



## Lots of News to Share!

**What a year we've had so far! We have many new volunteers as well as new participants and programs, and we mounted two extremely successful fundraising events. In this newsletter, read about all this as well as a tribute to a dear friend, some prestigious news in the "horse world," our search for a new Executive Director, and gift ideas for the holidays. We also recognize all the donors from 2017--we wouldn't be TRI without you!**

[Visit Our Website](#)

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## Boots, Brews, & BBQ 2018

**On September 21, friends of TRI filled the arena for another wonderful and fun-filled Boots, Brews, and BBQ event! Guests enjoyed meeting the horses and dancing to the Ben Daniels Band and DJ Dorian.**



*Dinner is served*

**In addition, three lucky winners went home with beautiful diamond horseshoe necklaces, courtesy of Lewis Jewelers.**

**During the event we were very proud to honor Dick Carlisle, recipient of the 2018 President's Award. The President's Award is presented in recognition of extraordinary service to the riders and families of TRI. Dick**

**became involved with TRI over 25 years ago when his daughter began riding in the program in the early 1990's. He served on the board for 15 years and was instrumental in helping to secure the Joy Road facility for TRI, which allowed us to serve our rider families until we moved to our current location. Thank you, Dick, for your dedication and countless**

hours of service to TRI!

We also honored Rusty Towers as the recipient of the 2018 Golden Horseshoe Award, which recognizes her exceptional service as a volunteer. Rusty has volunteered with TRI for 19 years. She is invaluable to TRI as she is able to do every volunteer position and does them with perfection. She is an accomplished horsewoman and teacher at heart and helps us train volunteers at all levels. Thank you, Rusty, for your years of service to TRI and your willingness to always go the extra mile for anything that needs to be done at the barn!

Additionally, we want to thank the House family for their heartfelt words of support and for sharing the impact that TRI has had on their family. We are so grateful to have them as part of the TRI family.

We would like to extend a big thank you to all of our sponsors, donors, and volunteers, as well as our steering and host committees. Boots, Brews, and BBQ would not be a success without your generous support.



*Robert & friends hit the dance floor*

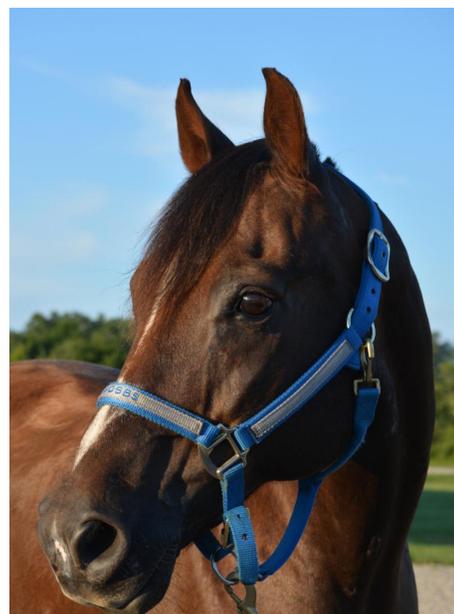
Please save the date for Boots, Brews, and BBQ September 20, 2019. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!

## TRI-FECTA 2018

TRI-FECTA '18 was a big success! There were lots of winners, but The biggest winners of all this year: everyone at TRI. Because of the efforts of the riders, volunteers, and staff, we met our \$25,000 goal and then some, which means we met our matching gift of \$25,000 from the

Ronald J. Woods Charitable Trust! The generous folks at the Ronald J. Woods Charitable Trust also donated the football tickets and the gift cards. Because of our TRI-FECTA donors, we can continue to offer all the wonderful programs at TRI, and our riders can continue to experience all the benefits of horsemanship. THANK YOU, ALL!

[Follow this link](#) for all of the TRI-FECTA 2018 winners!



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## A Very Good Year for TRI



*Riders love their horses*

The TRI program staff calls this a "very good year for TRI" based on the lives we touch, the people we teach, and their successes.

Our weekly group lessons continue for our regularly scheduled participants. We have both evening and morning classes and private lessons as well.

In addition to these we also have:

- The Pink Posse program. This group began this year for women with breast cancer. This is a weekly, comprehensive horsemanship class.
- The Golden Giddy UP Gang lessons. We continue to offer these lessons with Story Point in Saline.
- Special Tree Rehabilitation. This programming continues with both a mounted group and a ground lesson group.
- C.S. Mott Children's hospital Family Center visits. We continued our visits to C.S. Mott with our Equicizer several times this year.

### Our newest BIG NEWS:

From a Press Release Oct. 15: "The US Equestrian Federation (USEF) and the United States Para-Equestrian Association (USPEA) are excited to announce the launch of an additional USEF/USPEA National Para-Equestrian Dressage Center of Excellence (COE). The USEF Selection Committee carefully scrutinized the application and upheld the highest standards upon recommending the following facility to be named with this prestigious COE title: Therapeutic Riding, Inc. - Ann Arbor, MI"

We are honored. For all of you who have supported TRI in any way over these, almost, 35 years, we thank you. We hope that this encourages you to learn more about us.

