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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Barrel Racing Event Benefits Pushing Boundaries**

The skies were blue and the temperatures soared to 90 degrees on Saturday, September 6, 2014 at the Green River Saddle Club arena. Riders of all ages were there for one purpose: running the barrels to remember and honor a fellow rider who had sustained a spinal cord injury in 2010 during competition.

Friends and family organized the Melanie Christianson Memorial Barrel Race as a way to celebrate Melanie's drive and ambition, both in the arena and out, and to benefit Pushing Boundaries. In her drive to regain independence and function, it was Pushing Boundaries where Melanie found the challenge and encouragement she needed. Sadly, Melanie passed away in August 2013.

Approximately 70 riders waited their turn on September 6th to make their run. They cheered throughout the day as horses sprinted towards the finish line and shed tears as Melanie's mom Roxanne took to the arena to make her own run.

The event raised \$4,085 in net proceeds for Pushing Boundaries to help provide services at a greatly reduced cost. Planning for next year's event, to be held on September 5, 2015, is already underway.

### About Pushing Boundaries:

Located in Redmond, Pushing Boundaries continues to be Washington State's only exercise therapy center focused on regaining function in those paralyzed due to illness, injury or other neurological disorders. The mission is to provide exercise, health and hope for those living with paralysis, and their families, to maximize health and improve quality of life.

Every year, Pushing Boundaries provides approximately 6000 hours of intensive one-on-one therapy to clients from all over the Greater Northwest, allowing people to take control of their recovery. As science moves toward discovering a cure, individualized exercise-based therapy continues to be an integral piece of the rehabilitation process.

Clientele include those with spinal cord injuries, stroke, traumatic brain injuries, Multiple Sclerosis and other degenerative diseases. Community tours and new client site visits are always welcome and can be scheduled by calling 425-869-9506.

For more information: <http://pushing-boundaries.org/melanie-christianson-memorial-barrel-race/>

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