

# TRI News

## Executive Director's Update -

Ah, Summer! After another hard winter, I really appreciate this beautiful weather, even when it gets hot and humid. I just recall below zero temps and gads of snow....

We are very fortunate to have plenty of exciting things going on at TRI for the remainder of the year. Here are a few of the highlights:

- This August we are offering two new Mini-Series to our participants – Introduction to Dressage and Introduction to Showmanship – along with our very popular Summer Camp week.
- **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Washtenaw County** are returning for their second annual Day At The Farm visit.
- TRI's biggest annual fundraiser, our TRI-FECTA campaign, starts September 8 and runs through November 2 (during Fall Session). This fundraiser is driven by our riders and volunteers and is successful due to the devotion of our TRI Family. The dollars brought in go towards taking care of our horses. Healthy horses = happy riders!
- Our 2nd Biannual Boots, Brews, & BBQ will be held in our magnificently decorated arena on September 25! Invitations are being mailed soon. It was a wonderful party in 2013 and you do NOT want to miss this one.
- We will be constructing run-in sheds in five of our paddocks this summer. The horses will be happy to have shelter from the wind, rain, and insects!
- We are upgrading our computer equipment (which we haven't done since sliced bread was invented!)
- We have installed a new Helping Hands donor recognition board in the lounge. Please come and check it out! If you are not a regular visitor at TRI, call the office and we'll be happy to plan a visit for you. I will give you the tour!

I cannot thank our devoted donors enough for their unfailing support of our program. We are now in our 31st year of service and we have you to thank for our longevity and growth.

Every day I am inspired by our riders. Every day I am grateful to be able to teach them. Every day they teach me something new. What a gift they are to all of us. Enjoy every day ...

Have a wonderful summer.

*Jan Vescelius -*

Executive Director, Program Director,  
Head Instructor

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## Thank you to our Adopt-A-Horse Donors



The **J.F. Ervin Foundation** has been supporting TRI since 1997 and has been an Adopt-A-Horse donor since 2005. We are very grateful to announce that they have renewed their adoption of **B Smiley** for a fifth year. On behalf of B Smiley and all his riders, we send our sincere thanks to the Trustees of the J.F. Ervin Foundation for all their support and loyalty.

**Hey Dobbs!** sends his thanks to his friends at the **Buhr Foundation** for renewing their adoption of him for a second year. **Martha Grimes**, President of the Foundation, told us that "(o)ne of our younger Board members expressed it best: We are not just feeding a horse, we are helping all the kids and adults who ride Hey Dobbs! Definitely a win-win situation!" We couldn't agree more, and thank Martha and all the board members at the Buhr Foundation for their support of our horses, riders, and mission.



**April and Major** send a whinny of thanks out to their adopting friends, the **James A. and Faith Knight Foundation**. The Foundation has been a longtime supporter of TRI, supporting staff development projects and our Capital Campaign. Now its generosity is helping us to take care of two of our very special horses for the next year.



The James A. and Faith Knight Foundation is dedicated to improving communities by providing grant support to qualified nonprofit organizations including, but not limited to, those that address the needs of women and girls, animals and the natural world, and internal capacity. <http://knightfoundationmi.org/>.



**Garuda** is pleased to announce that his generous adopting friend renewed their adoption of him for another year. While the donor wishes to remain anonymous, their generosity is truly appreciated and we, and Garuda, thank them.

If you'd like to join the J. F. Ervin Foundation, the James A. and Faith Knight Foundation, the Buhr Foundation, or any of our major donors, please contact us at 734-677-0303 or by email at [info@therapeuticridinginc.org](mailto:info@therapeuticridinginc.org) and we will answer all your questions about making a donation or adopting one of our wonderful TRI horses.

## Instructor's Corner

*Here is an update from Instructor **Jen Beyer**. She has some exciting news to share about some new equipment we have found that has been very positively received by our riders. (and staff!)*

**Jan Vescelius – Head Instructor**

### Arena Gadgets

At TRI we are always looking for ways to help our riders succeed, and

we're always willing to try new things. Recently, two different pieces of equipment have become arena staples. I will introduce one of them in this issue of our newsletter and tell you about the other in our Fall Newsletter.

**MDC Stirrups**—Over a year ago, I ran across an article about MDC Stirrups written by a rider who struggled with hip and knee pain in the saddle and I immediately thought that these stirrups could help riders at TRI. These stirrups come in several models, so I sent an



inquiry to the owner of the company—**Martin Cohen**. Martin generously sent TRI a pair of his "Ultimate" stirrups to try, and we were hooked!

The MDC Ultimate stirrups have two key features that differ from our standard safety stirrups. The top of the stirrup (where the leathers, the straps that connect the stirrup to the saddle, attach) can be rotated to 45 or 90 degrees. Traditional stirrups have to be manually rotated when the rider mounts, creating a twist in the stirrup leather. This puts slight torque on leg muscles – meaning that knee ligaments, hip flexors, and ankles can all feel the strain of trying to keep a stirrup in the proper position (90 degrees to the horse). Traditional stirrups also

tend to rotate back to their natural position (flat to the horse), making it more difficult to keep stirrups in the correct place on the ball of your foot. MDC Ultimates eliminate both of these issues as instructors can set the top angle of each stirrup to best suit each rider's needs.

These unique stirrups also feature a tread that is flexible. The sides of each iron flex, essentially providing a "shock absorber" that moves as the rider moves. This helps to alleviate ankle, knee, and back pain while providing a feeling of stability, especially in riders who may have challenges with their lower legs.

We love MDC stirrups so much that TRI currently has three pairs, so all the riders who would benefit from them can use them! We also refer to them as the "Magic Stirrups" because they truly are magical! Riders who use them are finding that they no longer have to struggle to keep their stirrups in the correct position, and that putting their heels down becomes easy! Riders have also reported a feeling of security in the saddle with less soreness in hips, ankles, knees, and thighs. As an instructor, I've been amazed at the improvement these stirrups have made for some of our riders. Feet and legs are the "foundation" of good riding, and keeping them in position improves safety, comfort, and communication with the horse. Our MDC stirrups have allowed many riders to gain skills that might not have been possible with traditional stirrups.

Rider **Michelle E.** is a big fan of the MDC Ultimates she uses in her lessons. Michelle struggled to keep her feet in her stirrups, often losing one during a lap of posting trot. She'd have to return her horse to the walk in order to get

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## Volunteer Spotlight

Without our corps of dedicated volunteers, TRI would not exist. Most of our volunteer team joins us each week in the arena, providing hands-on support to the instructors and riders. And then there are the “behind the scenes” volunteers – those who you may not see out in the arena but who are crucial to each and every lesson. In this edition of our Volunteer Spotlight, I want to introduce you to one of those “behind the scenes” volunteers, our Monday night Tack Coordinator, **Dana B.**

If you are looking for positive energy, a “can-do” spirit, and a really fun person to be around, join us on Mondays. Dana not only keeps track of all the grooming and tacking that has to go on in the stall barn, but she also serves as the mounting assistant, and is ready and willing to sub in the arena at a last minute’s notice. All without breaking a sweat.

Dana found out about TRI online, “when looking for a new ‘horse home’ after moving to the Ann Arbor area from Massachusetts. I read some of the testimonials on the site and signed up for orientation right away. I couldn’t have imagined how rewarding the experience would turn out to be!” She began her volunteer career as a horse leader but we quickly realized that she had the skills and knowledge needed to be a Tack Coordinator.

When not at TRI, Dana enjoys breaking things. Well, not really. She is a safety and crashworthiness engineer for Toyota. At TRI, her engineer brain makes sure that everything runs smoothly and efficiently, but she is not derailed by last minute glitches. Whatever happens, she handles it and keeps everything rolling along.

