



January 2017

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Back in the Saddle

Marleen Milkis, Executive Director

Happy New Year! I am pleased to announce that I am back in the saddle at work for TRI. I have been working part time since January 3rd and resumed full time duty January 15th. I appreciate everyone's support during the past few months as I have dealt with health issues and recovery from surgery. Six weeks is a long time to be away from TRI so I am sure that I have lots of catching up to do. I am hopeful for a healthy 2017.

Thank you to Christine Pirot for stepping up as acting Executive Director in my absence. Her dedication and hard work have allowed us to carry on in my absence. Michele Green and Sam Lape have been so supportive and have also picked up extra duties to help TRI continue to operate smoothly. We have all been very lucky to have the support of the Board members to help along the way.

THESE LADIES AND GENTLEMEN ROCK!!!

A lot is happening as we prepare for the beginning of 2017 classes. Be sure and stay tuned to StableTalk, and our website for information of upcoming events. ***We're looking forward to publishing our 2016 Annual Report in February and sharing the good work we accomplished this past year. Thank you for making these strides possible!***

See you soon!!

Marleen Milkis

Executive Director

Family Fun with TRI

By Michele Green, Program Director



At the end of 2016, we were able to offer our very first opportunities for our students to ride with members of their families. We had 6 families participate, with both parents and siblings taking advantage of this program. Despite Mother Nature's cruel and unnecessary reminder of the fact that winter is cold, we were able to get three of the four scheduled weeks of classes in.

As instructors, we were thrilled to see our students take on a supportive and teaching role with their parent or sibling. This was a great opportunity for our students to be the mentors and provide instruction, encouragement and positive reinforcement as they demonstrated and explained skills for their family members. As program staff, it was such a relief to finally be able to allow those parents and siblings who so patiently watch from the bleachers, occasionally admitting to wanting to be able to ride a horse, to actually be part of the experience rather than just a spectator. And as humans, it was heartwarming to see our students and their family members sharing this activity which (we hope and believe!) has been an important part of their lives.

We believe that riding at TRI has an impact not just on our riders, but on our riders' families. And we know that being able to include the family in the experience amplifies that impact. We are happy to announce that, with the support of the Brighter Tomorrows Foundation, we will again be offering a family session at the end of 2017! Additional information and registration packets will be available in the spring.

Starting 2017 off on the Right Hoof

By Christine Pirot, Director of Development

For every student that TRI places on a horse, we have to raise \$180. To say it simply, we could not operate without the generous support of a generous community. Next month, we'll be publishing our 2016 Annual Report which will illustrate just how important individual giving is, but to get us started, we have a few thank you's for community organizations and foundations that have chosen to benefit TRI!

To the DP&L Foundation, thank you for your sustained support to our mission. In 2016, the DP&L Foundation awarded a \$10,000 grant to support TRI's technological infrastructure. For all 44 years of TRI's existence, we have operated with personal laptops, phones and printers. In 2017, TRI will grow to 4 full time staff, 4 part time administrative staff and 7 instructors. We operate out of one 15'x15' office at Synergy Family Therapy in Centerville and our program site at FineLine Stables in Springboro. As you can imagine, efficiencies are hard to attain – some of our laptops don't integrate with the printers that have been acquired through the years. Some of our personal laptops no longer turn on every time we ask them to. This grant is a HUGE deal for TRI as it will be used to improve the efficiencies by which TRI completes our administrative and programmatic functions and that translates to more time for MISSION. Thank you, DP&L Foundation!



To the Brighter Tomorrow Foundation, thank you for investing in new innovative TRI programming. We were excited to offer inclusive programming to TRI families in 2016 where TRI students were invited to ride with their siblings or parents. See Michele's report in this Stable Talk about the success of family programming. As we look to the future, we see TRI making this a permanent part of TRI and the Brighter Tomorrow Grant of \$7,700 will help us afford to do so! TRI continues to offer student programming at an average of \$40/class with scholarship funding available, however, the real cost is closer to \$200/student/class and so we have to fundraise the difference. HUGE thanks to the Brighter Tomorrow Foundation for helping us fund the gap and by doing so, giving us the opportunity to bring exciting new programming to our community!

