

THE CLARK FAMILY FOUNDATION EQUINE-ASSISTED THERAPY CENTER

More than three years ago, NTRC's board of directors and capital campaign committee led by volunteer chairperson Dawn Litchfield Brown, had a dream. This dream to expand the NTRC property was driven by a need for more space and therapy horses to meet the ever increasing demand for therapeutic riding and other equine-assisted programs. This dream became a reality in April 2017, when the barn doors opened at the new Clark Family Foundation Equine-Assisted Therapy Center. Thursday, April 6, 160 people attended the Grand Opening to celebrate the hard work, dedication and passion of hundreds of donors and dozens of volunteers who provided time and resources that made a dream a reality. NTRC is now poised to provide increased services to those who benefit from its services.



NTRC Board Members and Capital Campaign Donors at Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



Kim Minarich & Dawn Litchfield Brown



Naples Therapeutic Riding Center
206 Ridge Drive
Naples, FL 34108



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The mission of Naples Therapeutic Riding Center is to improve the lives of children and adults with special needs through therapeutic riding and other equine-related programs.

SCENE & HERD

FALL/WINTER 2017

WHAT'S IN A NAME?



NTRC exists to serve people with special needs and disabilities through therapeutic riding and other equine-assisted therapies and programs. This is its mission. Participants are

the focus of the day-to-day activities at NTRC. After 20 years serving the community as NEC, we are pleased to reintroduce the organization as NTRC. After extensive research, the board of directors announced the organization's name change on March 7, 2017. NTRC better reflects our mission and the professional services we provide.

What comes to mind when you hear the word therapy, or therapeutic? Usually, people think "hard work" to become stronger and healthier. This year, NTRC expects 700 people to put in the work with its herd of therapy horses, PATH certified instructors and equine specialists. Participants will come through our gates with varying physical, emotional and behavioral abilities. They will receive equine-assisted therapies from the best therapy "herd" in town. For most, it will not feel like therapy. It will feel like empowering freedom.

As so many have come to experience and learn, this organization is not an equestrian challenge, it's not a competition, it's not a horse show – it's a healing space where people come to experience the benefits of equine-assisted activities. NTRC has experienced tremendous growth over the last two decades, due in part to an increase in referrals from pediatricians, neurologists and physical therapists who are recommending equine-

assisted therapy for their patients.

To carry out its mission, NTRC relies on the community for donations, volunteer hours, support and feedback, and of course, its participants and families, the backbone of why we exist. It's always hard to change a name. Hopefully, people will better understand who NTRC is and what NTRC does in relationship to people with special needs and disabilities.

Thank you for inspiring the work of Naples Therapeutic Riding Center. We are honored to serve our very special participants with an amazing herd of therapy horses, talented PATH-Certified Instructors and a professional staff.

BOOTSTRAP BOOGIE BARN DANCE

NOVEMBER 11, 2017

Don your denim and dig deep because this year's Barn Dance will be unforgettable! Not even a



Category 3 Hurricane Irma can slow down the 12th Annual Bootstrap Boogie Barn Dance. Thanks to the many generous sponsors, donors, and volunteers for making this 12th Annual Barn Dance

well on its way to success. The event planning committee is co-chaired by Hillary & Trey Wilson. The committee and NTRC offer a special twist this year, something for everyone! While some guests like to dine and dance, some just like to dance. This year, guests can choose to attend "Denim, Dining & Dancing" a seated dinner, live

Continued on inside spread

SAVE THE DATES:

HORSIN' A ROUND GOLF CLASSIC



January 18, 2018 marks the date for the inaugural Horsin' a Round Golf Classic to benefit Naples Therapeutic Riding Center, co-chaired by George Jacobs and Bob Daggett. The links are waiting for players to swing for NTRC rider strides. Join NTRC's new family of golfers at Quail West Golf & Country Club for a 1pm scramble. Sponsorships

and foursomes are available. Please contact Betsy Keteltas, development director, at bketeltas@ntrc.org or by calling (239) 596-2988.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT NTRC

Friday, October 27, 2017, 12pm - 3pm
Talbots Fashionable Fundraiser
Waterside Shops Pelican Bay

Saturday, December 16, 2017, 1pm - 4pm
Vineyard Vines Shop & Support a Cause
Waterside Shops Pelican Bay

2018 HOOF & HIKE



Year after year, Lea Haven, lead instructor at NTRC, takes the reigns of the annual Hoof & Hike Poker Run. The 2018 event is scheduled for January 14 at Picayune Strand State Forest Belle Meade Trailhead

The NTRC therapy horses offer a unique source of love and reassurance to participants of NTRC's programs.

