



## Spring Brings Lots of News to Share!

**Sure signs of spring: warmer temps, shedding horses, and lots of mud. As we thaw out from a long winter, we have a lot of exciting news to share: a TRI-FECTA move, our Para-Dressage program on the national stage, new logo wear, and lots of opportunities for volunteers, riders, and TRI friends. Happy spring and happy reading!**

[Visit Our Website](#)

---

## Cows and Horses

**There was a news story on the radio last December about MSU students finding stress relief during finals week by brushing cows at a nearby East Lansing farm. It was startling for me because I was listening to the broadcast during my first commute to my new position as Executive Director at TRI. It seemed like the fates had offered me their seal of approval for having left a tech startup for a nonprofit based on the therapeutic benefits of working with large animals.**

**I grew up in the wilds of northern Michigan, went to college in Iowa, had lived in two other states and never been exposed to creatures so large and awe-inspiring as horses. I can back a tractor-trailer into a loading dock, land a Cessna on a grass strip, dive deep in cold, dark water and frost a cake with a wheel loader big enough to lift a horse - but I broke into a cold sweat when I stood next to Ella, TRI's huge black Percheron, in the barn.**

**The first riding class I witnessed at TRI was life-**



Tammera Bollman

changing. Children and adults moved past an assortment of disabilities to climb aboard a one-ton animal with teeth big enough to bite through an arm while volunteers calmly strode along side. In one hour I learned more about courage and respect and dignity than I had in all my years leading up to that point. I am humbled every day by the people that make up the TRI family and the horses that make it possible. I am grateful every day for the opportunity that brought me here.

After three months in the TRI family and on the job I am still thanking the forces that brought me here. We are making technology changes, increasing efficiency, moving events from one season to another and opening relationships with partner organizations. All this is exciting to be a part of, but I have a confession about the accomplishment I am most proud of... last week I put a tiny, round peppermint candy on the palm of my hand and fed it to Ella.

Tammera Bollman, (grateful) Executive Director

## **TRI-FECTA HAS MOVED!**

Our favorite event of the year, TRI-FECTA, has "sprung forward!" TRI-FECTA 2019 will coincide with America's premier equestrian event, the Triple Crown. And, since it now takes place during our biggest riding session--Spring/Summer--even more riders and volunteers will have the opportunity to participate. From April 15-May 25, riders, volunteers, staff, and TRI supporters will reach out to friends and family to place bets on their favorite TRI horses. To make the event more exciting (if that's even possible), the Ronald J. Woods Charitable Trust is offering a \$35,000 match! That means every bet is worth twice the amount, and every dollar raised goes to keeping TRI happy, healthy, and running smoothly. The culmination of TRI-FECTA 2019 will be a winners' circle party for TRI-FECTA participants on June 8 during the Belmont Stakes. We'll project the race, pass around appetizers, mingle and play games, and generally celebrate all things TRI.

Look for our official TRI-FECTA 2019 kick-off email in April. If you aren't a rider, volunteer, or staff member but want to receive all the TRI-FECTA updates, please

send a quick email to [Cassie](#) to get on the TRI-FECTA email list. Information on placing bets for TRI-FECTA will be on our website soon!



The 2018 winner, Hey, Dobbs!

---

## The "Early Bird" Catches--Cold!



Our horses don't mind the cold!  
families and volunteers.

This winter has been a trying time for TRI - ice, cold, wind....oh my. It is way past time for spring to arrive!

Early Bird session is almost finished with Spring Summer Session beginning April 8 - we cannot wait to see all of our riders,

We have lots of things happening this New Year so hold onto your helmets and get ready to walk on!

Jan  
Program Director  
Equine manager  
Head Instructor

## Join the 2019 TRI Volunteer Team

We are gearing up for our 2019 Spring/Summer Session! If you or someone you know is interested in a fun, engaging volunteer opportunity-with the bonus of some great exercise-our next New Volunteer

Orientation will be held on Saturday, March 30 from 9am-11:30am. Contact TRI's Volunteer Manager, [Jen Beyer](#) to sign up.

Jennifer Beyer  
Volunteer Manager



Volunteers clowning around on Halloween

[volunteer@therapeuticridinginc.org](mailto:volunteer@therapeuticridinginc.org)

## TRI's Para-Dressage Takes to the National Stage

You might already know that TRI was one of 11 equestrian centers chosen as a USEF/USPEA National Para-Equestrian Dressage Center of Excellence (COE), but did you know our very own para-dressage coach, Jen Beyer, just attended the USEF fast-track Para-Equestrian Dressage Coach Certificate Program?



Robert and Dobbs  
practice their moves

Since pursuing para-dressage on the national level, Jen has appeared in several national equestrian publications. Here are some links to those articles:

[Warmbloods Today](#), [Equestrian Weekly](#), [Saddle Up!](#)

Thanks, Jen, for spreading the word about this exciting program at TRI!

## New Spring TRI Logo Wear is Here!

As we hope for warmer weather, what better way to usher in spring than with new TRI logo wear? Check out our [online logo wear store](#) for new items. Also new this spring: ten percent of cost of each item you purchase will now go to TRI. Not only will you look good, you'll DO good!

## TRI Bling

There's still time to purchase TRI jewelry from the generous folks at Lewis Jewelers. 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 or follow this link to [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:

