



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Michelle Schweber Named Executive Director of Naples Therapeutic Riding Center

Naples, FL—August 6, 2025 — Naples Therapeutic Riding Center (NTRC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Michelle Schweber as its new Executive Director, following a comprehensive local and national search.

Michelle brings more than 20 years of nonprofit leadership and fundraising experience to NTRC, along with a passion for empowering others and creating lasting, positive change. Her career has consistently reflected values that align closely with NTRC's identity—compassion, professionalism, inclusion, and a deep respect for community.

Michelle's background includes leadership roles at the Center for Puppetry Arts in Atlanta, the Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta, BIG ARTS on Sanibel Island, and the American Heart Association in Southwest Florida. A former Peace Corps volunteer in Romania, she has also helped build capacity in nonprofit organizations focused on community development and global wellness.

Since joining NTRC in early 2025 as Development Director, Michelle has already made a significant impact. She led the organization's record-setting Kentucky Derby Party, cultivated new relationships with sponsors and donors, and worked collaboratively to enhance community support. Her leadership has also continued to foster a welcoming environment grounded in trust, respect, and optimism—bringing NTRC's core values to life.

As Executive Director, Michelle is focused on expanding access to equine-assisted services, strengthening community partnerships, and nurturing a culture that is inclusive, accountable, and fun—while always remaining dedicated to the mission.

"I'm truly excited to be leading such a dedicated team at NTRC," said Michelle Schweber. "The work we're doing here goes beyond equine therapy—it's about building a community where everyone feels supported and empowered. We couldn't do this without the incredible commitment of our donors, volunteers, and partners, whose support makes our mission possible. Together, we're creating lasting impact, and I'm proud to be part of that effort."

John Wapelhorst, Board President of NTRC, expressed his enthusiasm for the new leadership.

“The Board and I are thrilled to have Michelle as our new Executive Director,” said Wapelhorst. “Her vision, excitement, and passion for our mission will help us continue to build upon the transformative work we do.”

With Michelle’s leadership, NTRC enters an exciting new chapter of continued growth, inclusion, and the shared joy of improving lives, one stride at a time.

About Naples Therapeutic Riding Center

Naples Therapeutic Riding Center (NTRC) is a PATH International Premier Accredited Center dedicated to improving lives through equine-assisted services. Serving over 800 individuals annually, NTRC relies on over 15,000 volunteer hours and the generous support of organizations like the Naples Children & Education Foundation, founders of the Naples Winter Wine Festival. Recognized as a 4-star charity by Charity Navigator, NTRC is one of Florida’s most highly regarded therapeutic equine centers.

To learn more, visit www.ntrc.org.

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