I asked her what made her come back to TRI each week and she immediately replied, “The riders, volunteers, board members, instructors, horses...did I leave anyone out? Being involved with TRI is what I look forward to every week. We are one huge family with the common goal of helping people. I cannot imagine my life without TRI!” She shared that she remembers one of the riders, “after a lesson telling me that ‘tonight was the best night of my life!!!’ Horses have made me feel that way too, and it makes me so happy to be able to share that with others.”

See what I mean about the positive energy? Dana, we are so lucky you moved to Michigan and needed your horse fix. We are honored to have you on our volunteer team. Thank you.

*Tracy Boyle -  
Volunteer Coordinator*



*Who’s having more fun here? Dana B., sidewalker Debita G. or Natalie T. riding Sigbjorn?*

## Meet Our Donors



*Judy and Steve enjoying their visit to Cambodia.*

TRI could not survive without the financial support of our wonderful donors. Only 21% of our budget comes from rider fees. The rest is provided by individuals, corporations, and foundations who share our passion for providing this special service to our community. We would like you to meet some of these amazing people. **Judy and Steve Dobson** have been involved with TRI for over 15 years and have worn many hats – volunteer, board member, donor. So I asked them to tell us why they chose to support TRI and be part of our TRI Family.

**Judy:** Many years ago, I was looking for a volunteer opportunity and a friend told me about TRI. Horses and kids seemed to be a good fit for me, so I signed up to volunteer and I’ve never looked back. It is such a fun and rewarding place to volunteer. I was asked to be on the Board of Directors at some point, and from that perch, I saw that TRI needed to grow by offering new programs and expanding services. There were many ways to help TRI achieve this, not the least of which was to donate and to be an ambassador for the program. I made it my “mission” to educate my family and friends about this amazing non-profit, and many have become generous and consistent donors. I became involved in raising funds for the new facility and found it so gratifying to play a part in that. Steve became an enthusiastic supporter and donor as well. I would urge anyone who is considering supporting TRI to know that ALL donations matter, large and small, and there are many ways to contribute. Come to the barn and watch a class. Meet our horses. Think about becoming a volunteer. You’ll be hooked!

**Steve:** I’ve obviously learned a lot about TRI through Judy. She often speaks of the smiles and the joy on the rider’s faces and the sense of accomplishment they feel. I can’t look at that through the eyes of a child, but I can certainly look at it through the eyes of a parent. Riding at TRI is such a meaningful part of the riders’ lives, providing recreation, exercise, education, stimulation, companionship, empowerment, challenge and fun. What a perfect package for those who are faced with big challenges on a daily basis. Where else can you find a program with that kind of impact? Non-profits contribute so heavily and enrich all of our lives. How can you not want to support this program?

## A Loud Whinny of Thanks

This February, the students at the University of Michigan’s **Polish Student Association (PSA)** put on their annual Wolverine Ball and chose TRI as the recipient of the proceeds. **Victoria Chochla**, the Secretary of PSA, told us that they chose TRI as their 2015 Wolverine Ball charity “because of TRI’s strong commitment to helping riders of all ages, stages, and disabilities. The Association was fascinated to learn that TRI does not turn any riders away (who are medically safe to ride) and works hard to improve the quality of life for adults and children with disabilities.” The PSA has a long-standing tradition of working with local Ann Arbor charities and we look forward to partnering with them again in the future. On behalf of all of us here at TRI, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

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*TRI Rider Robert G. showing off his dance moves at the 2015 Wolverine Ball.*



# A Loud Whinny of Thanks

Continued from page 5

We are thrilled to announce that our longtime supporters, the **Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor**, have once again stepped up to assist TRI and our riders with a \$1,000 grant.

This grant has been used to purchase a specially designed saddle which will fit several of our horses that have broad, hard to fit backs. It will also purchase a pair of **MDC Super Sport Stirrups** (see the **Instructors' Corner** article on page 3 for more on these special stirrups.) MDC offers these special stirrups to TRI at half price in support of our work with people with special needs.

Our heartfelt thanks to our friends at the Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor for all you do for TRI and our riders.



Laurie riding her beloved Fable, with Mom Janet (white shirt) beside her.

## In Memorial

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of longtime TRI rider **Laurie Moore**. Laurie passed away in April. Laurie joined TRI in 1988 and rode with us for the next 25 years. She and Head Instructor Jan Vescelius had a very special bond. Although she needed significant physical assistance to mount and ride, she said she liked having Jan as her instructor because Jan "expects me to work like everyone else." Many of our TRI volunteers had the opportunity to get to know and work with Laurie over the years and we will all miss her. The family has asked that memorial donations be made to either **Therapeutic Riding, Inc.** or to **Indian Trails Camp**. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Laurie's mother, **Janet**, her sister, **Francine**, and her entire family, from all of us here in the TRI family.

## Boots, Brews, & BBQ 2015

Dust off your boots, and shake out your ten-gallon hats - we're getting ready for our second Boots, Brews, & BBQ fundraiser on September 25!

Plan to join us for a fun, adults-only evening of music, dancing, great food, and local beer, right at the TRI Barn! Take the opportunity to meet our horses, see old friends, and make some new ones, all while supporting one of your favorite organizations - TRI!

Invitations will be forthcoming, so watch your mailbox. And bring a friend or two! We're looking forward to seeing you there!



Hey Dobbs! loves his new comfy saddle.

# Rider Spotlight - Franco C.

We want you to meet one of our many riders to learn what TRI means to him and to hear how important it is in his life. Every donation we receive helps to make it possible for us to provide **Franco C.** and all of our riders with an amazing experience.

We see many of our riders make significant improvements during their years of riding with us. Franco, or Frankie as his friends call him, is a perfect example of this. He has made huge strides since he joined us in 2007. But I'll back up and let mom, **Julie**, introduce him properly.

*Frankie has cerebral palsy which affects his physical movements. He needs assistance with daily care, but that doesn't stop him from getting on his horse! He has been riding at TRI since 2007, for eight years now. Back when he first started, he was pretty quiet and rode a special pony named Star (we still have her picture up in his bedroom). He would frequently get tired throughout the session and would often need to stop, lie back, and take a break. Over time, he got stronger and nowadays, he doesn't stop talking and needs no breaks!*

*Frankie loves people and loves the people at TRI. He told me one day that the people at TRI are like his second family. And it's true! Everyone has always been so supportive, so positive, and so encouraging, to Frankie and to all the riders. Riding really helps him work on his balance and his coordination, and it also gives his muscles a needed stretch, all without him realizing his body is working; he's just having fun. Frankie has had the same trio of volunteers (two sidewalkers and a leader) since we began and he has developed great relationships with them. We are grateful for the team at TRI, the volunteers, and everyone whose support helps to keep this program going.*

Head Instructor, Jan Vescelius, has been Frankie's teacher since he first began. To her, "it is the ultimate pleasure, personally and professionally, to watch Frankie's growth in mind, body, and personal connections to his friends at TRI. He has become part of our lives every bit as much as we are part of his. What an honor it is for me to teach this young man."

One of Frankie's longtime volunteers is **Gail N.**, his leader. When Frankie was riding Star pony, he would reach out and "bop" (playfully of course!) Gail as she was leading - all in good fun! Gail explains that, "I had thought when Frankie got too big for Star pony that I was definitely well outside of his "bop" zone. Not so much - he has consistently found ways to get me; sometimes with Carrie's (**Carrie A.** one of his sidewalkers!) help!" Frankie is also known for accidentally/on purpose bopping people in the lobby. Since we are all getting wise to his tricks, he has had to develop some very stealthy maneuvers. Each week, he can usually catch one of us unawares, and then "bop!"



Franco enjoying a trot on his buddy Sigbjorn, with helpers (L to R) Aubree K., Sam E., and Carrie A.

