

# Big Sisters raises \$4,500 in fundraising Trail Ride

By **STACEY MASSEY**  
Special to *The Champion*

**S**ixty riders lassoed \$4,500 through the Big Sisters Association of North Halton's Trail Ride June 4.

The annual fundraising event saw Little Sisters, Big Sisters and organization volunteers collect pledges and ride a trail on horseback at The Ranch on Burnhamthorpe Road.

For collecting the highest number of pledges, the first prize winner, Helen Kirby, won a western saddle donated by Frontier Saddlery. The second-place winner, Sarah Beauchamp, won a mountain bike donated by Spokes 'N' Slopes

and the third-place finisher, Jen Hall, won a weekend at the Ganaraska Ranch.

The event, organized by Big Sisters of North Halton vice-president Rhonda Schop along with six other volunteers, served as a major fundraiser for the organization.

The organization receives half of its funding from the United Way of Milton and Halton Hills. The remaining funds are accumulated through fundraisers like that Trail Ride and the upcoming woman's triathlon. The organization doesn't receive government funding.

Last year the Trail Ride funds were used to send 10 Little Sisters to a week-long summer camp at no cost to their parents.

Claudia Scobie, executive director and case

worker for the organization, said she hopes this year Big Sisters will be able to send just as many Little Sisters if not more.

However, funds are also required to organize monthly social events that unite Little Sisters and Big Sisters from across north Halton.

Julie Dolby, a Milton resident who's in the process of becoming a Big Sister, said the social events provide an opportunity to get to know the Little Sisters.

The program tries to match up girls with similar interests, which can be discovered at the social gatherings, she said.

The Big Sisters Association of North Halton includes the areas of Milton, Campbellville, Acton and Georgetown. Its interest is in helping

young girls aged 5 to 18 years.

The Little Sisters come from a variety of backgrounds in which there's an identifying need for direction and support.

"The relationship is based on friendship, guidance and support," said Ms Scobie.

The minimum commitment for a Big Sister is one year. But Ms Scobie said the relationships usually last a lifetime.

Currently, there are eight girls in north Halton waiting to be matched up with a Big Sister and the numbers are continually growing.

The organization is always looking for volunteers between the ages of 19 to 60 years to become a Big Sister. For more information or to volunteer, contact Ms Scobie at 854-9953.

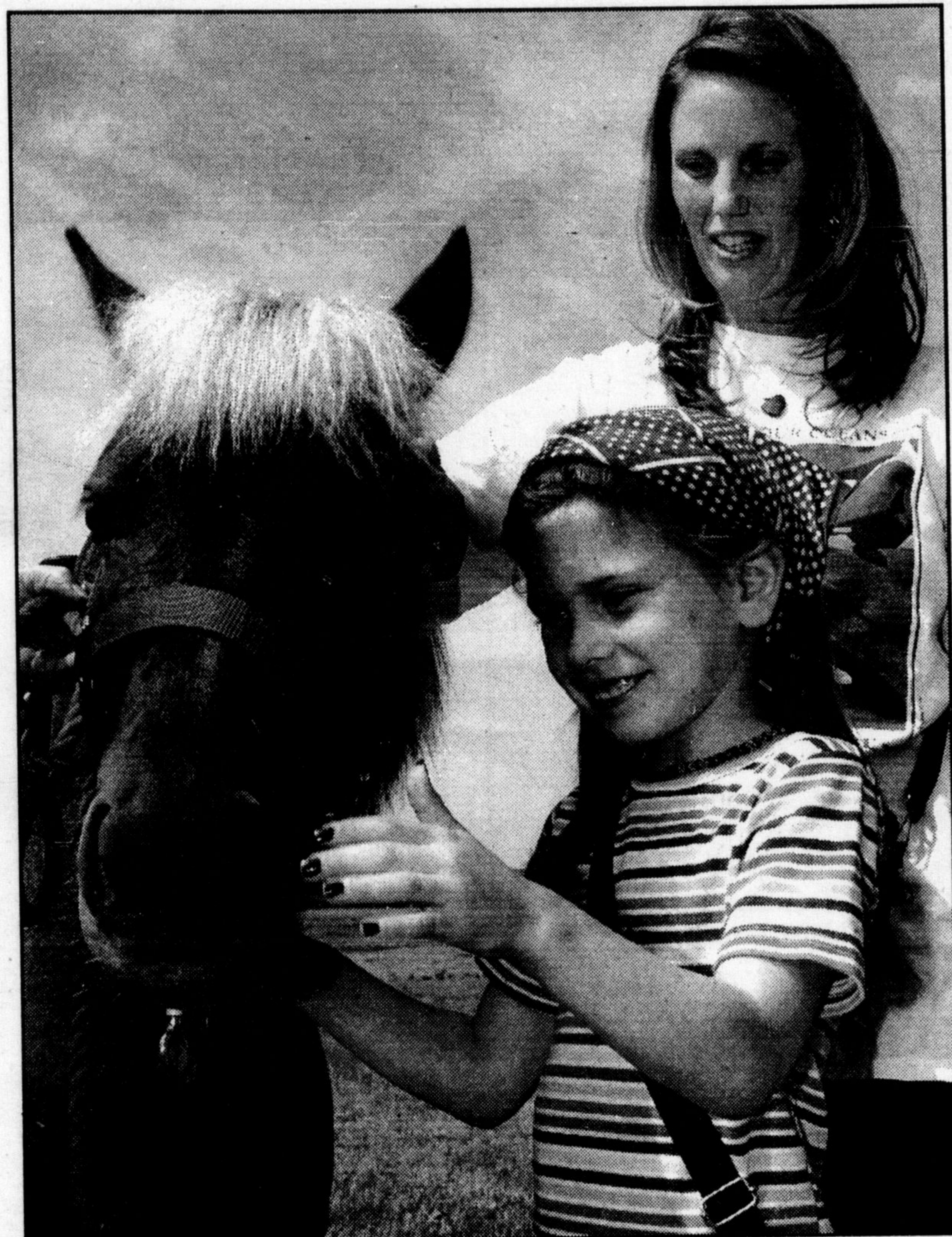


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Little Sister Nikki, 7, gets acquainted with Dolly the pony while Big Sister Alice Logan looks on during the Big Sisters of North Halton Trail Ride at The Ranch June 4. The fundraising event included face painting and a barbecue lunch as well as horse and pony rides.

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