

## **Wednesday's Letters to the Editor**

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### **GIANT STEPS**

EDITOR: As a proud and appreciative parent of a Giant Steps' rider, I enjoyed Susan Swartz's Nov. 29 article "Riding therapy gives sense of self." Giant Steps has allowed our son to achieve goals that were unexpected and thrilling.

I am writing, however, to expand on the part of the article regarding the cost of the program to families. Swartz wrote that "participants largely pay out of pocket at \$50 per lesson, with some scholarship help." While this, in part, is true, it belies the commitment that Giant Steps has to be affordable to every participant. The \$50 that is asked is less than a third of the actual cost of the lesson. And, while those who can afford to pay that, more than half of the families receive larger scholarships based on their ability to pay.

Without any government funding, Giant Steps depends on the generosity of the community. Because of this subsidy, our child has been able to participate in this program for several years, something for which we will always be grateful.

**JOBBIE SPILLANE**

Petaluma