

## **2007 Leg-Up Award Winner**

Victoria Grey, Henry County

### **Describe the Type of horse project and level of involvement for this 4-Her:**

She has been an active member and helps everyone.

### **What leadership roles associated with the horse project have been held by this individual:**

Assisted with project books, teaching beginner proper horse grooming, handling, safety, and first aid.

### **What equine service activities has this youth been involved with:**

Volunteered with free lessons taught to developmentally unable children.

### **Describe any special circumstances or efforts that demonstrate the worthiness of this individual for the Leg-Up Award:**

Lack of confidence, and the lack of self esteem needed for everyday life! Since working with the 4-H, she has gained tons of confidence (too much at times). She has grown up a lot and has turned into an amazing young lady.

Victoria has overcome a lot of her self esteem problems and is now an independent hard working young lady!

This year's leg up award winner has met adversity in her young life and overcome it. At a very tender age she showed a great passion for dance. Even in this pursuit, she felt a draw to horses. At her first dance recital, she danced to a song about a little cowgirl and she performed her routine riding on a stick horse. This began her dream of one day owning a real horse. At the age of 7 her life as a dancer came to a sudden halt when her father died unexpectedly. As a result, this young lady, her 4 siblings and her mother moved in with their grandparents. Even in her circumstances, she found a way to get involved with horses by visiting her uncle and playing with his ponies none of which had ever been ridden. She began to read everything she could about horses. She even kept a journal of what she would look for in a horse if she ever got to buy one.

In 2003, this young lady met tragedy again when her very best friend, her papa, passed away. She relied on the strength of her faith and the support of her family to grow into the person she is today.

In 2004, with the help of friends and family, she was able to begin riding lessons. Her passion for horses grew but in 2005 she met another obstacle. Due to medical bills, one sibling in college, one sibling in the Marines, and two siblings at home it was not possible to continue riding lessons, but she never complained because she knew her family came first.

But with every door that closes a window opens. With the new year, she had another opportunity to ride horses. This time she made a trade, she worked at the barn in exchange for lessons. She not only met the needs of the farm but became family to them. In the process, she

learned how to groom, exercise and ride. This 4-H'er appreciates the help she has been given and eagerly shares what she has learned with others. She is an encourager, always telling other riders how great they look, how much they have improved and tries to boost their confidence.

Competing at the state show is more than she ever dreamed of. She has worked hard to prepare for this competition. She has 11 members of her family here to support her and cheer her on. The only thing that would make this weekend more special for her would be to have her daddy and her papa with her. This year's leg up award goes to 13 year old, Victoria, Grey, from Henry County.