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## **SPONSOR A WINTER SPORTS ENTHUSIAST FOR THE 2010 SEASON - and make your difference in the New Year -**

Lake Luzerne, NY – January 7, 2010 – 200 children are marking their calendars and counting down to their days on the slopes this 13<sup>th</sup> season of the Double H Ranch Adaptive Winter Sports Program. Like a snowflake, no Double H student is alike, and 200 volunteers are anxious to give a student with a neuromuscular impairment the thrill of skiing with the help of an adaptive sit ski or prepare their student on the autism spectrum for their first ride on a chairlift. Winter student sponsorships range from \$50 for a day to \$600 for a season.

“When the instructor put skis on her feet and a walker with skis in front of her, I was amazed and began to accept”, says one mom whose daughter has cerebral palsy.

“It’s sometimes difficult to determine what our child with autism likes to do but there’s no mistaking his enjoyment on his face as he skis the slopes at Double H”, says another mom.

The Double H Ranch hosts the only privatized Adaptive Winter Sports program in the northeast, solely available to children and families with special needs, not open to the public and free-of-charge. The season consists of 28 regular ski days (weekend) serving 25 students per day and five Family Sleepover Weekends, serving 60 families per season. The diagnoses served in the winter program are various neuromuscular diagnoses such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida and muscular dystrophy (nearly half the children served in the winter), cancer (including leukemia), sickle cell anemia and hemophilia, HIV/AIDS, autism spectrum, mitochondrial and other rare diseases. The students in the winter program originate from New York, Connecticut, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

What’s NEW this year? Night skiing and themed family weekends!

For more information about sponsoring a winter sports enthusiast, call Linda Smith, Development, 518-696-5921, ext 238 or visit us online at [www.doublehbranch.org](http://www.doublehbranch.org).

### Double H Ranch

The mission of the Double H Ranch is to provide specialized programs and year-round support for children and their families dealing with life-threatening illnesses. Our purpose is to enrich their lives and provide camp experiences that are memorable, exciting, fun, empowering, physically safe and medically sound. All programs are FREE of charge and capture the magic of the Adirondacks.

