tradition Capital Campaign, Scholarship Program and Emergency Medical Fund for the Horses.

“The evening was a huge success,” commented Michelle H. Schmerzler, president of NCMT. “We raised more than we ever have at this particular fundraiser. Everyone had a terrific time, bidding on the vast array of silent auction items, dancing, and enjoying delicious cocktails and hors d’oeuvres.”

“Over 260 guests attended the event, and the Silent Auction offered 115 items,” she continued. “One of the most popular items with the highest bid was a quilt donated by NCMT kids, which included their hand painted renditions of all 30 of our NCMT horses.”

Other highly contested items included courtside New York Knicks tickets and New York Yankees tickets, as well as private lessons donated by NCMT instructors. In addition to bidding in the auction, many people made contributions to the NCMT Wish List, which included donations for the

Medical Emergency Fund for the horses and equipment such as a horse vacuum, jumps and clippers. “We also received more commitments specifically to benefit our Capital Campaign to rebuild the facility,” Schmerzler added.

The Building on Tradition Capital Campaign is a \$3 million initiative to build a new facility for the historic NCMT, which touches the lives of hundreds of children each year. The facility has reached an impasse in its ability to serve the community because of its limitations. Although NCMT takes great pride in the facility and devotes many volunteer hours to maintain it, the 66-year-old structure has aged and must be replaced.

“Since 1939, NCMT has provided a comprehensive program for children from a variety of backgrounds the opportunity to participate in the equestrian sport,” said Schmerzler. “Interest in the program has never been greater, yet we are facing our biggest challenge. Time has taken a serious toll on our barn and indoor ring. At this point, we have no option other than to completely rebuild.” She explained, “A new facility will provide our students, staff and horses with a far safer and more functional environment, with room to expand our programs and allow us to continue for many future generations.”

For more information on NCMT or to help with the Building on Tradition Capital Campaign initiative, please visit www.newcanaanmountedtroop.org.



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