



November 2016

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An Executive Update

Marleen Milkis, Executive Director

As the year winds down, I want to thank you for all your on-going support. It is our donors, our volunteers and supporters that make it all happen, so THANK YOU for:

- **Bringing** Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy to southwest Ohio
- **Enabling** us to recruit talented, professional certified staff and
- **Providing** us with the ability to grow each year to better serve our community.

The fact is that every day with your help, we are empowering people from our community who have never experienced “the country” or the thrill of riding our magnificent horses. Field trips and daytime programs with **Sunlight Village, Waynesville Elementary School, South Community and Otterbein** are new partnerships that excite us. We are able to bring peace and comfort to young children struggling with anxiety and to our oldest participants living with Alzheimer’s. While TRI has reached maximum capacity in our evening classes, we continue to pursue partnerships that will help us serve our community during the daytime hours.

And perhaps most importantly thank you for your personal commitment of time, advice and financial support to TRI and our future as we continue to grow, evolve and meet the needs of our community in 2017 and beyond.

Sincerely,

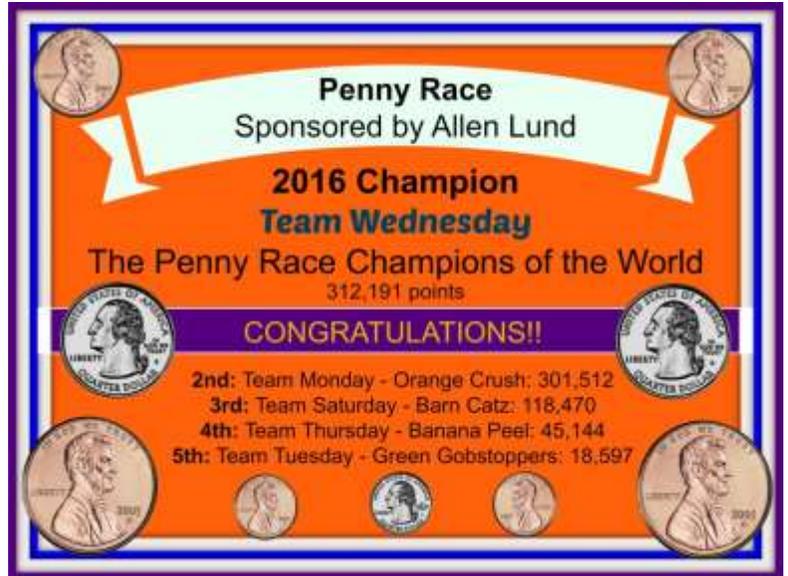
The Penny Race Raises \$5,849 for TRI

Sponsored by



**Congratulations to Team Wednesday:
The Penny Race Champions of the World
For winning the 2016 Penny Race!**

We are so grateful to everyone who participated in the 2016 Penny Race, an exciting few weeks where each team of students and volunteers competes for bragging rights. It was a very, very tight race, but Team Wednesday eeked out the win. Congratulations to Team Wednesday and thanks to everyone who made a donation in honor of our incredible students and volunteers!



The Fall Horse Show Shines with Something Old and Something New

Sponsored by  Premier Health



We had a beautiful day for the Fall Horse Show on October 8th. Friends, family and neighbors alike came out to cheer on our competitors in our annual student horse show. Blue ribbons and trophies were everywhere and the horses were wonderful. As usual, riding in the “big” ring was a special treat for all of our riders and our horses. The competitors were spectacular, demonstrating their hard earned riding skills at the walk, trot, and two point. There was posting, correct diagonals and even independent riding.

So what was new? We had an event sponsor!! Premier Health generously sponsored the event and underwrote all of our students entry fees. On top of that, our Penny Race Sponsor, Allen Lund Co, came out and provided lunch for everyone from Carrabba’s! We even debuted the Allen Lund Ride a Buck Challenge. Students rode with a dollar under their seat and if they held their dollar the longest, they could put that change in their team’s Penny Race jars! On top of that, the Dayton Horse show was there to help run our registration room AND presented TRI with a \$2,100 check!!



