



Naples Therapeutic

 Riding Center

Scene + Herd



FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER



Executive Director Letter

BY MISSY LAMONT



We have much to celebrate as we ring in 2022. We can say cheers to a happy, healthy and healing year ahead for our horses and riders thanks to so many dedicated donors, volunteers and staff who support our mission.

We celebrated the end of 2021 by honoring Bella as Horse of the Year and hosting two successful fundraisers. In partnership with the Young Professional Strides and chair Jenn Williams, NTRC's first-ever, catch-and-release fishing tournament, Reeling for Riders, raised \$5,500. We look forward to hosting another in the new year and watching this event grow. Then our sold out 16th Annual Bootstrap Boogie Barn Dance presented by title sponsor Westwood Interior Cleaning and chaired by Davina Clark raised \$542,000 for our operations and future expansion! We were so happy to see this event return to campus after converting to a virtual appeal during the pandemic.

Despite the rain, wind and a few tornadoes, we still rallied at the Hoof and Hike chaired by Lea Haven last month. While the riders and hikers sadly didn't get on the trails this year, our steadfast supporters fired up the grills and celebrated with our title sponsor Equine Hemp Solutions, premier sponsors Nightline Express, Grassy Run Ranch, Dick Proctor and Gary Yates and all of our loyal sponsors to support the retirement and extraordinary care of our horses.

We are also celebrating several staff members for helping advance NTRC's programs through their expertise! Join me in congratulating Rachel Vaa for becoming a PATH International Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor and Lea Haven for becoming a PATH International Certified Advanced Instructor – a huge honor given there are only 112 with this distinction in the nation!

We are excited about making progress on our expansion efforts and working with our donors on new and exciting ways you can support our mission. One of which is the Give Where You Live Collier 24-hour online giving challenge, where gifts are multiplied through matching funds from the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation and Community Foundation of Collier County. The more you help us raise on February 9 – 10, 2022 from noon to noon the larger percentage of the match we receive.

Tally Ho!



Donor Dollars at Work

EXPANSION EFFORTS UNDERWAY TO END THE WAIT TO RIDE



Donors and volunteers are stepping up in big ways to fill a great need! Motivated to end the now 100+ person waiting list, they are eager to do their part to get more children and adults access to the innovative healing that happens every day on the back of our horses.

As a result, NTRC began planning for a \$5 million expansion that will utilize the newly acquired property to the south of our campus. This expansion will significantly impact our future programming capacity. Over the next three years, our plan is to build an additional barn and covered arena, expand program support space and provide barn staff housing. This will address the waiting list, enhance delivery options for our core programming and grow our newly launched and future services.

To help lead our efforts, volunteer, donor and Operation Strides participant, Joe Logrippo, has joined the Board of Directors and stepped up to chair the expansion committee. He not only brings first-hand knowledge of the benefits of time with our herd to his role, he has extensive expertise in fundraising, sales and financial planning.

At this year's Barn Dance, donors stepped up in a big way raising \$337, 250 in the Fund-A-Need which benefited the new five-stall barn and the addition of four new therapy horses. Five couples earned the naming rights to the stalls. We are grateful to those who have supported us so far and look forward to working with our invaluable donors to achieve this exciting state-of-art expansion and vision for the future.

"We have so much more work to do to meet the need of our growing community. We have the opportunity of helping 100 more and counting ensuring symptom relief, healing, connection and strength-building."

– Joe Logrippo,
End the Wait
Expansion
Committee
Chair

Barn Stall Donors

Connie & Gary Sharpe | Wilma & Dick Proctor | Shelley & Steve Einhorn
Jessica & Michael James | Rita & Hal Rosser

Meet a Rider

THERAPEUTIC RIDING OFFERS HOPE, CONNECTION AND IMPROVEMENT

I have always loved riding. I treasure the memories I have riding trails with my family as a child and in college. Due to a long, difficult and painful road of chronic illness, riding became a distant memory. My illness took years to diagnose, and resulted in almost complete disability and painful social isolation.