## TRI Tales

OK, so last month I promised I would do an interview thingy and introduce you guys to our chiropractor, **Dr. Moree**. So here goes. It's my first time doing this so, like, be nice and all

*Majic*—Hi. Um, thanks. So, what do I call you??

*Dr. Moree*—Dr. Moree is fine.

*M*—Cool. So, you come about once a month or so and you and Jan take some of us horses out to the lift. What are you guys doing out there? Nobody gets on. What's up?

*Dr. M.*—I am a human chiropractor, so I base all my exam, diagnosis, and treatment around a chiropractic background. Up on the lift, I can get the leverage I need to adjust the horses' vertebrae in order to help the horse return to a fully functioning nervous system. It only takes about eight pounds of pressure to adjust a horse if you know what direction the vertebrae need to go.

*M*—(side note – I checked with Tracy – “vertebrae” is a fancy word for “backbone.” You know, the bumpy parts you humans complain about when you ride us bareback!)

*M*—OK, back to the interview part – how do you know what to do? I mean, how do you know what is bugging us horses? You humans still haven't figured out how to talk “horse”!

*Dr. M.*—I can feel heat, inflammation, or lack of motion in the joint. All of these can point to a vertebral subluxation in the spine. A subluxation occurs when a vertebrae becomes fixed out of alignment. This can cause dysfunction not only in the joint but also the nervous system if the spinal nerves become impinged by the misaligned vertebrae.

*M*—Wow, OK, big words for this pony brain but I think I get it. If the bones in our back aren't in the right place, we can't move comfortably and sometimes they pinch on our nerves and that HURTS! Doesn't that whole adjusting



*Dr. Moree adjusting Sugar while Executive Director Jan Vescelius observes.*

part hurt? NOT that I'm afraid of pain, mind you. I just worry about the OTHER horses.

*Dr. M.*—The adjustment usually does not hurt. I also incorporate some trigger point massage into my treatment sometimes. The horses are not usually impressed by that.

*M*—mmmmmm, massage. When is it my turn? Hey, yeah. How do you and Jan pick which horses get treated?

*Dr. M.*—We cannot always tell when a horse needs adjusting. Pain is usually the last symptom to show up. Sometimes Jan will notice that the horse is not acting normal, they are just “off”, lameness, sore back, swelling, unusual behavior,...as you can see, the list is endless.

*M.*—Hey, I think I'm feeling a little ‘unusual’. I want me one of those massage thingies. After all, a comfortable horse is a happier worker and a safer mount – that's what Jan always says.

*M*—Why did you get into this - both chiropractic for humans and for us horses?

*Dr. M.*—In my early twenties I owned a Borzoi (dog) that was older and had arthritis. A friend of mine was a chiropractor who had helped me with my migraines and one day he was at my house and we were talking about the dog. I mentioned how stiff he was and my friend suggested adjusting him. He did and I could not believe the difference it made in him. Within six months I was in Davenport, Iowa at chiropractic college. Unfortunately when I got there I found out that they did not teach how to adjust animals. My very first week there though I met the woman who would go on to found the **American Veterinary Chiropractic Association**. An amazing woman. She took me under her wing and taught me so much. I've been doing this for 24 years and every week I am astounded anew with the difference it can make in some animals' (and humans') lives.

*M*—So you work on humans and horses. Do you have any other critter patients?

*Dr. M.* - All animals with a spine are a potential chiropractic patient. Besides humans and horses, I have adjusted dogs, cats, goats, sheep, cattle, rabbits, birds (ostriches and parakeets), alpacas, llamas, white tail deer, snakes, and a rhinoceros in a zoo.

*M*—A RHINO?????? A SNAKE??? Can I just say nope, nope, nope, nope, nope??

*M*—Ahem, ok, I'm back. And I want to thank Dr. Moree for being my first interview person and for explaining what she is doing when she works on us horses. I know the ones who have had the chiropractic adjustment thingies all say they feel better afterwards. Thanks to Dr. M. and Jan for taking good care of us so we can take care of our riders.

