



Naples Therapeutic

 Riding Center

Scene + Herd



MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER



Executive Director Letter

MARTIN DE ST. PIERRE



After our recent Volunteer Appreciation dinner, I reflected on what it takes for NTRC to function. A great staff and horses. An army of Volunteers. Donors who believe in and invest in our mission. The many participants in our programs. Constant outreach so the community knows the valuable services we offer. The common denominator is commitment. Some days are easy. Some not so.

We all show up, day in and day out. Even when it's hot or raining, or when we're tired or sad. Our volunteers sign up and take on the hardest, dirtiest jobs, and they do it with joy and enthusiasm. They are committed 365 days-a-year. It was a great honor to celebrate with them and honor this commitment – including Marcia Garvey who won volunteer with the most hours!

Our rider families face many challenges. What many of us take for granted is a struggle every day. Their commitment is inspiring, impressive and sometimes beyond my comprehension. The father of one our riders is also a side walker. I asked him how the family keeps going. His reply, simple and matter of fact, was "This is our life. We do what we have to do." It's commitment. Our great team brings the commitment every day. We, along with our volunteers, choose this inspiring work. For our riders and their families, the only choice is commitment. How can we not be humbled and moved by that commitment and want to guide NTRC forward to meet the needs of our community?

To meet those needs, we are moving forward with our obligation to support our community. We recently welcomed STARability and Able Academy back to campus and soon students from the Exceptional Student Education program at Golden Gate High School will join us. North Naples Therapy will be launching a speech therapy program utilizing our minis. We also have several new ground-based programs planned this year for autism support, grief therapy and PTSD. We are moving forward with our commitment because so many others have brought forth their own. We are honored to be part of their lives. To be here to help. For as long as the need is there.

Donor Dollars at Work

VINCE MILLOT INVESTS IN NTRC NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE



“People helped me when I needed it and I want to give back. On the horses, riders can forget they are disabled. They get to be free with the horse’s help.”

– Vince Millot,
Planned Giving
Donor

For the last ten years, Vince Millot has been a dedicated supporter. In addition to attending a Barn Dance and supporting the capital campaign, Vince began his long-term annual investment in our program by sponsoring a horse. He sponsored Tacoma for five years and now sponsors Delta. His \$12,000 annual sponsorship funds Delta’s customized nutrition and feeding plan, conditioning, exercise, and training routine, farrier costs, and dental and veterinarian visits.

But Vince and his investment advisor Dawn Litchfield, a longtime NTRC volunteer and supporter, didn’t stop there. She encouraged him to name the NTRC endowment as an irrevocable beneficiary of his annuity. So that Vince could see his gift at work during his lifetime, we recently unveiled the new Vince Millot Sensory Trail near the CFF Building and round arena, and held a dedication with our board members.

A sensory riding trail is a rich learning environment that consist of turns, varied footing, natural sights and sounds, and man-made activity stations. This integrated environment challenges the riders’ balance, stimulates their senses and encourages them to interact with the world around them. Activities on the Vince Millot Sensory Trail include: a bean bag board for throwing bean bags into holes, large PVC pipes to drop balls down, a little barn to open the doors and get objects out of, and two chutes to drop golf balls down and race. A fan favorite is the “car wash” with hanging noodles that riders ride through. There is also a bridge to show riders how when a horse goes up and down a hill the rider can adjust their weight by leaning forward or backward to help the horse.

Sensory trails can be used to support riders with sensory processing issues or to help develop motor skills, balance, hand-eye coordination and spatial awareness. Sensory-processing challenges can influence the social, emotional, and cognitive functioning of individuals. By helping riders develop motor planning and appropriate responses to sensations, they can then perform in a more functional manner throughout everyday life.

Meet a Rider *by Dana McGourty, Carter’s mom*

CALM, COOL AND CONFIDENT... ON AND OFF THE HORSE

Carter is a very active, social 12-year-old boy who loves movies, theme parks, swimming and horses. He has come a long way and made enormous strides in his life thanks to the weekly therapeutic riding lessons he has been doing at NTRC for the last seven years.

