

## Press Release

### “The Divine Equine – Art for the Horse Lover”

Opening Reception: Friday July 25, 6:00 – 9:00, Exhibit July 23 – Sept. 25.

Location: In Westchase at Great Art & Frame and Edward Jones Financial in Westpark Village, 9906 W. Linebaugh Ave., Tampa, FL 33626. Call (813) 792-8960.

Benefit for *Bakas Equestrian Center – Horses for the Handicapped* in Tampa is excited to announce an upcoming fundraiser hosted by Great Art and Frame located in nearby Westchase. Beth Harre-Orr, director of the center since its inception 21 years ago, is excited about the support by the surrounding community. Bakas, a non profit organization, provides free horseback riding lessons and opportunities to children and adults with many types of disabilities. “Literally thousands of people with disabilities have ridden horses at our facility. Many have ridden at Bakas for years,” says Beth.

She further notes that horses have a unique effect on people, especially people with special needs. Many riders have progressed from riding with a horse handler and side walkers to becoming independent at the walk, trot and even canter.

Hundreds of Bakas riders have competed in Special Olympics equestrian events or Florida Challenge horse shows. Riders love showing off what they practice in classes such as equitation, trails (obstacle course), barrel racing, pole bending, dressage, driving and more.

The public is invited to come and experience horses through the eyes of professional artists. Opening night will delight you with fine wine, good food and raffles for donated goods and services. “Our goal is to raise \$5,000 for the “Bakas Horses for Handicapped program” said gallery owner, Joose Hadley. Some of the riders will be in attendance to share their experiences.

Bakas Equestrian Center is a proud program of Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Dept. A non-profit parent organization, “Horses for Handicapped” continuously raises money to offset expenses of this wonderful program. All proceeds go directly to sponsorship of horses or for necessary supplies and equipment needed by the students.

The Bakas Equestrian Center is fully accredited by the North American Riding for Handicapped Association and boasts six NARHA certified instructors on staff.

Approximately 90 disabled children and adult riders visit each week for their half hour lessons. Parents must donate an equal amount of volunteer time in order for their child to participate. Other volunteers are needed on a regular basis as well. Youth volunteers between the ages of 12-17 make up our Barn Brat program.

For more information about Bakas go to [www.bakasridingcenter.com](http://www.bakasridingcenter.com) or to make a donation call 813-264-3890. They are located at 11510 Whisper Lake Trail, Tampa, Fl. 33626.

For more information about Great Art and Frame visit [www.greatartandframe.com](http://www.greatartandframe.com) or visit them near Starbucks at 9906 W. Linebaugh Ave. Tampa, Fl. 33626 (813) 792-8960

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