They are great teachers and partners for all participants. For many of the horses, this is their last job in life – helping others. Without them, there would be no equine-therapeutic activities. The Hoof and Hike supports



Brian Dickerson & Loretta Canfield



2017 Hoof & Hike participants off to the races!

the extraordinary care and retirement of the horses. It honors their hard work serving NTRC participants over the years. To learn more about the Hoof & Hike, visit NTRC's website.

INTRODUCING NTRC'S NEW BOARD MEMBERS



James Dati

Jim Dati is a member of the Naples law firm of Bond, Schoeneck and King, PLLC, where he is a valued partner and trusted advisor to owner-executives, decision-makers, high net-worth individuals and others needing help with business and real estate legal matters



William Villafranco

Bill Villafranco is the founder and CEO of Villafranco Wealth Management, a boutique wealth management firm. He is also a trustee of the Virginia B. Toulmin Charitable Foundation, a private foundation that provides grants to organizations across the globe.



Mary Fellenz

Mary Fellenz is a pediatric occupational therapist, and the founder/owner of MF Therapy Group in Naples. Mary has worked in the field of occupational therapy for more than 20 years. Mary is a member of AOTA the national organization for occupational therapists and has served on the board of directors at the Children Museum of Naples (CMON).



David Winebrenner

Originally from Hanover, PA, Dave and his wife moved to Naples full-time in 2011. Dave has volunteered at NTRC as a sidewalker since 2016, and appreciates the positive benefits that autistic children receive from riding. Dave worked as an insurance agent in Fairfield County, CT. In Naples, Dave is a busy member of the Risk and Insurance Committee at the Hole in the Wall Golf Club.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Libby Cooley

Libby has been an NTRC volunteer since 2012 as a sidewalker and horse exerciser. She loyally exercised Dynamite, Ted, Bella, Sundance, Banjo and Jager throughout her time living in Naples. Libby and her husband, Lane, moved to Naples from Orlando in 2010. Libby and her family then relocated to Dallas in 2014. While enjoying her life in Dallas, Libby visits Camp Rusk as an ambassador for NTRC for things such as dental and farrier visits as well as new NTRC horse arrivals. We are so happy to receive her updates and photos on our retired horses!

Libby has a BA in biology and natural science from the University of South Florida. She worked in the Disney World Entertainment Department. Since 2007, Libby has dedicated her time to raising her daughters, Jocelin and Brennan, their Australian Shepherds, Izzy and Coco, and their cats, Bootsie and Taffyta. Libby also enjoys running, CrossFit and riding horses.

Libby initially became an NTRC volunteer because of her love for horses but stayed because of the riders and the cause. "NTRC filled a void for me, it made me feel like I belonged to something more important than I even knew at the moment. I love the program and Dyno for they kept my sanity!" Libby also loved volunteering for the school groups and the Barn Dance.

12TH ANNUAL BOOTSTRAP BOOGIE BARN DANCE --

auction and celebration that starts at 5pm. Or, guests can choose to attend "Denim & Dancing" later that same night from 7pm - 11pm. This popular event features bull riding, Pony Pie Bingo, great entertainment and auction.

Sponsorship packages are available from \$20,000 to \$4,000. Please call Kim Minarich at 239-596-2988 or email her at kminarich@NTRC.org to learn more about the benefit-packed sponsorship opportunities. Buy your tickets online at www.NaplesTherapeuticRidingCenter.org or call 239-596-2988 NOW! "Denim & Dining" tickets are limited. Make sure you have a seat at the dinner table -- call today!



Rough & Ready by Nelson Boren



MEET MAGGIE, TACOMA & DEXTER

NTRC's therapy herd grew by leaps and bounds in 2017. Meet Maggie, Tacoma and Dexter.



Maggie Mae

Maggie is an Anglo Arab mare that was foaled in 1995. She was donated to NTRC by Kim and Pete Minarich. Kim, NTRC's executive director, competed in endurance competitions with Maggie. Maggie earned her retirement after competing nearly 1,000 miles and now enjoys the slower pace of serving as a therapy horse.



Tacoma

Tacoma is an American Paint horse that was foaled in 2000. Tacoma showed as a Western Pleasure horse by her former owner, Barcelona Bieber. Many NTRC participants feel extra safe and secure with Tacoma because of her calm and quiet disposition.



Dexter

Dexter is an Arab Welsh cross that was foaled in 2001. A decorated hunter competitor, Dexter's curiosity and quirky personality keeps everyone entertained and laughing. Dexter was donated by Jacqueline Watskin.

NEW FACES AT NTRC

HERD: A GROUP OF PEOPLE HAVING A COMMON BOND. NTRC's team is committed to serving program participants, to quality care of the therapy herd of horses, to open doors and communication with volunteers, families and supporters. Since the last newsletter, the team has grown and changed. We hope you can take the time to meet the "human herd" that carries out the mission of NTRC. Here is an update on some new faces and some familiar faces.