We noticed early on that Carter had a speech delay. When he was three, he was diagnosed with low muscle tone and sensory issues. We sprang into action putting him in every program we could find that would help. We learned about NTRC through occupational therapist Mary Fellenz.

From the very first lesson, Carter had no fear and gravitated to the horses. He is very comfortable and relaxed around them. At first he slouched on the horse, but now he sits up tall which has helped his muscle tone. He is much more trusting of the horse now. He can steer and command them which improved his self-confidence and communication skills off the horse. Riding also really helps with his anxiety. After a long and sensory filled day at school, when Carter gets on the horse it completely calms him. When he is calm, the whole family is calm and that spills over into our home life. Carter also participated in the summer camps for several years. Now a confident rider, his favorite part was the horse show because he could show off his horsemanship and smile for the camera!

For a child who once struggled to find the words, there is no stopping Carter now. He’s been asked to tap into his love for movies and become the official NTRC reporter where he will interview fellow riders. We are so proud grateful for the opportunities NTRC offers.



“We love everything about NTRC. The staff and volunteers are wonderful. It is a huge support system.”

– Dana McGourty,
Carter’s mom

The Scene at NTRC



Donate to NTRC

Welcome



LISA MORNINGSTAR

is the new Barn Manager. She has more than 30 years of experience working with horses and individuals with disabilities. She previously owned Morningstar Stables. As a PATH certified instructor, she has experience managing therapeutic riding programs including horse selection, conditioning and training.



CHRISTIAN VANORSDALE

is the new Mini Horse Coordinator. She has a lifetime of horse experience having been raised on a farm in West Virginia. She is a competitive barrel racer. She previously interned with DK Barrel Horses where she assisted with training horses for competition. She is a PATH Certified Equine Specialist in Mental Health & Learning



D. SUMNER NYSTEDT

is a new board member. He is a retired entrepreneur with retail, manufacturing, event production and publishing experience in both regional and global markets. Nystedt also volunteers at David Lawrence Centers.



ADRIENNE DOANE

a certified manager of community associations, is a new board member and will serve as Treasurer. She has 30 years of hospitality, management, accounting, and information technology experience. She is currently the General Manager of Enclave of Naples and a horse lover.



ELISE COUTRÉ

a Certified Private Risk and Insurance Advisor with Aon Private Risk Management, is a new board member. She also has experience in event planning, hospitality and business management.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Kentucky Derby Party

May 6, 2023 | 4:00 pm | NTRC

Join co-chairs Jennifer Marchionda and Rachael Williams for a day at the races at the annual Kentucky Derby Party presented by Ferrari of Naples! Come ready to bid on your winning horse. 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 help on-board new horses enabling riders to get the best care possible. Cost is \$250 per person and includes hors d'oeuvres, dinner, and an open bar. Let's get down and Derby!

Reeling for Riders

August 5th, 2023 | 7:00 am - 7:30 pm | NTRC

Co-chairs Jennifer Williams and Christina Stoneburner Legutki invite you to the 3rd Annual Reeling for Riders. The catch-and-release fishing tournament brings anglers of all ages together for a fun (and competitive) day on the backwaters. Prizes will be awarded at an awards dinner to the individual with the largest catch of Redfish and Snook. A silent auction will be held during the awards dinner. Proceeds support the operating costs for NTRC's programs. The cost is \$400 per boat/per team. Let's reel in the support for our riders!



Bootstrap Boogie Barn Dance

November 11, 2023 | 5:00 pm | NTRC



Our signature fundraiser, the 18th Annual Bootstrap Boogie Barn Dance, will be back to an in-person event and better than ever! The committee will spend the summer party planning and soliciting sponsors and auction donors. Guests will enjoy live music with the Blue Stone Circle Band while chowing down on tasty vittles, taking barn tours and supporting our wildly creative fundraising activities including the Pony Pie Bingo, Golden Boot Raffle and a special cash call. Proceeds support NTRC's annual operating costs. The cost is \$500 per person. Let's bid high and boogie!