It was a spectacular day. Thank you to all of our volunteers who made this great experience possible and congratulations to all of our students on a job well done!

Food Generously Provided by the Penny Race Sponsor



AND



TRI Represented at PATH International Conference

By Christine Pirot, Director of Development

The annual PATH International conference took place in Williamsburg, VA last weekend and as a member of the Region 4 Leadership Team, I was fortunate to be offered a complimentary conference registration. Over 600 people flew in from across the world to represent their therapeutic riding centers. It's still amazing to me that there are over 800 member centers across the globe! The conference was a wealth of information and an opportunity to learn from the best in our profession. I attended two days of sessions on administration and programming and I was enthralled by the ingenuity in our field. One Center has started a mentor program with their volunteers for children in foster care. Another runs a 4 day summer camp for children with autism by teaming up with their local children's hospital. One facility utilizes a "sensory stall" – a thoroughly clean horse stall with clean shavings where their students in need of a sensory experience can literally dive into the shavings. Research is expanding into our field and more and more centers are teaming up with institutes of higher education to examine how horses are impacting our students physically, emotionally, psychologically and socially. Across the industry, we are seeing a renewed commitment to skill progression, goal setting and attainment and professionalization with more and more collaborations between physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, mental health professionals and therapeutic riding instructors. TRI remains committed to the highest standards that PATH Intl sets and in many cases, we exceed them!



TRI Volunteers Benefit from Parelli Workshop by Tom Pompei

By Sam Lape, Volunteer & Equine Coordinator



On Sunday, September 18th TRI had the pleasure of welcoming Parelli Instructor, Tom Pompei, to our barn for a volunteer workshop. The workshop was geared towards those volunteers interested in learning more about working safely and effectively with TRI's program horses, as well as learning more about how a horse thinks and reacts to certain cues and situations.

The workshop started out with a wonderful demonstration, where Tom and his horse Peaches showed off everything they have been working on the past two years. This included amazing skills such as riding without a saddle, riding without a bridle or reins, and playing basketball with a giant green bouncy ball! From there, Tom was able to teach the volunteers the different ways of communicating with your horse from the ground.



After Tom's demonstration was complete, he opened the floor up to our volunteers that had the chance to work on some of these techniques with TRI's very own program horses! Six TRI volunteers were able to learn about the quirks each of our horses has and how to successfully work with our horses! It was amazing to see how his suggestions really allowed our horses and volunteers to shine!

At the end of the workshop, Tom opened the floor up for questions and was able to give some really awesome feedback about how to apply this to working in our own riding lessons with TRI students. Overall, it was a great learning experience for TRI volunteers and instructors alike! We cannot wait to invite Tom back in 2017 to continue growing our horsemanship skills in another workshop.

Congratulations to the Fall Session Volunteer MVPs!

By Sam Lape, Volunteer & Equine Coordinator

This session, we would like to congratulate Katherine Boylin, Penny Gamble, Dave Ball, John Blust, Pam Scheurman, Morgan Madden and Steve Hayes on being our Session 3 Volunteer MVPs! There was so much awesomeness going on in the barn this session, we couldn't narrow it down to just one for each day! We greatly appreciate all the time, effort, and passion our volunteers put into our riding classes and love to see our riders grow leaps and bounds with their assistance! **Thank you MVPs, for going above and beyond this session and ultimately being irreplaceable volunteers!**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Saturday
Katherine & Penny	Dave	John	Pam and Morgan	Steve

Fall 2016 MVPs

Morgan (not pictured)

Welcome, Cheeto!

By Michele Green, Program Director

If you've been in the barn recently, you no doubt saw a horse of a different color (and pattern!) hanging out. Cheeto is a wonderful, adorable Appaloosa gelding, and he joined us for his trial period in October. Cheeto comes to us from a generous family in Indiana, who want him to have a job (besides eating). Cheeto has been a pet, a lesson horse, and a trail horse. He is sweet, and personable, and nothing seems to faze him. We are excited to welcome him, and hope that he will be able to join the lesson program in the spring. Thank you, Melissa, for this opportunity!



