

WEF sponsors SPED trip to Ironstone Farm

Congratulations to Dolbeare School staff member Robyn Biagioni! Wakefield Educational Foundation (WEF) recently approved a grant for \$500 that will allow Dolbeare Special Education students to visit Ironstone Farm in Andover, MA for therapeutic horseback riding sessions known as 'Hippotherapy'.

Hippotherapy is defined as "therapy using the movement of the horse", which is the primary purpose of the Ironstone Therapy program. For a person straddling a walking horse, the movement created within the person is almost the same as the normal walking movement. This means that a person with abnormal walking movement can realize the physical benefits of walking simply by riding a horse. Ironstone's therapists use this unique motion to help clients improve balance and coordination, increase muscle tone, and make gains in strength and stamina – all of which are difficult to achieve in the classroom or clinic. For the client therapy is effective and fun.

Pictured L to R: WEF Director Gayle Wettach, Armani Cherisme, Declan Carney, Liam Darling and Robyn Biagioni.

