

**Introducing – “How Sweet It Is” A Gala to benefit High Hopes Therapeutic Riding Inc.**

**Saturday, June 9th, 2018**



*Kitty Stalsburg, Executive at Director High Hopes Therapeutic Riding Inc.; Nancy H. Bulkeley, Senior Community Affairs Representative, Dominion Energy; Theresa V. Donatelli, Partner/Wealth Advisor at Northstar Wealth Partners, LLC; Emily Jewett, Gala Joint Chair; Hannah Childs, Gala Joint Chair, Emilie Rose Willoughby, Designer at Julia Balfour LLC; Kristen Peterson, Account Manager at Julia Balfour LLC; Sara Slayton Qua, Development Director at High Hopes; Trudy Burgess, Event Manager at High Hopes.*

**Representatives from High Hopes Therapeutic Riding, Northstar Wealth Partners and Julia Balfour LLC today announced the launch of the 2018 June Gala and – *How Sweet It Is***

**High Hopes' Annual Gala is one of Connecticut's premier social and fundraising events; gathering our supporters across Connecticut and beyond, for an evening of dining, dancing, and dedication to our mission.**

This year's Event Chairs, Hannah Childs and Emily Jewett, have chosen the theme “*How Sweet It Is*” as a fun way to recognize this event's widely popular band “*Sugar*” and to represent the important work that we do here at High Hopes. “*Sugar*” is a ten-piece band that has been playing together for 15 years. They carry a dedicated following and have played in some of the most prestigious venues in New England with a “*huge repertoire from oldies to current music, and they are just soooo good!*”

This year's Event Partners are **Northstar Wealth Partners** and **Dominion Energy** along with All American Waste, Julia Balfour LLC, WNLC Radio, OverAbove, Bob’s Discount Furniture and Clark Group, Brushline Designs.

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Theresa Donatelli, Partner commented; "Northstar Wealth Partners has been built by developing close and long-standing relationships with our clients and the communities we serve. Since we expanded to the shoreline with a team of seasoned local advisors, we have been proud supporters of High Hopes and the outstanding and meaningful work that takes place there." Northstar have been High Hopes June Gala Event Partners for five years.

"This is the start of our fifth year partnering with Northstar Wealth Partners and is indicative of the type of long-term, symbiotic community partnerships we are privileged to enjoy, and which benefit our participants each and every day." Remarked Sara Slayton Qua, High Hopes Development Director. "Events such as the gala also give us an opportunity to recognize year-round support received from Dominion Energy. As a partner in our Horses & Healing programs, Dominion Energy support the invaluable benefits that a horse - human relationship can give to military veterans and domestic violence survivors living with PTSD and to children at risk of failure within a traditional school system."

The gala will feature both a live and silent auction and a gourmet dinner by Gourmet Galley of North Stonington. Invites will be mailed in April and many of our corporate supporters choose a sponsorship level which gives them complimentary tickets as well as a host of other marketing benefits. If you would like us to add your family or your company to the invite list, please express your interest by email to [tburgess@highhopestr.org](mailto:tburgess@highhopestr.org) or call Karena Garrity at 860-434-1974 x 119.

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### **Notes for Editors**

1. High Hopes is a premier therapeutic riding center and international instructor-training site, accredited by the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.) since 1979. We have served people with physical, emotional and developmental disabilities for more than forty years, offering year round programs in equine assisted activities, including therapeutic riding, carriage driving and equine learning program. We also offer experiential learning through outreach programs, an integrated summer camp program and a variety of volunteer opportunities. High Hopes serves over 1800 people with disabilities each year, underwriting over 70% of all lesson costs and providing financial aid to 100% of our participants. - See more at: <http://highhopestr.org/about/our-mission/>
2. For more information or to arrange an interview with one of our Trustees or staff please contact: SarahCrisp, Communications Manager **Call: 860.434.1974 x 128**  
**Email: [scrisp@highhopestr.org](mailto:scrisp@highhopestr.org)**