



## **ThorpeWood and West Frederick Middle School Celebrate First Semester of Partnership**

Thurmont, MD - ThorpeWood, a mountain retreat for at-risk youth, located in Thurmont, formed a new youth partnership with West Frederick Middle School (WFMS) in early 2009. The program's goal is to identify sixth-grade students who have a unique or untapped talent and allow them to use and extend that talent outside of school. The twelve students selected for this program are involved in a large project learning about and working with ThorpeWood's herd of Icelandic horses including:

- Researching the history of Icelandic horses
- Learning basic principles of horsemanship and training
- Investigating how ThorpeWood uses the horses with other youth groups
- Using artistic talents to capture the beauty of the horses
- Designing and constructing gates, feeders, and stall structures

The students will present their work to their parents, WFMS faculty, the ThorpeWood board of directors, and members of the community on Monday, June 15 between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at ThorpeWood's facility located at 12805-A Mink Farm Road, Thurmont, MD. For further details about the evening's presentation, please contact Kelli Lind at 301-271-2823.

ThorpeWood's (TW) mission is to serve at-risk youth and increase the likelihood of their success through long-term, outcome-based, customized academic support and personal development programs in partnership with their schools and youth organizations. ThorpeWood, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The website is [www.thorpewood.org](http://www.thorpewood.org).

ThorpeWood partners with schools and youth organizations that have identified a small group of their students who share a specific characteristic or need, usually a group that our partner cannot easily or effectively reach. Situated on 155 acres, ThorpeWood is a tranquil setting in which small groups of students can fully engage in long-term supplemental education programs with close support from their schools' teachers and ThorpeWood's education staff. Currently, ThorpeWood serves about 85 students in partnership with schools and youth organizations in Baltimore City, Frederick and Washington Counties, MD