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**8<sup>th</sup> Annual Special Olympics Rice Rodeo to honor memory of 9/11 victims**

SOLDIER, Kan. – The Eighth Annual Special Olympics Rice Rodeo will be held on Saturday, September 11, 2010, at the Limestone Springs Ranch south of Soldier, Kansas.

Saturday's events will include guided horseback riding, hay rides, "Minute to Win It" games (based upon the popular game show), crafting activities, and interaction with farm animals. The rodeo will feature an Americana theme in honor of Patriot Day and the victims of the terrorist attacks in New York City on September 11, 2001.

The evening will conclude with a home-cooked barbecue meal, a prize ceremony – where each participant will receive a trophy – and a barn dance deejayed by Scott Howard Warner. Participants will also receive a Rice Rodeo T-shirt honoring the memory of the victims of 9/11.

Created for adults with developmental disabilities, the rodeo is an opportunity for participants and staff to interact and share ideas with other people who are dealing with similar issues and concerns.

"This rodeo is non-competitive and is geared specifically to enable every skill level to participate to the degree that they feel most comfortable," says Cathy Rice, founder of the Rice Rodeo. "Often a great idea is discovered in trying to figure out how to get someone on a hay wagon or while throwing a rope at a roping dummy. Everyone benefits from having a day that is just about having fun."

The first rodeo was held September 9, 2001. The event has since grown from 35 participants to as many as 100 participants, with more than 50 volunteers lending a hand each year.

"Our family is blessed by being able to share our love of horses and the farm life with other people," Cathy says. "Our horses are part of our family and to be able to share them and the experience of riding or even petting our horses is such a blessing."

Each year, local area businesses lend their support and sponsor the event. This year's main sponsor is Living Stone Ranch, a new facility for adults with developmental disabilities. The ranch caters to families who desire a home that is faith-based and has a farm atmosphere.

Featured sponsors of the Rice Rodeo include: Bar S Tack & Western Wear; Bell Plumbing; Brahma Excavating; Holton Family Health Center; Holton Farm & Home; Holton Livestock Exchange; Honey Do's; Jayhawk TV & Appliances; Kern Auto Supply; Midwest Coating Inc.; Miller Law Office; and Red Rock Guest Ranch.

For more information about Living Stone Ranch and the Rice Rodeo, please visit

[www.LivingStoneRanch.org](http://www.LivingStoneRanch.org).