LEARN MORE AT NTRC.ORG/EVENTS | 239-596-2988

Donor Spotlight

MEDICAL COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER TO CARE FOR OUR HORSES

The NTRC herd consists of older horses. They are safe and sound-minded animals who serve our unique clients. Along with their age, comes the discomforts of aging in the joints. Caring for our horses' special medical needs is our number one priority.

“Inflamed joints can be painful in the horse. If not addressed, this may progress to arthritis,” said Jennifer Williams, NTRC Equine Operations & Property Director. “The inflammation can break down the cartilage which could result in permanent damage and chronic pain.”

Advancements in medicine and veterinarian care have provided a unique opportunity for our partners in the medical community to support NTRC. We are blessed to have three partners utilizing cutting edge technology and products to support our horses. They not only donate products, but also their time.

Through a partnership with Zoetis Equine, a leading worldwide health company providing products that prevent, detect and treat equine disease, and our local, long-term veterinarian partner, Van Roekel and Associates Inc, they are providing a new technology to help relieve pain and promote healing for our hardworking herd.

Zoetis, Dr. Harvey and other veterinarians from Van Roekel's and Associates used the Pro-Stride APS regenerative medicine device to ease discomfort in the herd's joints. The technology uses the horse's own natural healing properties to restore joints with natural anti-inflammatories and healing growth factors produced from the horse's own blood. Seven NTRC horses are currently being treated with this technology.

Arthrex Inc., a leading global orthopedic medical device manufacturer headquartered in Naples, Florida, has for the last decade applied their expertise in orthopedics and orthobiologics to develop hundreds of products for the treatment of large and small animals through Arthrex Vet Systems. Through our partnership with Arthrex and Dr. Hank Gendron, they donate IRAP, a natural treatment used to treat mild to moderate osteoarthritis in horses. The substance used in IRAP is made from white cells in the horse's bloodstream. The cells are stimulated to produce regenerative and anti-inflammatory proteins without the addition of drugs.

“We currently alternate between the IRAP and Prostride treatments to compare and see what works best for our horses,” added Jennifer. “NTRC and our horses are incredibly grateful for these partnerships and their investments in our herd health.”



Brigette Gravitt, DVM
Barbara Lanigan
Darrell Harvey, DVM

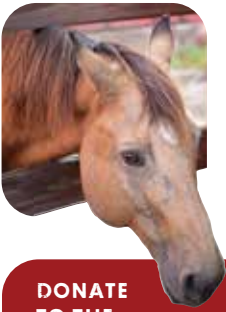




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ABOUT NTRC

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

FINDING HER HAPPY PLACE LED MARCIA GARVEY TO BE RECOGNIZED AS VOLUNTEER WITH THE MOST HOURS

NTRC is the perfect place for my volunteer efforts. My sister was special needs, so I have an appreciation for the challenges NTRC families face. I'm also a horse lover. I grew up in Ohio riding and showing horses. When my husband and I retired to Naples after 40+ years in the dental field, we found NTRC.

I started volunteering three years ago to meet people. I have met so many new friends and developed meaningful relationships at NTRC. I had no idea exactly how much more I would get out of my time volunteering. NTRC is my happy place and I love being here. It gives me purpose. It is so relaxing and rewarding.

I sidewalk and lead in lessons and help out at fundraising events. I volunteer 3+ days a week. My favorite lessons are the occupational therapy groups.

While I love my time with the horses, my favorite part about volunteering is being around the riders and seeing their progress. I learn something from them every day. They are all so wonderful and inspirational.

Learning I had the most service hours last year (263 to be exact) at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, was a huge surprise. It doesn't feel like work. I love being a part of the opportunities NTRC provides the participants. The entire staff is great to be around, and I always feel valued and appreciated – not only from the instructors, but the riders and families too. Volunteer with us and be part of the magic that happens at NTRC.



Maria Garvey