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Executive Director Update

By Executive Director, Jean Masthay

July 3, 2017 was a great day for me. It was the day I joined the TRI team! Thank you for welcoming me with open arms. It only took watching one riding lesson to know that the students and families who participate in our programs will invariably make me smile and they inspire all of us to be diligent in moving TRI forward.

I'm also quickly becoming attached to our horses. When I first started going to the barn—as a complete novice to the horse world—I'd stand at each stall wondering which one was my favorite. It was a futile exercise because I changed my mind on every trip! So I've come to the conclusion that relating to the herd is a little bit like parents and their children. No favorites. Just a realization that they are all uniquely endearing (challenging on occasion) and bring joy to all who ride, guide and care for them.

Generous supporters who give to us financially are appreciated beyond measure by the entire TRI team. Feed the Steed at this year's Friendraiser was a touching visual of how much our supporters want to pitch in and help provide experiences for those who gain so much from riding a horse.

I've been pleased to learn there are other community agencies, businesses, foundations, schools and service organizations that also join in our efforts. Collaborations can only strengthen TRI and the Greater Dayton communities we serve.

Our warm-hearted and qualified staff team, gifted board of directors and dedicated volunteers compel me to lead TRI with courage and focus, never taking my eyes off the mission to enhance lives by providing accredited therapeutic equine experience in a safe, fun and compassionate environment.

TRI is not without challenges, but with this incredible host of people working together for the good of the whole—onward and upward we go!

Jean

The 11th Annual FriendRaiser: Kickin' Our Boots Back to our Roots

SETS NEW RECORDS!

Thanks to the generosity of so many, **the 2017 FriendRaiser is officially the highest netting FriendRaiser to date!**

Feed a Steed – donations made straight to the TRI program – raised an unprecedented \$80,000 over the course of 15 minutes. What a night! While donations continue to come in, our total is now up to \$186,038!

Don't miss out on all of the great pictures by photographers Kelley McCain, John McKean, Howard Milkis and Tom Sheibenberger found on [TRI's Facebook page here](#).

Thank you to everyone who made this night spectacular – our TRI Ambassador, Aowyn, all of the TRI students, our Honorary Chair, Scott Barker, our volunteers and donors. This event continues to be a vehicle for program growth and innovation because of you. Thank you!

11th Annual FriendRaiser
KICKIN' OUR BOOTS
BACK TO OUR ROOTS
***** **AUGUST 12, 2017** *****

Special thanks to our sponsors:

BLUE RIBBON
The Jesse & Caryl Philips Foundation

RED RIBBON
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YELLOW RIBBON
Merrill Lynch
The Schade Team

PINK RIBBON
CAROL JORDAN
THE DAYTON FOUNDATION
Houser asphalt & concrete
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Save the Date – Student Show Oct 14

The Fall Student Horse Show is Saturday, October 14! Riding spots will be assigned in the order in which entries are received, so please enter early if you want to participate. There will be food from Carraba's for lunch between noon and 1:00pm, as well as a special appearance by members of TRI's Board of Directors.

Students, this is a great opportunity to bring your friends and family to the barn to show off the skills you have learned! Look for the entry form on the website and in your email – or just contact Michele at mgreen@TRIOhio.org.

Family Programming Continues!

Thanks to the support of the Brighter Tomorrows Foundation, we continue to pilot family lessons. We were pleased to have three families participate in each of the summer sessions, and are tremendously grateful to all the volunteers who gave up their Friday evenings to make this possible. We look forward to providing still more families the opportunity to ride together between Thanksgiving and Christmas!

Our Deepest Apologies...

...to all those students we are unable to accommodate in Session IV. It disappoints us terribly to simply not have space in the schedule for everyone who wishes to participate. We are adding classes between Thanksgiving and Christmas for those who are interested – please contact Michele at mgreen@TRIOhio.org by October 1 to get on the list.

Fare Well and Thank You!

With great sadness we say goodbye to Zoe. We are grateful to the Coldiron family for having allowed us to know this special little mare. We know that she will make another family very happy, and that she will be happier having her own person, all to herself.

Letting horses go is never easy for us, especially when they are as sweet and cute as Zoe. We absolutely must, however, keep the welfare of all of our equine partners a top priority at all times. And this means not only recognizing when a horse is physically uncomfortable, but also recognizing when a horse is not content with some aspect of the life we are providing. It is true that our horses are not asked to jump a 3' course, sprint for ¼ mile, or pack 250 pounds of supplies through the wilderness. But what they are asked to do is even more challenging, and goes against basic horse instincts. When we find horses willing to give up their personal space to allow volunteers to aid students, willing to forgive a rider's every error, and able to adjust to multiple handlers on a single day, we know we have found exceptional creatures, and we are thankful for every ride they provide. And when they tell us that they are ready for a different career, it is our responsibility to listen.



So, thank you for all the wonderful moments Zoe! You will be missed!

And Do You Know a Pony Looking for a New Job?

As we say goodbye to Zoe, we have to fill a large hole in our herd. Our ideal applicant will be 7 to 15 years old, between 14 and 15 hands tall, of narrow build, exceptional character, serviceably sound, and be happy to be "community property". Contact Jessica at jmoorhouse@TRIOhio.org if you have a candidate to recommend!

Check Your Couch Cushions, it's Penny Race Time!

The Penny Race is a friendly competition between each night of volunteers and students in the fall session. Team Wednesday has a title to hold on to and will fight with vengeance, but it's anyone's race to win! If you are riding or volunteering in the fall session, you'll find yourself on a team. Starting October 2nd, bring in spare change (silver, dollars, checks) are positive points. Pennies are NEGATIVE. Put pennies in your opponent's buckets at the barn and watch their point total go into the negative.



Team with the most points on October 28th wins! Stay tuned for more info. In the meantime, check those couch cushions!

Penny Race Sponsored by,



Upcoming Events

September 9 - November 4: (Fall) Session IV

September 16 - October 14: TRI Spirit Wear Sales ([See what's for sale and download an order form here](#))

October 2 – 28: Penny Race

October 14: Fall Student Horse Show

November 18: *Volunteer Workshop* - Horsemanship Skills with Tom Pompeii

November 27 – December 21: Family lessons and Session V (Mon – Thurs, registration deadline October 1)

February: Annual Celebration – February 23rd from 6-10pm at Canopy Creek!