Onward to 2019! It is going to be another great year!

Jan Vescelius  
Program Director/Head Instructor

## 2018 By the Numbers....

Numbers can't capture all the smiles and skills learned at TRI this last year, but they do allow me to boast (for just a bit) about how incredible our volunteer team is! Each person and each volunteer hour contributed- whether it was assisting a rider as sidewalker, grooming grubby horses, or sprucing up the barn-translated directly into growth and new opportunities for our program participants. As our 2018 riding season draws to a close with Holiday Session, I'd like to offer a heartfelt "THANK YOU!" for all of these contributions:



*Eager volunteers at the spring orientation*

- 80 brand new volunteers joined us to assist with our horsemanship lessons. We are honored that you chose TRI as the recipient of your valuable time!
- About 120 volunteers chose to continue their service at TRI from previous years. Thank you all for bringing your years of expertise and passion to our program!
- To-date, 230 volunteers have given over 6,567 hours!

While things are a little quieter at the barn, we are looking ahead to 2019. Look for additional training sessions, more new volunteer orientations, and lots of fun opportunities to volunteer! If you're interested in continuing on as a volunteer with us next year, please look for important updates from me in January 2019. And, if you're interested in joining us as a volunteer, get in touch with me, and I'll be happy to put you on the path!

Jennifer Beyer  
Volunteer Manager  
[volunteer@therapeuticridinginc.org](mailto:volunteer@therapeuticridinginc.org)

## TRI Loses A Friend

I am sorry to share the news that TRI recently lost a pillar of love, humor, honesty and devotion to the program. Gerald Knight passed away on September 25 at the age of 56. The entire TRI family extends condolences to his wife Maureen, his children Zachary, Marcus, Jessica and the entire Knight family.

My first memory of Gerald is seeing him huddled around the space heater at the Joy Road location awaiting our turn at the loading ramp. I recall being unnerved by Gerald's intensity while simultaneously disarmed by his smile, humor and wit. In the intervening 15 years, I came to understand that the intensity was rooted in a

fierce curiosity and laser focus on the project at hand. From guidance and support as we struggled to meet payroll in the early 2000's to the planning and implementation of a capital campaign and finally settling into our location on Morgan Road, Gerald and Maureen were with us every step of the way. Gerald's unique combination of humor and no-nonsense focus on the task at hand always kept us grounded as he shared the insight, experience and resources we needed at every step.

TRI is flourishing thanks to Gerald's generous spirit. There is no more fitting tribute than the pride and joy of each rider in a program and facility made possible by Gerald's devotion to making the world a better place.

*--Mike Hommel, Board President*

## **OUR DONORS WERE VERY GENEROUS IN 2017**

TRI couldn't possibly exist without the generosity of our many donors. In fact, we had so many donors in 2017, we can't fit them all in this newsletter! Follow this link to see [complete list of 2017 donors](#). If your name is misspelled, misplaced, or just plain missing, please contact [Cassie](#).

## **UPDATE: SEARCH FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

TRI is hunting for a dynamic Executive Director to lead us as we provide the best in therapeutic horseback riding and horse-related activities in 2019 and beyond. We enlisted the assistance of The Karen Andrews Group, experts in nonprofit executive recruitment based in Ann Arbor. We are interviewing candidates currently and hope to find just the right person by the end of the year. So, if you know an experienced nonprofit leader, with excellent communication skills and a passion for working with children and adults with disabilities or other challenges, have the applicant contact Liz Larin, Chair of TRI's Search Committee, at [lizarina7@gmail.com](mailto:lizarina7@gmail.com).

## **HOLIDAY SHOPPING IS JUST A CLICK AWAY!**

**Looking for gift ideas for the horse lovers in your family?  
Look no further!**

**We have partnered with Ann Arbor T-Shirt Company for TRI logo wear. They have created an online store that is easy to access and use. You may go online and order TRI logowear directly at any time--the store will always be open. [Start shopping!](#)**

**The generous folks at Lewis Jewelers have created TRI charms, bangle bracelets, and lapel pins for purchase. All profits from the sale of jewelry will be donated to TRI! You may visit the Lewis Jewelers' store at 2000 W Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103 to purchase jewelry on the spot! Don't want to go out in the cold? [Purchase jewelry online](#). There are samples in the display case at the TRI barn, so if you find yourself there, check it out.**

**HELP TRI WHILE YOU SHOP**

If you shop at Amazon, you can help TRI while you're at it! Amazon Smile is a program that lets you donate a percentage of every purchase to TRI. [Click here](#) to register.

STAY CONNECTED:

