



Naples Therapeutic Riding Center
206 Ridge Drive
Naples, FL 34108

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SCENE & HERD

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ABOUT NTRC

Our mission is to improve the lives of children and adults with special needs through therapeutic riding and other equine-related programs.

In 2018, NTRC's general operating budget is \$870,000 with 88% dedicated to programs. More than 350 volunteers and 450 donors will make it possible for NTRC to serve 700 participants through equine-assisted therapies.

NTRC receives funding through Naples Children & Education Foundation, United Way of Collier County, The Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation, The Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation, The Community Foundation of Collier County and other private donations. We are a Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship (PATH) Premier Accredited Center.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LETTER



"Our volunteers help us maintain our high standards of care. They support our mission and advance our goals with participants and as an organization. They hold us accountable. They share their stories. They are our powerful voices."

- Missy Lamont

This past March Volunteer Appreciation Awards Dinner theme was "Lucky to Have You." The sentiment perfectly describes our great fortune in having hundreds of dedicated and passionate volunteers. We are also privileged and grateful to work alongside each and every one who makes our programs possible.

On St. Patrick's Day, in the main arena, we reminded them that they are our pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

That night, Chris Nind, one of NTRC's first volunteers, shared his inspiring story of how we began as an organization in 1995. We awarded Susie Newlon "Volunteer of the Year" and Wilma and Dick Proctor as the "Bootstrap Boogie Bard Dance Volunteers of the Year." Their stories are included in this "volunteer-themed" issue of *Scene & Herd*.

In April, we hosted Leadership Collier for their human services education day. Groups like this often ask, "What is your greatest need?" and "How can the community help?" My answer is always "Volunteer!" Our volunteers range in age from 14 to 88. They brave the heat, steadfastly supporting our participants in lessons. They get dirty mucking stalls. They wrangle financial support. They work behind the scenes in the office. They plan events. They inspire us.

The donation of time is invaluable! Our greatest needs remain the important role of "sidewalker." Our goal is to recruit 100 new volunteers this year and we graciously welcome your referrals or interest! Volunteer orientations are held monthly. I hope to see you at the next one!

~ Tally Ho!

P.S. We have included an insert about the Healing Strides Endowment Fund. While Scene & Herd covers daily programs and events, and the people who make those possible, the endowment fund is a way in which we plan for our future!

Q. WHAT IS A SIDEWALKER?

A. A sidewalker volunteer assists instructors during lessons. Their sole responsibility is to the rider. They help our participants reach their goals throughout the riding lesson. Sidewalkers witness participants overcome difficult tasks in each lesson.

PLEASE CALL (239) 596-2988
TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT NTRC!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Susie Newlon, Volunteer of the Year, Shares Her Passion



There are moments we wish every person could enjoy or experience. These moments become memories, stories and daily reminders for me as to why I volunteer. I'll never forget the time I held Majesty while Lea introduced him to a tiny, visually impaired, little boy on oxygen. Majesty stood very still while he blew the little guy's hair softly through his nostrils. These are the moments.

Growing up, I rode horses as much as I could, both English and Western. I grew to love them for their gentle spirits and their uncanny ability to sense feelings, mood and their surroundings. After I retired, I decided to visit NTRC to see if I would like to volunteer there. Missy welcomed me with a warm greeting and beautiful smile. That, and the welcoming, peaceful environment was all it took to convince me this was a perfect fit to give back after retirement. I now volunteer three days a week. I'm a sidewalker, a horse leader, and volunteer at training sessions and fundraisers. I work in the barn cleaning and feeding the horses, and I exercise Tacoma, who is my favorite horse!

I am honored to have been chosen Volunteer of the Year. I get so much more from NTRC than I could ever give back. Horse person or not, I would recommend volunteering at NTRC to anyone who wants to give back and build memories, stories and positive reminders!

My father was a neurosurgeon who adored his patients. That is where my love of people began, young and old alike, and those with special needs or challenges – working with them became my calling. Early in my life, I started volunteering at a children's hospital. As time went on, I volunteered in nursing homes. While I pursued my degree in psychology, I volunteered at McLean, a Harvard-affiliated psychiatric hospital.

The joy I found in these experiences led me to choose a career in social work where I worked with children who had both mental and physical challenges, who were often neglected or disadvantaged. I was a social worker for the Division of Child Guardianship in Massachusetts and the Neighborhood Youth Corps in Oklahoma before relocating to Naples where I started a career in real estate.

BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING

- Help Others In Need
- Reduce Stress
- Make Friends
- Learn New Skills
- Advance Your Career
- Support Mental and Physical Health



DONOR DOLLARS AT WORK

Horses Help Grieving Process



"Kids don't often express anger or sadness about the death of a loved one out loud for fear of the response from other adults in their life. The horse is another living, breathing being for them to experience closeness, providing comfort without judgment or fear of someone else finding out what the child shared."

- Alexis Hobson, Avow Children's Services Coordinator

Recently, NTRC began to work with children coping with the recent loss of a loved one. Loss is difficult, especially for a child. The children participate in a bereavement support group with Avow Hospice, where they work through this shared experience.

In March, NTRC welcomed these children for a new program designed to work in conjunction with their individual and family support groups. NTRC's program helps them through this journey of grief in a unique, healing outlet. Children in the Avow program are able to identify and vocalize feelings needed for healing in a safe environment where the trust, affection and admiration of loving horses provides them with comfort.

Through a customized, equine-facilitated learning program, the children deepen their awareness of their feelings and bodily tension while boosting their self-esteem and confidence. Often, the children mention feelings of guilt, loneliness and fear. They were at first nervous about meeting the horses. Now the children have become quite the horse handlers. They have groomed them, led them, painted on them and ridden them.