TRI Pilots New Family Programming

By Michele Green, Program Director

Thanksgiving is almost here, and that means so is our inaugural Family Session! We are so excited to be able to add this session to the 2016 calendar. We do our best to listen to all of our students and volunteers, and heard many casual statements from our riders' families about wanting to share the riding experience. Since we made the switch from 6 to 8 week sessions this year, we finally had an opportunity to add some extra programming. We are so pleased that 5 families are signed up for this first time opportunity!

As therapeutic riding instructors, we truly enjoy seeing the family moments in the barn and the arena – those times where someone achieves a goal, big or small, and their family members are there to see it. And as riding instructors, we are truly frustrated when we see siblings and parents on the bleachers, instead of in the saddle – we want everyone riding, all of the time! We all personally know how enriching it is to share riding with family and close friends – it's like the sprinkles on a donut – the donut is going to be yummy without the sprinkles, but when it has sprinkles it's just somehow so much better. We're excited to be able to get those family members on a horse, and to let them live the experience rather than just watch it. We hope that not only will everyone have fun, but that it will bring those family members closer, as riders will have the opportunity to help teach a family member a new skill.

We are also extremely grateful to all those volunteers who have signed up for this special session. We know that it is difficult to find extra time during the holiday season, and truly appreciate those who have signed up to volunteer, to participate in volunteer lessons, or both. There are still a few spots open both for volunteering and for riding (for riders who do not require volunteer assistance - as of this writing anyway!) – be sure to contact Sam at Volunteer@TRIOhio.org to sign up!

Calling all Volunteers – It's time for some horse intensives!

By Michele Green, Program Director

January 2016 marked the first TRI Volunteer Lesson and Horse Buddies session, and we are pleased to announce the continuation of these programs. **The first Horse Buddies meeting will be from 6:00 to 8:00 on Tuesday Dec 6.** Horse Buddies is an opportunity for volunteers to sign up for time with the horses. Participants

learn basic horse handling skills, such as how to put a halter on, grooming and leading. Those who participate on a regular basis can expect to be eligible for Horse Leader Training in 2017. Attendees of the Dec 6 orientation will be asked to sign up for specific Horse Buddy times, so be sure to bring your calendar! **Sign up for the Dec 6 orientation by contacting Sam at Volunteer@TRIOhio.org.**



Volunteer Lessons will resume in January, and run through February. Lessons should be offered Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evening. Volunteers will be assigned horses based upon the size and experience of the volunteer and horse availability. Keep your eyes open for a sign up email!

End of Session Surveys – They Really Do Matter!

By Michele Green, Program Director

It's that time again – the end of another session! Please, please take the time to fill out the end of session surveys. Rider surveys are available at the barn – just ask your instructor if you haven't been given one. Or, contact Michele at Program@TRIOhio.org for an emailed survey. Volunteer surveys should be hitting your email box soon – if you don't see one, contact Sam at Volunteer@TRIOhio.org.

At TRI, we value everyone's input – and we are extremely grateful to everyone who completes a survey. These responses really do guide us as we plan the calendar, training opportunities and programming, as well as helping us improve the quality of the TRI experience for our students, families and volunteers. We want to make sure everyone is safe, happy and learning at TRI – and we need everyone's perspective to help us see the complete picture.



Upcoming Events

November 28– December 2 – Family Session

Horse Buddy Orientation: December 6 – 5:45pm – 8pm

RSVP required to Sam at Volunteer@TRloho.org

January - February– Volunteer Lessons

Contact Michele at Program@TRloho.org to register; schedule to be announced soon!

March 4 – Volunteer Orientation, 2:00-4:00

Location and topics to be announced

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

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

March 18 – May 20 – Session I

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!

All TRI Volunteers receive one complimentary ticket.

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

Everyone is invited to come!

RSVPs are required.

Invitations will be emailed soon.