Briana Anderson, PATH-certified instructor



Bree joined NTRC in 2015 as a volunteer and horse exerciser. She is a full-time PATH-certified instructor at NTRC. Bree was born and raised in Naples and has a background in English Riding.

Betsy Keteltas, development director

Betsy recently relocated to Naples from the Florida Keys where she worked in development with various organizations as a nonprofit consultant. Betsy is originally from Massachusetts and has lived in Florida since 2003.



Molly Brunton, volunteer coordinator

Molly joined NTRC in April 2017 as a part-time volunteer coordinator, and shortly after became a horse exerciser. She was born in Nashville, Tennessee and lived in New Zealand for 12 years. She is currently a student at Naples High School.



Rachel Vaa, assistant barn manager



Rachel is the newest member of the NTRC team. She grew up in Texas riding horses and always knew she wanted to pursue a career involving horses and helping others. Throughout college, she showed competitively in both regional and national level shows.

Lolita Cammas, volunteer coordinator



Lolita first joined NTRC as a volunteer in 2008. She left to attend college and returned to Naples in 2014. Today, Lolita serves as a Volunteer Coordinator. Lolita grew up in France and was active in show jumping and dressage.

Hannah Wild, program director



Hannah has lived in Naples for twenty years and considers herself a native. She first discovered her passion for volunteerism when she began volunteering as an NTRC sidewalker. Hannah joined NTRC as the Program Director in July 2017.

Cathy Chickerell, office manager

Cathy joined NTRC as the Office Manager in August 2016. She moved to Naples in 2012 and is originally from West Virginia. Cathy's husband and family own a cattle and horse ranch in Nicaragua where she began riding horses regularly while assisting in the management of the family ranch and hotel.



Jennifer Williams, assistant barn manager

Jennifer was born and raised in Naples. A lover of horses since she was nine years old, Jennifer first served NTRC as a horse exerciser. In 2016, she was hired as a part-time assistant barn manager. She enjoys the physical work of caring for the horses and the property.



HAPPY TRAILS PICK-A-SPOT & TED!

Combined, herd favorites Pickett & Ted provided 18 years of service to NTRC. They worked with hundreds of participants, providing thousands of hours of therapy for our special participants over the years. These two horses earned their retirement. This past spring, participants young and old, volunteers, staff and people from the community bid farewell and thank you. Pickett and Ted now enjoy their days at Camp Rusk in a quiet and bucolic Texas farm. They are now with their friends Dynamite, Sundance and Kokomo Jo.



NTRC ADDS CERVIS TO BETTER SERVE ITS VOLUNTEERS

While NTRC continues to grow its herd of therapy horses, the volunteer herd has grown, too. NTRC relies on 500 volunteers each year -- that's a lot of giving from the community. With so many people helping, NTRC added Cervis, a new program, to assist with communication, scheduling and information. Cervis allows volunteers to sign up for orientation and trainings as well as conveniently select volunteer time slots that match personal schedules. If you have questions about volunteering, please contact the NTRC office. Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who provide so much to NTRC, from cleaning up hurricane debris, to walking side by side with one of the NTRC riders. NTRC simply cannot fulfill its mission without you!

AN UNEXPECTED THANK YOU



The first week of September, NTRC was prepared to resume lessons, when the tropics started to throw a party. Unfortunately,

it wasn't a party that anyone would enjoy. Before and after Hurrican Irma, we had no idea that more than 50 volunteers would make NTRC a priority as they helped prepare the property for the storm and then returned to help bring the property back to life for programs and services. We are forever grateful to all of those people who volunteered time, making certain the horses, property and team remained safe.



RIDER SPOTLIGHT

Aldi Beslija

Aldi started riding at NTRC in April 2016 and has been in love ever since. Following the suggestion from her physical therapist, riding has empowered her to overcome her fears, improve her posture and muscle tone. She can now run, jump and walk on her tippy toes!



Aldi struggles with her speech but with the help of NTRC, was able to say her first words. Her most memorable moment is when she said "walk on" for the first time. Aldi thanks NTRC,

the volunteers, and the therapy horses to help her find her words and improve daily.

In recognition of her progress, positive attitude, and continuous efforts, Aldi was our Rider of the Month in August. Congratulations and we look forward to "walking on" with you!

2017 RIDERS OF THE MONTH

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|----------------|----------------|
| JAN.— Vivienne | MAY — Debbie |
| FEB.— Marie | JUN.— Mainleys |
| MAR.— Nathan | JUL.— Lauren |
| APR.— Mike | AUG.— Aldi |