



Beth

Beth's very first visit to Chakota was at our first Fall Festival. It was very frigid that year, and Beth was by some of the horses. With her father's help, she was petting them and had a big smile on her face even then. Beth was one of our very first Riders that needed a tandem rider behind her to help support her as she rode. Her core strength wasn't strong enough yet to hold her up on the horse safely. So, with her dad at her side, her other side walker holding onto her, and mom cheering from the fence, we got Beth on a horse! When Beth first started to ride, she would hardly talk at all. When we found out how much she loves music though, we started asking her to sing some of her favorite songs from Barney that she loves so much, and it worked! There were true tears of happiness when we heard her singing. It was amazing!! Beth's core is now strong enough that she no longer needs a tandem back rider when she rides. She has also learned to communicate with her horse by saying "go" and "stop"! It is a thrill listening to her say "GO!" Sometimes it takes some extra coaching to get her to say it, so we turn to "Cowboy Dave", he shouts "GO", and she'll repeat him! She now knows when she says "stop" to her horse, he will stop, so now she refuses to say stop anymore! This cowgirl wants to ride!!