When my neurologist ordered physical therapy to help with my posture, balance and gait, I went to each session and did my very best, but most of the results proved fleeting. When I told him of my passion for horses, he told me about NTRC. When I got the call after waiting nearly two years, I couldn't wait to begin.

With immaculate grounds, beautiful horses, well-equipped arenas and welcoming staff, I quickly realized that NTRC is its own community and I felt like I was about to become a part of something extraordinary. After not riding for 20 years, I was able to manage the basics pretty well, but my illness presented new challenges including balancing problems and chronic joint pain.

Since I began riding at NTRC, I have sensed a noticeable improvement in my posture and balance. I now ride independently, feel more confident in my abilities and maintain correct posture, more often than not, in everyday life. This has reduced my pain, and my doctor is extremely pleased with my progress.

Riding at NTRC has given me opportunities to make new friends who understand what it's like to live with invisible disabilities. My connection to the people, the bond I have with Fancy and the time I spend at NTRC, give me a wonderful sense of belief in myself again, as well as hope and excitement for the future.



"My disabilities make it difficult to socialize and engage in typical activities. NTRC is the one place where I don't think about what's wrong with me. I finally feel like I belong to something important again."

– Kimberly Kaufmann,
Therapeutic Rider

The Scene at NTRC



SPECIAL EVENT Kentucky Derby Party

May 7, 2022 | 4:00 pm | NTRC

Chairperson Marc Halcrow and his committee invite you to a day at the races at the annual Kentucky Derby Party! Come ready to bid on your winning horse and enjoy hors d'oeuvres, one complimentary specialty drink and a cash bar. A 50/50 purse will go to the winner. Prizes will be awarded for Best Hat for the ladies and Crazy Pants for our gents. Proceeds from the Derby Party help on-board new horses enabling riders to get the best care possible.

NaplesTherapeuticRidingCenter.org | 239-596-2988





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Save-the-Date

Give Where You Live is a 24-hour online giving challenge where gifts are multiplied through matching funds.

The more you help us raise on February 9-10, 2022 from noon to noon, the larger percentage of the match we receive.

GiveWhereYouLiveCollier.org



Board of Directors

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Lee Pinto – *Past President*
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Melanie Penner, Caroline Ridgway,
Michael Rubenstein, Connie Sharpe,
Dr. Bill Swartz

ABOUT NTRC

NTRC improves the lives of children and adults with physical, social and mental health needs through therapeutic riding and equine-assisted programs. Volunteers and donors make it possible for NTRC to serve 800 participants each year. NTRC is funded by Naples Children & Education Foundation, The Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation, Clare Family Foundation, Clark Family Foundation, and private donations. NTRC is a Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship Premier Accredited Center (PATH Intl).

Volunteer Spotlight

ENDING THE WAIT TO RIDE MOTIVATES VOLUNTEER INTO LEADERSHIP ROLE

After a 30-year career as a legal assistant, I retired to Naples. The adjustment was difficult. I knew I needed to focus on my wellbeing and find a new purpose in life.

Years ago, I ran a pet therapy program training dogs to work with those with special needs and the elderly. I also worked with court therapy dogs who helped calm children during court proceedings. The time I spent with these special animals and people taught me to appreciate life. I knew immediately NTRC would be a great opportunity for me to learn about equine therapy while improving my wellbeing.



Cheryl Denham

In 2019, I started volunteering. I became a sidewalker and eventually a leader in lessons. I loved learning about the horses, the different programs and how they help different disabilities. Seeing the riders thrive kept me coming back week after week.

When I learned that 100+ people were waiting close to two years to ride, I was motivated to do what I could to end that wait. Having had many years of volunteer fundraising experience, I gladly accepted to serve as the Fundraising and Marketing Committee chair so I could now put my administrative skills to work for NTRC.

Like me, you may come for the horses, but you'll stay for the riders' smiles or a parent tearfully telling you what their child can now accomplish because they ride.