Hey – I like this. I could get into this interviewing gig. Guess I'll have to find someone else to interview next. Until then,

BBFN—  
*Mighty Majic*  
Your TRI Field Reporter

## Rider Spotlight

*Continued from page 7*

Usually I have no problems getting volunteers to share a thought about their riders but when I asked Carrie, she was stumped. Not because there was **nothing** she wanted to say but because there was **so much**. However, she came up with just the right way for us to end this article:

*Wow. Where to begin? Watching Frankie progress over the years has been very rewarding. But it is the weekly interactions that are so much fun. We laugh – a lot! His sense of humor is pure teenage boy. His positive attitude and sense of adventure affects everyone around him. It has been a joy getting to know him so well and watching him grow. I can't wait for the next chapter!*

And neither can we. Thank you for being part of our TRI family, Frankie and Julie.

## Congratulations, Gina!

On April 20th, TRI volunteer **Gina H.** had the great privilege of running the Boston Marathon. Gina started running recreationally in graduate school to relieve stress...and when the stress didn't ease up, the distances got longer! Boston marks Gina's ninth endurance race of marathon distance or longer. The experience was incredible, and the energy of spectators and volunteers was nothing like she'd ever seen before. When she struggled during the later miles of the race, she found inspiration in the runners she observed who pushed through the pain in spite of varying types and severities of disabilities. It was yet another reminder of the importance of the work that TRI does every single day. If all goes according to plan, she'll be returning to Boston in 2016!

Our congratulations to Gina on an impressive accomplishment – no wonder she has no problems walking in our arena for three hours! Way to go!



*Gina H. picking up her race packet before the 2015 Boston Marathon.*

## TRI-FECTA 2015

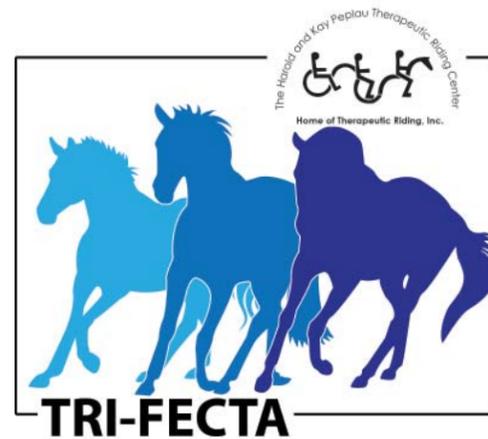
Hiya, OK, so I get to write TWO articles this time, 'cos one was just an interview and Tracy said there wasn't room for another article about my normal TRI Tales stuff as well. GRRRR. But I told **her!** I said it's IMPORTANT that I tell people about TRI-FECTA so I gotta do it so there. Hah. So, here goes.

It's almost TRI-FECTA time everyone. OK, Tracy says some of you might not know what that means. Seriously? Where have you been? Oh, you're new around here. OK. TRI-FECTA stands for Therapeutic Riding Inc. providing riders with Fun, Excitement, Challenge, and Therapeutic Adventure! Catchy, huh? And it's basically a race for us horses to raise money for our feed and keep for the next year. Only they won't put in a real actual race track so it's up to our riders, volunteers, and supporters to do the racing part for us.

How? Well, you guys bring in donations in support of your favorite horses (ME!!!!) and each donation moves us further around this cool track they have in the front lobby. (Don't tell but someone let me sneak into the lobby to take a look at it last year. It's got grass and sand and roses and even little horse figures for each of us. COOL!) Anywho, each week, Tracy moves those little figures around the track based on our donations and then the horse who wins (OR PONY!) gets a special day at the spa. Last year **April** won and she really enjoyed the extra TLC.

All the money raised goes towards feeding me and my awesome stable mates in the coming year, so, seriously, how much better of a cause can you get? Those carrots don't come cheap, folks. Tracy will have fancy packets for everyone at the beginning of Fall Session but they will also be online on the website so anyone can make a donation to their favorite horse (ME!!!) even if you're not a vol or a rider.

