



July 2016

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The Call for Saddles Elicits Huge Community Response

By Marleen Milkis, Executive Director

What’s a saddle? A saddle is the foundation upon which all the TRI miracles rely! It provides the stability which builds the confidence with which all of our students tackle their obstacles and achieve their goals. A good saddle is more than a piece of equipment; it’s what enables a student with poor balance to sit up tall. It’s what encourages a student to let go, to take the reins and to take control. A good saddle keeps our horses healthy and happy. It enables our students to work together with their horse to achieve their goals both in and outside of the arena.

For 43 years, TRI horses have found their saddles through generous donations – this year is no different. When TRI put out the call for new saddles, ones that would fit our horses and students correctly and give them the best chance at success, we were overwhelmed with the response.

Thank you so much to the following donors who have helped TRI acquire this fundamental (and expensive) piece of equipment:

- **The Dayton Foundation Green Light Grant**
\$4,000 for new saddles
- **The Gerald M. and Carole A. Miller Family Foundation**
\$3,000 for riding equipment
- **Anonymous Donor**
\$2,000 for saddles

“A proper saddle allows for our rider to stay in the proper position on the horse and to find success in sitting in what we call a ‘balanced seat’. This balanced seat aligns the rider’s body in a manner that most closely emulates the human gait at a walk. This alignment puts the spine, pelvis, abdomen and legs into a position that allows for stability throughout the rider’s trunk while allowing free range of motion in the legs and hips. For a therapeutic riding student this is invaluable.”

- Michele Green, Program Director



With this support, we have acquired 3 new saddles to date. Our Program Director, Michele Green has done a tremendous job shopping for like new saddles so that we can steward these funds to the best of our ability. On average, a new saddle costs \$2,000! We’re grateful for Michele’s expertise in this matter and very grateful to our Friends of TRI who heard of this need and responded so generously. Thank you!

Field Trip Fun with South Community

By Michele Green, Program Director

On Friday, July 15 we welcomed a group of 9 middle schoolers for a field trip with South Community. Hats off to volunteers Joey, Sidney, Lynn, Laura, Megan, and Jordan for spending the morning with us – it was a steamy day, and we really appreciated your assistance!

This group of youngsters is working on social skills – so we started the activities with how to properly introduce yourself to new people. Once we had all learned each other’s names and shaken hands, we moved to the arena where we learned how to properly introduce ourselves to horses. The horses were more than happy to make new friends, especially once they realized they were in for a 45 minute grooming and scratching session. Next Arizona and Boo taught the kids how to negotiate an obstacle course, while Billie Rae and Nick became living canvasses. After a round of thank you’s (for horses and humans), the kids enjoyed a snack while the horses enjoyed rolling in the mud – much to the chagrin of all who had brushed, and brushed until their horses were sparkling clean and soft.



At TRI, we recognize that not everyone wants to ride, or is able to meet the eligibility requirements for our lessons, but that everyone can benefit from time spent with horses (and our volunteers). We offer field trips to other organizations, so that the programming they offer can be augmented with the joy and novelty of equine activities. Whether participants are children, young adults or older adults, we know that the time they spend in the barn, touching and leading and painting the horses is highly rewarding and memorable.

CALLING ALL TRI VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS – It’s Auction Time!

By Michaela Forsythe, Development Assistant

Our 10th annual FriendRaiser, The Bootlegger’s Ball, is less than a month away and we need your help more than ever to help make this event a success. Silent Auction Co-Chairs Michaela Forsythe and Noel Lakes, along with a group of amazing volunteers, have already collected and assembled nearly 35 baskets to be raffled off this year. They need your continued assistance and support in collecting donations and providing more baskets to get TRI that much closer to finding a permanent home.



If you are looking to help collect donations, have items to donate, or want to learn more about what you can do to help out with the Silent Auction, please contact Michaela Forsythe at Marketing@TRIOhio.org or (513)594-6437. She would love to hear from you!

