



Colt

Kay wrote about Colt, *"I remember Colt when he was a little bitty guy. When I first met him it was at our very first Fall Festival nine years ago. His dad picked him up out of his wheelchair so that he could get close enough to Cherokee to pet him. I remember watching him; he was a bit afraid at first and then reached out and stroked Cherokee's cheek. He had my heart then!"*

It would take two more years before we could get everything ready for Colt and the rest of our Riders to ride, but once he started riding his horse, he was a sight to see! Colt has always had the determination to improve something every time he rode. He would sit up taller in the saddle, he would stretch farther to reach his targets, or he would raise his voice as loud as he could to tell his horse their directions. And he did all this with a huge smile on his face and appreciation in his eyes!

To point out how far Colt has come over the years; this season we thought we would surprise him by introducing him to the reins. The thought behind this is; when you give a Rider the reins to their horse, it's also giving them control over their horse and eventually, themselves. Their self-confidence starts to grow, and independence soon follows. A child in a wheelchair doesn't always have the opportunity to get out and see things in a new perspective. While they are on their horse, their horses' four legs give them that opportunity.

Colt is a very active young man who likes to hunt and spend a lot of time outdoors. He is another perfect example of what Chakota is all about. Building core strength, creating friendships, finding confidence and acceptance, believing in himself, and striving for improvement every time he rides. So if you still think a Therapeutic Riding Center is just a horseback ride, you need to come out and see for yourself why we say miracles happen out here. We can guarantee you will leave with a smile on your face!