

# NEWS RELEASE

**From:** Shining Stars Therapeutic Riding Program  
3185 York Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325  
Contact: Karen Bowling 717-334-5622

**Date:** 2/17/10

**Re:** Special Event to Benefit Shining Stars Indoor Arena Project.

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Shining Stars Therapeutic Riding Ministries, 3185 York Road, Gettysburg, PA is in the process of fundraising for it's 3-phase project to build an indoor arena & Therapeutic Learning Center. Estimated cost of \$300,000 for Phase 1 of the facility includes the shell, concrete work, electric and insulation. With the organization getting close to raising \$200,000 the community is invited to help Shining Stars keep the financial momentum going by supporting the "Star Appeal" Capital Campaign.

The Capital Campaign kick-off event is on Friday March 19, 2010 from 7:00-8:30PM, at the Cross Keys Motor Lodge Banquet Room, 6110 York Road, New Oxford, PA. There will be light refreshments, and a chance to learn more about the building project and how it will increase the organization's therapeutic services to the community.

Featured guest speaker will be Keith Newerla, from King of Prussia, PA. Born with cerebral palsy, Keith began his career in a therapeutic riding program and has become an accomplished equestrian competitor, specializing in dressage riding. Keith's long list of major achievements include riding at Beijing, China, as a member of the 2008 U.S. Paralympics Equestrian Team.

Please join with us as we gather and celebrate this amazing SSTR vision turning into a reality. The new Therapeutic Learning Center will benefit the community in many unique ways, from equine-assisted therapy to special events, after school programs to corporate teambuilding workshops.

If you cannot attend the Kick-off Event, you can pledge your support in a number of other ways, including contributions on our website at [www.shiningstarstr.com](http://www.shiningstarstr.com). Please get in touch with Executive Director, Brandy Crago at 717-398-8327, to find out more!

# KEITH NEWERLA INFORMATION

Guest Speaker for Capital Campaign Kick-off Event March 19, 2010...  
To Benefit Shining Stars Therapeutic Riding Ministry  
with the Therapeutic Learning Center indoor arena project

Photo by Milos Bicanski/Getty Images



Keith Newerla and Walk on the Moon at the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing, China.



Photo by Doug Prather

Keith and Walk on the Moon

**Home:** King of Prussia, Pennsylvania

**Birthday:** February 3, 1983

**Education:** Minnesota State University Moorhead

## Major Achievements:

2008: U.S. Paralympic Team member, Equestrian - Beijing, China

2007: Sixth place - National Championships

2007: 10<sup>th</sup> place - World Championships Games

2004: Fourth place - Paralympic Games, Athens, Greece

2004: Grand Champion - Paralympic Trials

2004: Gold medal - North American Young Rider Championships

2003: Grand Champion - USET Festival of Champions

2002: Gold medal - North American Young Rider Championships

2002: Silver medal - Innervision International Championship

- Keith Newerla was born with Spastic Diplegia, a form of cerebral palsy that affects the muscles of the lower body. He always tries to help children with disabilities see the benefits of adapted recreation and keep a positive outlook on life.
- Keith began his career in a therapeutic riding program and became a member of the US Paralympic Equestrian Team.
- Paralympic riders compete in two dressage events; a championship test of set movements and a freestyle test to music. There is also a team test for three or four riders. Competitors are judged on their display of horsemanship skills demonstrated through their use of commands for walk, trot and canter.
- Paralympic equestrian competition is open to male and female athletes with physical disabilities such as amputation/limb loss, blindness/visual impairment, spinal cord injury/wheelchair-users and cerebral palsy/brain injury/stroke.