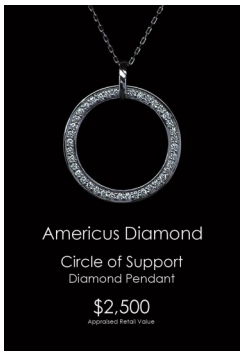
The Saddle Light Center for Therapeutic Horsemanship

February 2015 Official Newsletter for Saddle Light Riders, Volunteers & Supporters

Congratulations Raffle Winners!

1st Prize Americus Diamond Pendant: Jorge Aguilar
2nd: Fire Pit by Tezel & Cotter: Denise Albrecht
3rd: Papa John's Pizza Certificate for One Year: Tonya Garza
4th: Ellie Lance Silver Charm Bracelet: Marci Marmor
5th: Kindle Fire HD: Linda Murray
6th: Academy Gift Card: Sue Hunt



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Level II AHA
Registered Therapist in
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PATH Certified Therapeutic
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The Saddle Light Center is a non-profit corporation created in 1991 to help disabled people reach their full potential.
Our mission is to provide equestrian therapy for children, teenagers and adults with neurological, orthopedic, learning, emotional or other disabilities.
Our goal is to inspire our riders to accomplishments previously considered beyond their capabilities.

The Christmas Party was Great Fun!! Take a look...

Remember to plan ahead for the Rider Showcase - May 16th!

News Around the Stable

- New Helmets and Clippers are here! Thanks to H.E. Stumberg and The Orphans, Crippled Children and Handicapped Persons Trust, who granted us funding of $2,500.00 in December, we were able to purchase new helmets for our Riders and a new set of clippers for our Horses!

- A Big Thanks also goes out to the AQHA for granting us $2,600.00 for our Instructors to attend the PATH Intl. Conference! But due to a new born baby and a twin pregnancy we could not send our instructors this year. However, we hope to attend in 2015!

- Another Big Thanks goes to the Alamo Kiwanis Club Charities for awarding us $2,000 in order to replace and repair one of our mounting ramps and the tires on our truck! Safety is our primary concern and now we'll be able to make these items even safer!

- New Volunteer Coordinator! Caitlin Wabiszewski, who already holds the Administrative Assistant position at SLC, recently took up the Volunteer Coordinator position in December as well!

She'll be volunteering primarily on the weekends because besides the two positions at SLC she is pursuing her Masters in Marketing online as well. Caitlin has 15 plus years experience with horses and several years experience coordinating clubs and summer camps. She hopes to keep everyone organized and active!

- We got the Gold! The Saddle Light Center has qualified for Gold Participant Status on GuideStar.com! We achieved this status by having complete data transparency and up to date records which are viewable to the millions of site visitors, donation providers, search engines, and foundations.

- Introducing our new intern from Texas A&M! Kyli Couffer will be helping out around SLC with lessons and volunteer duties for 120 hours to meet the requirements for her Exercise Physiology Degree She will be out on Tuesday and Thursday evenings so make sure to say hi! Kyli says, "I am a senior at Texas A&M San Antonio. I started my internship on February 5th. So far I've only met the horses but am very excited to work with the Riders as well as working on the upcoming Rider Showcase."

News Around the Stable

- Say hello to Brittany Hicks! She is a professional photographer and owner of StoryTeller Village who will be taking pictures for us at our Rider Showcase, EquestFest, Christmas Party, and for the 2016 Calendar! A couple of years ago Brittany had the privilege of a photo essay on the Saddle Light Center. She had no idea what hippotherapy was and how beneficial it was for its patients. She became very familiar with the doctors (horses) and their personalities. In the photo series she was able to portray this and was also able to show some of the different activities that help the clients. Brittany is also a musician and plays at Summit Christian Center. She plays the keyboard, guitar, bass, ukulele, pretty much any instrument she can get her hands on. She enjoys traveling to different places to play. Some jokingly call her a "Jill of all trades". If you have any questions for Brittany, you can reach out to her through e-mail brittanyhicksphotography.com.

- On Saturday February 7th a group from USAA came to help out around the Saddle Light Center! They helped us paint fences, fill in holes around the water troughs, and clean the stalls. A big thanks from everyone here at SLC for donating your time to volunteer!

Smile Everyone! The Saddle Light Center is participating with Amazon Smile so when you shop at Amazon Smile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to The Saddle Light Center! Bookmark the link http://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-2612738 and support us every time you shop!

New Instructors to be!

- We have three new instructors in training that will soon be teaching for SLC.

  They are Marci Taylor, OT Megan Pena, and Marina Lucia! We are so excited to have them with us!

- Megan Pena says, " I am currently attending graduate school at Texas A&M University - San Antonio pursuing a degree in Guidance and counseling. At completion of my program I will apply for a license as a Licensed Professional Counselor, my concentration is on Equine Assisted Therapy. I am thrilled to be given this opportunity to work with the clients, instructors, and volunteers at the Saddle Light Center."

- Marina Lucia says, "In my day job, I'm the Assistant General Manager for the hotel on Randolph Air Force Base. My family is all four-legged- I have a cat, Mushu, and a horse, Hank. I'm really excited to begin my training with the Saddle Light Center to become a PATH Certified Instructor!"

- Marci Taylor says, "Though I am new to the horse world, I have been an occupational therapist for just shy of 20 years and feel very comfortable working and/or assisting with almost any rider at the Saddle Light Center. I look forward to getting to know everyone at the Saddle Light Center and helping out in anyway possible to ensure its ongoing success to our community."

Megan

Marina

Marci

Custom **leather-covered horse shoes,** made by volunteer Tom Reed are available to individuals who make a minimum $20 donation to the Saddle Light Center! You choose the leather color and engraving design. Contact Tom at Tom@reedsnet.com for more info, or go to www.saddlelightcenter.com to purchase with Pay Pal.

Upcoming Rider Showcase Information!

- When: May 16, 2015 from 10 am-3 pm
- Where: Retama Equestrian Center, SLC Arena
- Class Line Up:

I.LONGE LINE – No SW – 10:00 – 10:30 am

II.LEAD LINE & 2 SW – 10:30 – 11:00 am

III.LEAD LINE & 1 SW – 11:30 - 12:00 am

IV.LEAD LINE – No SW – 12:30 – 1:00 pm

V.LEAD LINE & No SW – 1:30 – 2:00 pm

VI.ADULT RIDERS 2:30 – 3:00 pm

- Volunteers and Riders needed! Please let Kerstin know either via email or phone who can/cannot come and participate in the upcoming Rider Showcase.

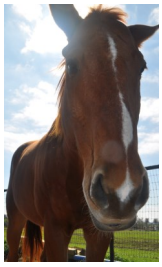
We Hope To See You There!!

Free Matter for the Blind & Disabled

The Saddle Light Center

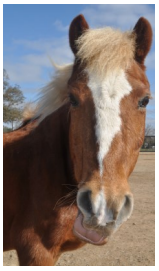
For Therapeutic Horsemanship

Schooner Sydni King Big Red Cinnamon Kai Milly Jazz Chief Babe



Mr. Cool

Sonny D



WANTED!

Dedicated Hard-Working Volunteers for a not-so-ordinary opportunity

...working with the Saddle Light horses and the children who benefit from equestrian therapy!

We need over 100 volunteers each week to safely support our riders by spotting, side walking, or horse leading, and to manage horse care and barn chores.
Church groups, college clubs, corporate work teams and others can arrange service projects.

Contact us for more info—(210) 651-9574 or slcdirector@sbcglobal.net.
No experience necessary! **Next Volunteer Training Session is December 6, 2014 from 9am-12pm.**

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