And finally, we need to extend a special thanks to an anonymous donor who saw a need and stepped forward to address it. As TRI has always boarded our horses, we have always relied on barn owners to maintain our program spaces. At our home in Springboro, we've been blessed with our own dedicated arena, the first time ever in TRI history. Thanks to this anonymous donor, TRI will be purchasing an arena groomer that will give us the ability, for the first time ever, to take on the responsibility of maintaining the footing in our arenas. This additional responsibility is one we are happy to take on and we are so thankful for the support that will enable us to do so.

The TRI Family Continues to Grow

Welcome, Amanda and Megan!

When TRI hired our first employee in 2012, after 39 years of serving the Dayton community, we knew that we were committing to building a team that would be able to bring TRI from the grass roots organization we know and love to a thriving premier center. In 2017, we are one step closer to that dream of stability. We are thrilled to welcome Amanda Jennings and Megan Lammers to TRI.

Amanda has been working with TRI as a contractor since 2012. She has a degree in graphic design and has been working in printing and design for over 15 years. Her graphic design skills have enabled TRI to bring our print materials to a level of professionalism that is indicative of the quality of our program. She knows and loves the TRI program and looks forward to being a permanent member of the TRI team.



Megan is coming on board as the newest member to the fundraising team. She'll be taking on the position of Development Assistant and will be working diligently to build community awareness of TRI through an increase in corporate events and giving. Megan has over 15 years of fundraising and event planning experience, is a Dayton native, mother of two beautiful children (1 of which is an equestrian!) and a proud graduate of Ohio University. Before coming to TRI, Megan worked in the Kettering City Schools and served as President and Vice President of TWIG 24 – one of the Terrific Women in Giving chapters supporting

Dayton Children's Hospital through fundraising and in-service hours. She brings a tremendous amount of fundraising experience to the development team, a love for horses and our mission.

Then, there's Sam...



TRI's commitment to encourage and enable all of our students to reach their full potential extends to the entire TRI family – including our staff. We welcomed Sam almost a year ago to TRI as our 4th full time employee, our Volunteer & Equine Coordinator. Like all of our staff members, we have worked closely with Sam over the last year to develop her skillset and to support her in the work where she is most passionate. Christine is ecstatic to welcome Sam to the development team where she will be helping with special events. Sam will continue on as TRI's Volunteer Coordinator and will be naturally building this role to build TRI's corporate volunteer relationships to include volunteering with TRI and sponsorships. She and Megan will be working closely together and they make a great team. And of course, you can still expect to see Sam in the arena teaching

our therapeutic riding and Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy classes. Sam's new title is Community Engagement & Volunteer Coordinator. She can still be reached at Volunteer@TRIOhio.org or 649-7577 Ext. 2.

Our Leadership Team: Marleen, Christine and Michele Are Still Leading the Charge



Marleen Milkis joined TRI in 2012 as our first paid employee and she continues to steer the ship as TRI's Executive Director. In addition to overseeing TRI's administrative functions, Marleen is also TRI's primary grant writer. She can be reached at ExecutiveDirector@TRloho.org or 937-619-7577 Ext. 4.

Christine Pirot also joined TRI in 2012 as a volunteer and Instructor and continues on as our Director of Development. She will be leading the Development Team of Megan, Sam and Amanda with a 2017 focus on increasing community awareness of TRI. Christine was recently awarded the Chamberlain Scholarship by the Greater Dayton Region Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals to represent Dayton at the 2017 AFP International Conference and serves as the PATH Intl Region 4 Conference Chair. She can be reached at Development@TRloho.org or 937-619-7577 Ext. 3



Michele Green joined TRI in 2014 and continues to coordinate our mission out at the farm as TRI's Program Director and Instructor. She's responsible for everything from the care of our horses to the addition of new innovative programming. In 2017, Michele's focus is on building daytime community partnerships and collaborations. She can be reached at Program@TRloho.org or 937-619-7577 ext.1

As we look toward the future, we continue to make strategic investments in the education of our current staff and the addition of new staff. We are committed to building a team that has the resources and experience to perform at the level we have come to expect for TRI and we appreciate the support from the community that has permitted us to do so.