Goodwill Easter Seals Job Skills Program Extends to TRI

By Sam Lape, Volunteer & Equine Manager

On Tuesday, July 12th, TRI had two outstanding women and their supervisor from Goodwill Easter Seals Miami Valley come to the barn for a volunteer day. The two young ladies are participating in Goodwill’s job skills program and worked on their goals with Goodwill in the work they provided for TRI. They accomplished quite a few tasks around the barn including cleaning the bathroom and kitchen, reorganizing the toy and game area in the indoor, cleaning tack, and cleaning and reorganizing the tack room. These are things that we wouldn’t be able to get done on a regular basis without the help of our amazing volunteers! By doing these tasks, the two ladies were able to work on their problem solving and ability to stay on task and complete a job. After the work was all done, we had a nice lunch on the picnic tables next to the pond. Job skills training is something we look forward to offering more of once we have our own facility. In the meantime, we’re excited to offer these individualized experiences and we’re so grateful for the hard work that gets done!



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Corporate Volunteers Step Up to the Plate for TRI
Lexis Nexis and Pioneer Automotive Visit TRI for the First Time
By Sam Lape, Volunteer & Equine Manager



Watch out GE, there are some new kids in town!

This June, TRI was lucky enough to have two corporate volunteer groups come spend their day volunteering for us: Lexis Nexis and Pioneer Automotive. It may come as a surprise to you that corporate volunteers play a large role in TRI's programming, but much of our spring cleaning, building, barn and property maintenance is accomplished by corporate volunteers. Although GE Aviation continues to be our largest source of corporate volunteers (3 years running Corporate Volunteer Group of the Year, committing at least 15 people 4 times a year), we were excited to welcome two new corporations to the barn.



It wouldn't be a proper farm welcome without it having been the hottest day of the year (at least it felt that way), but Lexis Nexis didn't let us down. They came out with a group of 18 employees to assist us in weed-eating, barn chores and even building set pieces for the FriendRaiser! It was a hot, rainy, and humid day, but they did not stop until the work was done!

The very next day, a team of 12 from Pioneer Automotive, led by longtime volunteer Lori Tullis, joined TRI to continue the help in building sets for the FriendRaiser! Part of the group split off, and was able to build the amazing door (peep hole and all!) that will be used as the entrance piece for the prohibition themed gala. It was very impressive how they were able to take a picture of the door we wanted and bring it to life without any sort of instructions! Others worked on breaking down more pallets to find good, sturdy boards and made wine racks to auction off at the event! These pieces will really make our event, the Bootleggers Ball, look authentic!

Overall, there was a lot accomplished between the two groups and we could not be more grateful for all the hard work they put in for us! If it wasn't for the generosity of the corporate volunteer groups that help us on a regular basis, TRI would not be able to get even half of this great work accomplished!

If you're interested in getting a corporate volunteer day on the calendar for your business, contact Sam Lape at Volunteer@TRIOhio.org.

Join us This Year for Family Fun!

By Michele Green, Program Director

Several times per year we hear from families that parents and siblings are interested in learning to ride. Some are not so much interested in learning to ride, but in experiencing what our students experience in lessons. Or in having an opportunity to share an activity with a rider, rather than watching from the bleachers.

This year, the switch from four 6-week sessions to three 8-week sessions gave us a four week period between Thanksgiving and Christmas in which no therapeutic lessons were scheduled. So, we are excited to announce that at the conclusion of Session III, we will offer a mini-session for our students and their family members to ride together. This session will run November 28 through Thursday December 22.

Students active in 2016 can invite up to 2 family members to participate in lessons with them. Family members will be required to submit a special registration packet (a physician's release may be required depending upon the health of the family member), and are subject to the same weight limit as all other riders. Classes will be 45 minutes long, and participants must sign up for the entire session.

Don't worry - we won't just toss family members up on a horse, say "Have fun!", and then ignore them. Every rider will receive volunteer assistance for safety, and every rider will receive instruction from one of our instructors. As family members are faced with the challenge of riding, we hope it will give everyone an even greater appreciation of our regular students' accomplishments in the saddle.

