



Naples Therapeutic

 Riding Center

Scene + Herd



OCTOBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

Executive Director Letter

BY MISSY LAMONT



Welcome back! It has been a busy summer at NTRC. Keeping with tradition, we ended season celebrating our riders at a superhero-themed awards banquet where families and friends were camera-ready for their “super” rider’s special moment. The banquet is always a magical, grounding moment that reminds me of the many reasons we work so hard for our participants.

This summer, NTRC was bustling with a robust summer camp that welcomed 70 campers who enriched their NTRC experience by spending extended, quality time with our dedicated horses and staff. Through our new partnership with Youth Haven, they received an entire week just for their residents. We also launched our newest program, Hippotherapy, and expanded our partnership with David Lawrence Center. I hope you’ll enjoy reading about how these programs are helping local children in this issue of *Scene + Herd*.

In order to have these innovative, healing programs, fundraising is a must, but there is no reason it doesn’t have to be fun! Right? I’ve had the pleasure of working alongside a wonderful committee co-chaired by veteran volunteer and Barn Dance creator Brigid Soldavini-Clapper and Ryan Lolly planning the 13th Annual Boot Strap Boogie Barn Dance, set for November 10th.

Due to the generosity of our sponsors: Environmental Concrete & Materials, Yahl Mulching & Recycling, Soldavini & Caldwell, ncolor Salon, Coastal Landscaping Supply, Health Care Logistics, Stock Development, Dick and Wilma Proctor, Greenspire & Associates, Cowboy’s Concrete & Masonry, Westwood Interior Cleaning, eBella and Naples Daily News; this year’s Barn Dance is shaping up to be our best one yet.

I look forward to seeing you all decked out in your western duds under the covered arena to see our mission in action for this fun-filled evening of fundraising, line dancing, live music, moonshine and tasty vittles prepared by our new catering partner Shula’s Steak House. There will be plenty of creative opportunities to support NTRC, including Pony Pie Bingo (for you novice attendees you can win \$5,000 if our therapy horse drops his business on your plot), a 50/50 Bull Riding Buck Off Challenge and a live and silent auction.

Tally Ho!



Donor Dollars at Work

NEW HIPPO THERAPY PROGRAM ADVANCES HEALING

Occupational therapist, Mary Fellenz, helped NTRC launch a new, evidence-based service called hippotherapy. As a result of the donor funded capital expansion, NTRC can now offer the facility, training and therapy horses to licensed professionals allowing them to offer this innovative new service. Fellenz became certified in hippotherapy after taking the course at NTRC in January.

The first session included five children with autism, physical challenges, and sensory processing difficulties. After the session, the children increased core strength which improved standing/sitting balance, fine motor skills such as handwriting, self-regulation, and an ease in transitioning from one activity to the other.



“It is important to think outside of the box to enhance the growth and development of children. After taking the course, I could see the enormous benefits for the type of children that I treat.”

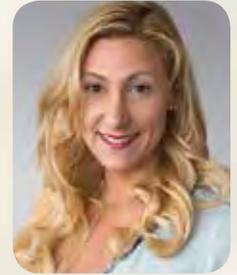
– Mary Fellenz,
MF Therapy
Group

COLLABORATION HELPS AT RISK TEENS AT DLC

Through a new collaboration with David Lawrence Center, NTRC is providing equine-facilitated psychotherapy to teens in their Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP) at no cost thanks to grant funding.

PHP provides intensive mental health treatment for at-risk teens exhibiting severe impairment in self-care, school functioning, and family or interpersonal relationships. They often experience bullying, suicidal thoughts and self-harm.

Teens in PHP spend seven hours a day, five days a week in therapy for an average of two weeks. Now they are able to step outside of the four walls of a group room, and participate in exercises with our highly-intuitive “furry” co-therapists. The exercises bring them out of their immediate anxieties and concerns by focusing their attention on the care of our horses.



“The children have really enjoyed the stress-relieving activities while addressing boundaries and improving communication and teamwork skills.”

– Jennifer Eagels,
David Lawrence
Center

The Scene at NTRC

In addition to welcoming many new faces at our summer camp, NTRC hosted a variety of volunteer groups and educational events at our beautiful campus this summer. Our barn doors are always open to make new friends and spread awareness of the many benefits of equine therapy.

