

NAS volunteers honored by GAITS for Greatness



Submitted photo
Staff members from Naval Technical Training Center Meridian and Marine Aviation Training Support Squadron One are pictured with GAITS for Greatness participants who thanked them for their volunteer service with the organization this past year at a ceremony on Dec. 1.

GAITS for Greatness celebrated another successful year on Dec. 1 with an awards ceremony at the Riley Center in downtown Meridian.

GAITS, a non-profit organization, provides therapeutic guided horseback riding and horsemanship training for children, teens, adults and disabled veterans with disabilities and/or special needs.

Under the direction of Dr. Marion Swindell, associate professor at Mississippi State University Meridian, the program has been in operation since

October 2009, and has grown from nine students to 101.

“This ceremony will recognize not only the students but our volunteers as well,” Swindell said.

“The children have worked really hard and we wanted to award them for the work they’ve put into this program. We also want to say thank you to our donors, the Navy SHIPMATES and Marines from NAS Meridian, and our volunteers -- because we couldn’t have done this without them.”