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## **New Canaan Mounted Troop Receives Grant to Further Support Charity's Life Changing Programs**

Photo Credit: Horizons Students Photo: Courtesy of New Canaan Mounted Troop.

New Canaan , CT- September 27, 2006 - New Canaan Mounted Troop (NCMT) is pleased to announce that they have been awarded a grant from the EQUUS Foundation that will benefit their scholarship program. "We are so grateful to the EQUUS Foundation for their support, and we truly appreciate the wonderful work they do to help organizations like NCMT," stated Michelle Schmerzler, President of the Board for NCMT.

The NCMT Scholarship Program was established many years ago and provides students with the opportunity to participate in an activity that otherwise would be financially prohibitive. Full and partial scholarships are awarded for up to 10% of the membership and are issued on an annual basis. Most of the scholarship recipients have been enrolled with NCMT for many years, allowing these students to gain the full benefit of the program from elementary school through high school.

NCMT awards scholarships to children who qualify from the Horizons Student Enrichment Program and children in need from the surrounding community. The Horizons Student Enrichment Program is an academic, cultural and athletic program designed to encourage students from diverse, low-income families to reach their full potential. Each summer, the Horizons children have visited NCMT as part of their Horizons camp activities.

Ten years ago, NCMT began accepting Horizons students into their full academic year program. NCMT currently offers up to six scholarships to Horizons alone. In addition, scholarships are awarded to children in need from the surrounding community who are not able to afford NCMT's program due to a variety of family circumstances.

“It is through the generosity of the EQUUS Foundation that we are able to fulfill the dreams of those who could otherwise not participate in our program,” added Schmerzler.

The EQUUS Foundation, Inc., an all-volunteer 501(c) (3) non-profit fund raising organization, was founded in August 2002 to promote the positive use of the horse for the benefit of the general public and the equestrian sport as a whole. In just three years, EQUUS has awarded over \$350,000 in grants, benefiting thousands of horses and people, thanks to the generosity of its many individual and corporate donors.

NCMT is also a 501 (c) (3) non-profit educational and charitable youth organization. NCMT is devoted to building leadership, responsibility, and confidence in youth through sound horsemanship. It is home to 30 horses that have either been donated or lent to the NCMT horsemanship program. Currently they have over 140 students in their horsemanship programs.

For more information on NCMT, please visit them online at [www.newcanaanmountedtroop.org](http://www.newcanaanmountedtroop.org). For additional information on grants, please contact The EQUUS Foundation, Inc., at (203) 259-1550, or send an email to: [equusfoundation@aol.com](mailto:equusfoundation@aol.com).



Photo Credit: Horizons Students Photo: Courtesy of New Canaan Mounted Troop.