Interested in bringing a group to NTRC? Call (239) 596-2988





Donor Spotlight

SWINGING WITH PURPOSE HITS A HOLE IN ONE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Making a difference in the community is what Swinging With Purpose™ is all about. Founder Diana Riley wanted to combine her passion for golf with her passion for women and children. Through the organization she launched in 2013, their board invites golfers to “swing with purpose” for organizations making a difference in the lives of women and children who need a little help.

Each year, their board provides grants to carefully selected, local grass roots charities who become the beneficiaries of their initiatives for that year. These grants address homelessness, poverty, education,

human trafficking, domestic violence, child physical and sexual abuse, teen pregnancies and provide safe havens for this vulnerable population.

This year, NTRC received \$12,000 to provide, equine-facilitated learning and psychotherapy to participants from PACE Center for Girls and the Shelter for Abused Women and Children – both also beneficiaries.

Swinging With Purpose has distributed close to \$600,000 into the community. Their volunteer board works diligently to keep venue expenses low. As a result, 95 cents of every dollar raised goes to their beneficiaries.

Swinging With Purpose’s main fundraiser, the Liberty Mutual Invitational, will be held May 5th, 2019 at Quail West Golf and Country Club. In lieu of hosting a golf tournament this year, NTRC is encouraging our golf-loving supporters to participate in their event which will, in part, benefit our participants.

“After learning more about equine therapy and how that could impact the lives of women and girls who have been traumatized, I fell in love with the NTRC mission. We knew immediately they were a good fit for our funds. We are excited about the opportunity to expand services to our beneficiaries and anxious to see the impact equine therapy will have on their lives.”

– Diana Riley,
Swinging with Purpose



Meet a Rider

HIPPOTHERAPY GETS KIMMY READY FOR LIFE OUTSIDE OF THE BARN

I first noticed issues with Kimmy when she was two years old. She wasn’t communicating or making eye contact. After she was diagnosed with autism, our occupational therapist, Mary Fellenz, was the first person to help us. She has been a huge support to our family.

After enrolling in Able Academy and through our work with Mary, Kimmy, now five, has developed language, appropriate social behavior, and self-care skills. When Mary mentioned hippotherapy, we jumped at the chance.

It was challenging at first. When they finally got Kimmy on the horse, she just sat there for 20 minutes. The team was so patient with her. They gently pushed her through the exercises. When she got off, she was so intrigued by this beautiful, breathing giant. It was a very special, surreal moment.

The changes have translated outside of the “farm”, as Kimmy calls it. Now she can tolerate activities that used to bother her. She has a longer attention span and is having improved interactions at home and with her teachers.

“I have never seen Kimmy interact so positively with anything and with so much joy as she has with these horses. We never dreamed in just six sessions, she would head into therapy smiling and excited and end calm and relaxed.”

– Tandy McGrail,
Kimmy’s Mom



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Ensuring a Safe PATH

Q: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN ACCREDITED CENTER?

A: Being accredited by PATH International means NTRC has met established industry standards in administration, facility and programs.

It means we have certified instructors and professionals you can trust. It means we offer exceptional care and attention when providing our equine services.



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ABOUT NTRC

NTRC improves the lives of children and adults with special needs through therapeutic riding and equine-assisted programs. Volunteers and donors make it possible for NTRC to serve 700 participants each year. NTRC is funded by Naples Children & Education Foundation, United Way of Collier County, The Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation, The Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation of Collier County and private donations. NTRC is a Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship Premier Accredited Center.

Volunteer Spotlight

BRIGID SOLDAVINI-CLAPPER BARN DANCES HER WAY TO SUCCESS

I was introduced to NTRC when an employee of mine, whose daughter has cerebral palsy, invited me to her horse show. She could barely hold up her head and was surrounded by bumpers. Seeing her was heartbreaking to me, but she was elated. My heart got sucked in immediately.

Kids and animals have always been my thing. NTRC became the perfect fit for me to give back. I loved that these kids got to experience powerful healing outside of the confines of a doctor's office and have fun too.

I have been a volunteer for 17 years now. First, I served as CFO. Then, I joined the board. When the arena was built, we had to find a way to pay for the increased capacity, so I said, "Let's throw a big party onsite," and the Barn Dance was born. I have been involved ever since and am excited to serve as Co-Chair this year.

I work on the Barn Dance, not only because it's a blast, but because you can feel the mission come alive. It's NTRC's biggest money maker and it makes up a large part of the budget. The participants depend on its success. It is a tremendous volunteer effort, but it is so vital to the organization.

Those of us who have good health and children with good health, take so much for granted. I keep doing what I do because I firmly believe that helping others gives you good karma.

