

## **2015 Leg Up Award Winner**

***Elana Marie Wilson – Northumberland County***

Our leg up award this year goes to Elana Marie Wilson.

Elana has been a member of the Bills, Beaks, and Hooves 4-H club since 2008. This is her 6<sup>th</sup> year participating at the State Horse Show.

Our leg up winner this year has overcome multiple family struggles, dyslexia as well as hearing impairment with the help of her “feisty” miniature horse project, to become an indispensable club member and role model 4-Her. With patience and understanding, Elana forged a bond with an unruly miniature gelding named Apollo and helped him become the ideal project horse. Together, the two have participated in a wide range of community programs including “Pet Pals” intro to therapy, “Out there with Animals” events, cart rides, and petting zoos for local children.

Personally, Elana has shown incredible optimism and persistence. She was determined to overcome her dyslexia and participate in drill team despite her difficulty with patterns. Through persistent practice on foot, Elana was able to learn the necessary movements and patterns so well that she served as a mentor to her other drill team members, and eventually, captain of the team.

Elana’s perseverance has also helped her achieve academic success and become the secretary and vice president of her 4-H club. In the words of her club leader “She and her horse may be tiny, but her their dreams are big!”

## **2015 Connie Collier Scholarship Winners**

***Morgan Taylor Faber – Chesterfield County - \$1500***

***Taylor Reed – Henrico County - \$1500***

*This scholarship is made possible through contributions given in memory of Constance “Connie” Collier (1946-2010). Connie spent countless hours over her lifetime to improve and promote the equine industry in Virginia, but her biggest passion was supporting youth involved in the 4-H Horse Program. Among her good works, Connie served as a 4-H Horse Club leader in Henrico County, Treasurer of the Virginia State 4-H Championship Horse and Pony Show and also played a key role in the drill team division’s growth and improvement. Connie was also a Virginia 4-H alumnus and was an exhibitor in the early years of the Virginia State 4-H Championship Horse and Pony Show. Through this scholarship, we hope that Connie’s lifetime commitment to the 4-H Horse Program will live on and inspire current and past exhibitors to give back to the Virginia 4-H Horse Program.*