A strong and passionate staff leads to strong and passionate programming and THAT is our primary goal.

Stay tuned for 2 more additions to the team – a Bookkeeper and an Equine Manager!

South Community Update

By Michele Green, Program Director

For the second year, TRI is working with South Community to offer students Equine Facilitated Learning opportunities on Thursday afternoons. South Community is once again providing referrals, goals and transportation to groups of 3 participants who are participating in a curriculum that focuses not just on riding skills, but on life and social skills. The students are coming from JFK Elementary and the Centerville School District, and each week conquer tasks related to communication, team work and more.



This partnership is incredibly important to TRI – South Community provides valuable services to their clients, and in many cases makes our programming accessible when it otherwise would not be. The thoughtful, meaningful information provided by their staff enable us to develop a very focused curriculum that has value not just during the riding lesson, but in each participant's daily life. We are grateful and proud to be able to partner with South Community to enhance both of our organizations' programs.

Volunteer Lessons

By Michele Green, Program Director

TRI is once again offering lessons to volunteers during the winter months! These lessons are an opportunity for our volunteers to learn more about riding, our procedures, and what our students experience in the arena. Offering these lessons also helps keep our horses active, as they are not getting as much turn out due to the weather. Keeping them in work helps keep them sound and happy. Lessons are being offered on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings in January and February, and may be purchased as a package or a la carte. Some spots are still available – contact Michele at Program@TRIOhio.org or 937-619-7577 ext 1 to sign up!

Join us for TRI’s Annual Celebration

THE THERAPEUTIC RIDING INSTITUTE CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO OUR

2016 Annual Celebration!

celebrating 43 years of service to children and adults with special needs

CANOPY CREEK FARM
600 BENNER RD MIAMISBURG, OH

FEBRUARY 10, 2017
6 PM - 9 PM

Dinner, Games and Fun!

RSVP TO SAM AT VOLUNTEER@TRIOHIO.ORG
OR 937-619-7577 EXT 2



We hope you will be joining us!

All volunteers will receive a complimentary ticket.

Students and Families are welcome!

General Admission tickets may be purchased for \$20.
Student tickets are available for \$15.

RSVP to Sam before February 2nd at volunteer@triohio.org

Upcoming Events

January - February– Volunteer Lessons

Contact Michele at Program@TRIOhio.org or 937-619-7577 Ext.1 to register

TRI's Annual Celebration: February 10th 6-10pm @ Canopy Creek Farm

A night to celebrate the impact we've made in the lives of our students, to thank the volunteers who make this possible and to acknowledge the great strides we have made – all thanks to you! Includes dinner, dancing and fun!

All TRI Volunteers receive one complimentary ticket.

Additional tickets will be available to purchase online for \$20.

Student price is \$15

Everyone is invited to come!

RSVPs are required to Sam at Volunteer@TRIOhio.org or 937-619-7577 Ext.2

March 4 – Volunteer Kick Off, 1:00 – 3:00pm

Location and topics to be announced – All Volunteers are encouraged to attend
Brush up on your skills and learn something new. This workshop will help you become a better volunteer.

RSVP Required to Sam at Volunteer@TRIOhio.org or 937-619-7577 Ext.2

New Side Helper Training: March 7 - 5:45-8:00p

New Horse Leader Training: March 9 - 5:45-8:00p

Field Trip Season Starts Soon!

First events are March 12, 19 and 26

March 18 – May 20 – Session I