Each week, the children tell their horses something that happened to them since their last visit. The healing continues as the children privately share with their horses something they may not have been able to tell the loved one they lost. They are told by the equine specialist that their secrets are safe with the horse. As their words flow, one may put her arm around the horse's neck, another may pet their horse's ears, while others may just lean on the horse's shoulder. The horse does not judge or interrupt. As the instructor notices another magical moment, the horses that may have been a little distracted coming into the arena will drop their heads and relax while listening.



Equine-facilitated learning and psychotherapy programs are offered at no cost to children thanks to the generosity of our donors.

RIDER SPOTLIGHT

Therapeutic Riding Lessons Help Rider "Walk On"



Meet Garrison, a very social, happy, six-year-old boy. He loves people, and now horses. He lights up with excitement as he pulls in for weekly therapeutic riding lesson but it wasn't always like that. Garrison has come a long way since he started riding three years ago. He was born with Angelman Syndrome, a neuro-genetic disorder.

In the beginning, Garrison liked nothing about horses and riding. Paired with sidewalker Mike, the two overcame a number of challenges together. He would scratch at Mike trying to get off his horse. He hated his helmet. He tried every way he could to let those around him know he was not happy.

Today, Garrison continues to amaze us all. He recently began walking up the ramp to mount his horse with volunteer Mike or Brian assisting. He plays affectionately with his horse's mane and wiggles enthusiastically to make his horse "walk on." He does this all while wearing a smile from ear to ear.

Garrison spent a year on NTRC's waiting list. The latest addition of the round arena and growth in the herd of horses has drastically helped shorten this wait time. Garrison's mom, Katie, is grateful for the therapeutic and recreational opportunities NTRC provides for her son. The affordability that stems from donor dollars is a much-appreciated,

added bonus. Katie shared, "There is nothing else like it. The lessons give him a chance to have fun, get outside and interact with other children with physical limitations."

Garrison, who struggles with traditional physical therapy, flourishes in this non-medical setting. At NTRC, he is too busy enjoying himself to realize he is working on his balance, core strength and bilateral movement. Katie says, "There aren't many sports opportunities available for people with disabilities, but he can do this and it's awesome."

Katie attributes much of her son's success to the wonderful team of experienced and consistent volunteers who patiently and steadily support Garrison week after week as he builds up his strength and tackles his fears. Katie wasn't sure her son would ever stand and never dreamed he could ride a horse. The strides he has taken in NTRC's riding lessons have given her hope that he will walk independently someday. Until then, she'll take the smiles and honor these great strides.



"The volunteers help him tremendously. He has come to expect familiar faces and has increased in confidence, especially with his stability on top of the horse. I believe he has been able to accomplish so much as a result of their dedication, patience, and knowledge."

- Katie, Garrison's mother

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Dick & Wilma Proctor: The Family Giving Tree



In 2001, Dick Proctor showed up for a sidewalker volunteer training. He and his wife, Wilma, read an article in the Naples Daily News about the new organization, then called "Naples Equestrian Challenge." They knew it was the perfect place for their family to give back. "Horses and children...

what could be more satisfying than being a part of an organization that brings together a child who needs some extra help with a horse who needs a job? I knew this was the place for us," Dick commented. "In retrospect, We kept coming back, as a core group of us really wanted to see the programs succeed," shared Wilma.

Hearing this couple tell their stories of giving would inspire anyone. This past March, Dick and Wilma were awarded Barn Dance Volunteers of the Year. Seventeen years into their volunteer and giving tenure at NTRC, they stood side by side with their daughter, grandchildren, in-laws, and friends as their names were announced as the recipients of this award. And in that moment, this inspiration was clear.

Dick and Wilma have volunteered for nearly every single Bootstrap Boogie Barn Dance and Hoof & Hike Poker Run. They tell stories of fire ants, orange paint and rolling silverware in slippery napkins. They tell stories of supporting capital campaigns, rider scholarships

and fundraising events. They tell stories of riders they helped in lessons, of the smiles and reactions of parents seeing their children become stronger and more focused, or of the history they have with a rider they've known for a dozen years. While they can tell all these stories, there's another story NTRC witnesses through them.

Dick and Wilma Proctor are two authors of an incredible family who donates time and treasure. Not a week goes by when one of these names isn't spoken at NTRC: Christy and Bob, Lisa and Mike, Ryan and Mari, Rick and Lisa, Steve and Helen... Dick and Wilma, Dick and Wilma. They've planted their family tree at 206 Ridge Drive, making an impact that not only supports programs for people with special needs, but also inspires staff and volunteers to do their best - as the Proctors' example of the best is contagious.

For many, giving is personal, inspired by a cause or a commitment. It is rare for an organization to witness such a level of giving from each individual in a family - it's still personal, but it's familial too. And honestly, it's a gift. Dick and Wilma, from our herd to your herd, thank you for adopting NTRC and teaching us the many values of giving.



THE SCOOP ON GIVING

- Support Special Events
- Sponsor a Participant
- "Checkout" NTRC's Amazon Wish List
- Attend a Volunteer Orientation

SCENE & HERD EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

March 17th, NTRC honored and celebrated the hundreds of volunteers who generously donated 17,915 hours of service in 2017. They served as sidewalkers, leaders, exercise riders, office support, fundraisers, directors, event planners, leaders and friends!

2017 VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH: Diane Jaskot, Eileen Comerford, Marc Halcrow, Tom Fogarty, Michaela Forst, Libby Cooley, Dave Wyatt, Magdiel Sanchez, Gerry Heroth & Sean Mulhere, Jim Marchese, Manny De La Torre, Brian & Ashley McNamara