Got any questions? You'll have to ask Tracy in the office 'cos she says I'm outta room and I gotta stop now. HA! Gotcha, Tracy. (but just kidding like 'cos I'd still like one of those yummy horse treats before you go home tonight.) Cool – so get out there and may the best horse win (ME!!!!)



BBFN—

*Mighty Majic*

Your TRI Field Reporter

## We Couldn't Do This Without

We are so grateful to all the many wonderful individuals, businesses, and foundations that support TRI. We would like to send a special thanks to the following donors who have generously supported us with a gift of \$1,000 or more from February 1, 2015 – June 10, 2015. Thank you for being part of our "Helping Hands" team.

**Bank of Ann Arbor – in support of our 2015 BBBQ**

**Jamie and Cheryl Buhr**

**Molly Dobson**

**Peter and Patty Fink**

**Adrienne Nemura**

**Retirement Income Solutions – in support of our 2015 BBBQ**

**St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church – Festival Committee – from their 2014 Ya'ssoo festival**

## How can I help?

Perhaps you are wondering how you could support TRI. We're glad you asked! You could:

- **Make a donation via check or online at <http://therapeuticridinginc.org>.** Over 70% of every donation goes directly into providing programming to our participants.
- **Adopt-A-Horse.** For a \$5,000 donation, you can support the foundation of our program, our horses. Can't quite afford the \$5,000 all at once? No problem. Our new credit card processing service makes it possible to pay your gift in installments. Contact the office for more information.
- Encourage friends and family to **donate to TRI in lieu of gifts** for a birthday, anniversary, or special event
- **Make a tribute or memorial gift** to TRI in honor of that special family member, friend, or even a pet
- **Shop at Kroger.** We participate in the Kroger Community Rewards program. Visit <https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards> to sign up. Our ID# is 83817.
- **Corporate sponsorship** – Does your employer do a matching gift program? Make donations in honor of an employee's volunteer hours? Perhaps your company does a "Casual Day" or "Jeans Friday"? Or does it donate a portion of a day's receipts to a charity? Contact your HR department for more information about how you and your company can support TRI and our community.
- **GoodSearch.com** – For every internet search you do, Goodsearch will donate a penny to TRI. Go to [goodsearch.com](http://goodsearch.com), enter Therapeutic Riding, Inc. in the search bar – we're way down the bottom as "Therapeutic Riding – TRI" – and then search as you normally would.
- **Volunteer** – We've told you how important our volunteers are to TRI. Come and join our amazing volunteer team. You don't have to be a horse person, although we love our horsey friends! We have a comprehensive training program and you will meet some amazing people.
- **Wish List** – visit our website to see our current Wish List and see if there are things on there you can help us with.

## Thrivent Choice – a new way to support TRI

TRI is proud to announce that we have been approved by **Thrivent Financial** to participate in their **Thrivent Choice** program. Thrivent Choice is a charitable grant program that gives eligible members of Thrivent Financial the ability to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable funds each year by choosing from a list of thousands of enrolled 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. By directing Choice Dollars, 273,289 eligible benefit members recommended how Thrivent Financial distributed nearly \$55 million in charitable outreach funds in 2014.

If you are a member of Thrivent Financial, please consider recommending TRI as a recipient of Thrivent Choice funds. For more information, please visit <https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-choice/>

## Instructor's Corner

*Continued from page 3*

the stirrup back - not much fun! Since we've introduced her to the "Magic Stirrups", she rarely loses a stirrup and she and Dakota are able to do many trot laps together.

I'd like to thank Martin Cohen of MDC Stirrups ([www.mdcstirrups.com](http://www.mdcstirrups.com)) for generously offering his products to our program at a discount. He's also been a wealth of knowledge about stirrup technology, and I look forward to using MDC stirrups to help our riders succeed.

*Jen Beyer, Instructor*

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## 2015 Donation

Yes. I want to support the riders at TRI with my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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