



Naples Therapeutic  
  
 Riding Center

# Scene + Herd



FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER



## Executive Director Letter

MARTIN DE ST. PIERRE



In spending time this holiday with my family, it occurred to me just how much NTRC is like a family. Families experience happiness, joy and sadness. They have big and small events and celebrate together when they can. Families may add a room or find a new home as they grow. Families welcome new members and friends and say goodbye sometimes too. In 2022, our NTRC Family experienced all of these.

2022 was full of Family events. We hosted three successful fundraisers and began our new Food Truck Fridays. Hurricane Ian was unexpected and destructive, but when the storm cleared, we were reminded of our community's strength and resilience. Our Barn Dance was postponed to 2023, but our Family came together to raise \$190,000 in the appeal. Thanks to Gary and Connie Sharp for their lead gift.

Our Family said goodbye to Buddy and Comet, but welcomed Armor and Sadie. Every horse in the Family touches us in a different way. When they move on, we are reminded of their strength, patience and beauty, but also, the fragility of life. Every horse in the Family, leaves a legacy that can only truly be understood by seeing them change lives.

Last year, our Family welcomed nearly 200 new volunteers, four new staff members and lots of new riders. Time to make some additions to the house! Our expansion of the property next door began with the completion of our barn staff residence. The wall and new paddocks will be complete this Spring. Thanks to Permacast for their donation of supplies and manpower. The County also approved our plans to eventually add a new barn, arena and administrative space.

This month, NTRC will benefit from the 24-hour online giving challenge, Give Where You Live. It is an opportunity to raise funds to serve our most important Family members. Our Riders. Their smiles, happy tears and hugs keep us coming back each day to see the amazing work our horses do to facilitate their progress.

So, thanks to the Family for a great 2022 and what we know will be an incredible 2023.

# Donor Dollars at Work

FGCU COLLEGE STUDENTS RALLY IN SUPPORT OF EQUINE THERAPY



*“We never met individuals who were so passionate about what they do and were instantly hooked on learning how we could help.”*

– Lauren Acker,  
FGCU  
Student

A group of FGCU college students, ages 19-23, have become supporters of our mission thanks to a course that encourages students to create a positive impact on their community.

The students were enrolled in a civic engagement class that requests students find a community partner to engage and interact with in order to promote the quality of life of their community. The group adopted NTRC after attending a service learning fair on campus. At the event, our volunteer coordinator encouraged our next generation of leaders to learn about the benefits of equine therapy.

The students were intrigued, did their research and voted hands down to partner with NTRC for their project. The group decided started by volunteering on campus doing activities that maintained our beautiful campus including painting fences, cleaning paddocks and doing tasks that make the workload less for our staff.

But they didn't stop there. The students felt there was more they could do to make an impact and decided to fundraising. Their goal was to raise enough money to buy more paint. The new NTRC ambassadors crushed their goal and raised enough money to also sponsor three riders to attend an 8-week therapeutic riding session!

“What NTRC does makes it easy to ask for donations because they help so many people reach their goals and give many their life back,” group member Lauren Acker said. “We are so thankful for this interaction.”

The students turned philanthropist have plans to continue their efforts supporting NTRC even now that the class requirement is complete.

## Rider Spotlight

GROWING UP WITH NTRC HAS SHOWN THIS TEEN WHAT'S POSSIBLE

I was born premature and spent the first seven weeks of my life in the hospital. When I was one, I was diagnosed with cerebral palsy. This effects my posture, strength, and mobility.

When I found out about NTRC in 2106 when I was 13 years old, I was over the moon that there was a therapeutic riding center that was consistent and didn't cost a lot of money! I couldn't wait to start and see how it could help my condition. I've been riding weekly ever since.

The bond I had with my horse Comet was awesome. I just loved seeing his cute face every time I walked up the ramp for my lesson. With Comet's help, I can now straighten my head and back, and not lean over to one side. My legs are stronger too. This has built my confidence in my abilities to do rudimentary tasks that I do every day in life. I can walk better and control my movements.

It means so much to be part of this unbelievable, kind-hearted community. It gives people who are willing to help others a way to help people like me. Everyone involved cares about helping people. That's why NTRC is so important.