We are very excited to debut this program - and we hope you are as well. This is a great opportunity to share a fantastic experience! If you would like to receive a registration packet or additional information, please contact Michele Green at Program@TRIOhio.org.

10th Annual FriendRaiser: The Bootlegger's Ball Sells Out

By Christine Pirot, Director of Development

Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls, its official: the 10th Annual FriendRaiser is sold out!

We are so excited to welcome 250 guests to our Bootlegger's Ball on August 13th at beautiful Canopy Creek Farm in Miamisburg. Seems like everyone is excited to dress up as a flapper these days! More than that, our guests are excited to be a part of TRI's mission and that tells us one very important thing, we're on the right track!

We are so proud to be continuously evolving and improving. From the implementation of objective student evaluations in each class to the creation of innovative therapeutic programming like Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy, TRI continues to strive for excellence in everything we do. Of course, our own permanent home will go a long way in that quest and this FriendRaiser is really a kick off for us to announce that this is the direction we are going, the direction we need to go. A permanent home means that we can have offices on site, run programming at any time, and open our doors to special job site trainings, camps, workshops and after school programs. The future is bright! In the meantime, we have a celebration to attend to!

Thank you to our incredible sponsors who make this event possible, to all of our auction donors, to our special students who will act as ambassadors that night, to our band Joshua Jazz, to Dayton Artist Mike Elsass who will be painting live on site using this exciting energy to paint a metal canvas, to our Honorary Chair, Jamie Schade and to all of the staff and volunteers that work tirelessly to make the FriendRaiser an event to look forward to – THANK YOU!

If you're one of the lucky people attending the Bootlegger's Ball, don't forget, we are encouraging everyone to attend in 1920s costume – this will be a real speakeasy. Come ready for a fun night!

Thank You to Our 2016 Bootlegger's Ball Sponsors!

Blue Ribbon

The Jesse & Caryl Philips Foundation

Red Ribbon



Springboro
Shooting
Sports

FIRST DAYTON
CYBERKNIFE
855-DAYTON1

Yellow Ribbon



Merrill Lynch
The Schade Team



Pink Ribbon



KARAMAN
FINE JEWELRY & GIFTS

Upcoming Events

June 4 – August 5 – Session II

August 3 – 6 – Dayton Horse Show @ The Montgomery County Fairgrounds

TRI will be featured Friday, August 5. All of TRI's Friends are invited to cheer on our Student Ambassador, Mo, as he and Billie Rae demonstrate their skills in front of the crowd. Afterwards, join us for some light food and refreshments in the exhibitor's tent. Students and Volunteers are encouraged to attend this fun event.

TRI's Bootlegger's Ball: August 13, 2016

The FriendRaiser is sold out. Additional tickets may become available. Contact Christine at Development@TRloho.org to reserve yours today.

Side Helper Training: September 6 – 5:45pm – 8pm

RSVP required to Sam at Volunteer@TRloho.org

September 17 – November 12– Session III

Parelli Clinic for TRI Volunteers: Sunday, September 18th from 1-4pm

All TRI volunteers are encouraged to attend this informational clinic by Parelli Professional, Tom Pompeii. Horse Leaders are invited to buy a chance for \$5 to participate in this ground clinic with a TRI horse. RSVP Required to Sam at Volunteer@TRloho.org.

Fall Student Horse Show: October 8th

PENNY RACE: September 24th – November 4th



Get ready for the 2016 Penny Race! Kicking off September 24th, each day of the week will separate into teams and pitted against each other to raise money for TRI. Each team has a bucket at the barn. Put silver coins, dollars and checks in your team's bucket, but avoid pennies, they're negative! Now's a good time to reach out to your employer to nominate TRI for your Casual Fridays or to inquire whether you can point a change jar in the break room. *Penny Race 2016 – for the glory!*

November 28– December 2 – Family Session