I think my future looks bright. I am going to walk. I am going to college. I'm going to become an actor. Now that I am an adult, my goal is to be independent and go on my own. I'm going to do all this stuff. I am so grateful. Without NTRC's donors and volunteers none of this would be possible. You have given me an opportunity that I didn't even think was possible.



*“It means so much to be part of this unbelievable, kind-hearted community. It gives people who are willing to help others a way to help people like me. Everyone involved cares about helping people. That's why NTRC is so important.”*

– D'Juna Moore



## Thank you to our Barn Dance Appeal Sponsors

Gary & Connie Sharpe • Dick & Wilma Proctor • Creative Wealth Financial Group, Inc.  
Einhorn Foundation • Health Care Logistics Inc • McNamara Legal Services, PA.  
Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP • Bayside Seafood Grill & Bar  
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Thomas Hodgson • Ink My Logo, LLC • Kristi McGuire  
Gerald Carter • John & Julie Fisher  
Candice Rosen • David Winebrenner

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Give Where You Live Collier

February 15-16, 2023 | 12:00 pm



The ninth annual Give Where You Live Collier provides an easy way to support education and basic needs through a 24-hour, online fundraiser that reminds the community of the importance of making a difference where you live. During the challenge, gifts are multiplied through matching funds

from the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation and Collier Community Foundation. The more you help us raise, the larger percentage of the match we receive.

[GiveWhereYouLiveCollier.org](http://GiveWhereYouLiveCollier.org)

### Kentucky Derby Party

May 6, 2023 | 5:00 pm | NTRC



Join us for a day at the races at the annual Kentucky Derby Party! Come ready to bid on your winning horse. A 50/50 purse will go to the winner. Prizes will be awarded for BestHat 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. Cost is \$250 per person. Let's get down and Derby!  
[Learn more at NTRC.org/events](http://NTRC.org/events) | 239-596-2988

# The Scene at NTRC



**Donate to NTRC**

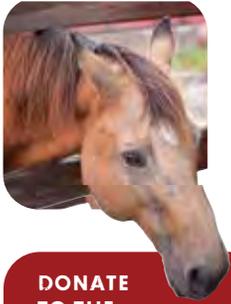




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## Caring for Our Horses

**Q: WHAT DO YOU NEED TO CARE FOR THE HERD?**

**A:** Hay, feed, and supplements cost roughly \$4,800 per month. Their care includes a farrier service that costs \$2,500 per month.

We also provide chiropractic care, massage, and Magna wave therapy as needed. With your support, we make sure the horses are in their best condition to serve our riders.

**DONATE  
TO THE  
CARE OF HORSES AT:  
NTRC.org/give**



## Board of Directors

Gregory Otis – President  
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Jeffery Fortier, Joe Logrippo,  
Mario Valle

## 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

### VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION EFFORTS PAYING OFF

After promoting Amy Burrell-Cormier to Volunteer Manager last summer, she hit the ground running meeting our hundreds of dedicated volunteers and listening to their needs. From that feedback, she created new opportunities and initiatives to help enhance our volunteer program to accommodate our growing service needs.



“NTRC can’t meet its mission without volunteers. Our riders can’t ride without them,” shared Amy. “Growth is a reflection of the health of an organization as well as its reputation in the community. Ensuring volunteers have a meaningful experience is critical to our recruitment and retention efforts.”

The changes Amy implemented have created more opportunities for connection – connection with riders and families, with other volunteers and connection to our mission. Scheduling changes encouraged volunteers to sign up for 8-week sessions in the same time slot so they can work with the same rider and horse each week. Community building events such as the new Food Truck Fridays, provide opportunities for riders, families, volunteers and staff to engage with each other in a social setting outside of lessons.

These efforts have paid off. Since August, the NTRC Family has grown by more than 160 volunteers! They are learning about NTRC by word of mouth from other new volunteers and outreach fairs where our best mini ambassadors Itty Bitty and Raisin are making the call for volunteers an easy sell. If you have a servant’s heart, volunteering at NTRC is a great place to invest your time – no horse experience needed.