



The Saddle Light Center for Therapeutic Horsemanship

April 2017

Official Newsletter for Saddle Light Riders, Volunteers & Supporters

The Saddle Light Center for Therapeutic Horsemanship

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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.

Thank you to all who attended the Christmas Party!



Saddle Light Fiesta Medals are here!

We have a limited number of these available this year. Medals are available by making a minimum \$10 donation to Saddle Light, which can be done through our website at <http://thesaddlelightcenter.com/> or at our facilities. We will also have them at the Morgan's Wonderland Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 15th from 9am to 11am.



Mark your calendars for the Big Give 2017!

This year the Big Give will take place on May 4th; however donations can start being made on April 27th. Saddle Light is featured in the April issue of San Antonio magazine in the Big Give non-profit publication. Look for announcements from us on Facebook and please share and help us spread the word! You can also visit our Big Give page at <https://www.thebiggivesa.org/organizations/the-saddle-light-center>.

#BigGive2017

Happenings Around the Barn...



Save the Date for the Annual Rider Showcase on Saturday, May 20th from 10am to 3pm

The Showcase will take place in the Saddle Light arena at Retama. **International Order of Alhambra Alamo Caravan #269** is providing and cooking the BBQ lunch for riders, families, volunteers, and all who attend. Call the office and sign up your rider today: 210-651-9574.

The UTSA Pre-OT Society visited the stables on **February 25th** and helped with a number of tasks including cleaning our main mounting ramp, picnic table area and therapy boxes. They also cleaned tack and the horses' corner feeders. Finally they killed the fire ant mounds—thank you for your help!



A group from Central Catholic visited us on **Saturday March 4th**. They applied sealant to our mounting block and mounting ramp. Thanks to all of you!



Kerstin did a presentation at **The Children's Rehabilitation Institute** on **February 17, 2017**



Order of Alhambra, Alamo Caravan #269 came out on Tuesday, March 28th to present us with a donation. Kneeling is Deacon Larry Brisiel, Standing: Jesse Barrios, Chris Rodriguez, Oscar Del Toro, Jim Inglett, Supreme Director for Region VII Joe B. Cortinaz, Nike, Kerstin, Grand Commander Jim Palinkas, Alex Gomez and William Wittman. We thank you for your continued support of our organization!



American Association of Equine Practitioners donated much needed vaccines for our horses. We thank you and **Dr. Ball** for his recommendation.

Kerstin, along with John Irving, hosted a 2 hour long tour of our facilities with an explanation of our organization and services for a Military Group on Saturday, March 18th.

Again this year, we received a grant from **Amy Shelton McNutt Charitable Trust**. It covered the expenses of our annual trip to the vet for all horse examinations and we are very appreciative.

Congrats to the winners of the 2016 raffle:

Heather Wittmar— diamond pendant and Igloo party cooler • Stephanie Goodson—custom fire pit
Judy Addington—one year of Papa John's Pizza • Jeff Walsh—Samsung Galaxy Tablet

On **February 7th** PATH (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship) made a site visit to Saddle Light and offered feedback that will help us become a Premier Facility. We should get the results from the site visit and conference call by the end of April.

The Saddle Light Center was recently awarded the 2017 Top Rated Badge from **GreatNonProfits.org**. We need to thank everyone who made this possible. We hit our goal of 10 positive reviews/stories within the first day of sending out the email! Please keep them coming at <https://greatnonprofits.org/>.



The Saddle Light Center has reached Platinum Level with GuideStar



GuideStar is the world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations. Each level was completed to reach Platinum level status. For more information you can visit

<https://www.guidestar.org/profile/74-2612738>

BRONZE LEVEL: Basic Information SILVER LEVEL: Financial Info
GOLD LEVEL: Goals & Strategies PLATINUM LEVEL: Progress & Results



Come see us at the **Morgan's Wonderland Easter "Eggstravaganza"** on Saturday, April 15th. Children 12 and younger are welcome to participate in the egg hunt. We will have our Fiesta medals with us!



Meet our new horses

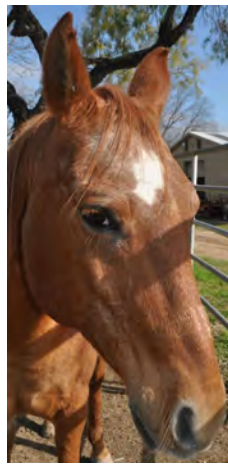
Max is a small, white Welsh type pony who came to us on March 13th. He will be job sharing with Sonny D. Max is in his early 20's and gave pony rides for many years so he is calm with kids and already in some lessons. Come say hi to this sweet little guy!



Nike came to us in February and his huge personality is already making him a hit around the barn. This big handsome boy has had an extensive show career including at shows as large and prestigious as the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo. He is on loan to us from a boarder at Retama. Come meet him and say hello—if you don't he'll make sure to get your attention!



If you're shopping on Amazon, don't forget to shop Amazon Smile using the Saddle Light Center as your charity of choice!



We're looking for dedicated and committed volunteers for a not so ordinary volunteer opportunity!

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

We need over 120 volunteers each week to provide chores such as rider assistance by spotting, sidewalking, or horse leading, and horse care and barn chores. We also have opportunities for groups that want to fulfill a specific service project (great for church groups, college clubs, work teams and more).

Volunteer hours are from 3 pm to 9 pm Monday through Friday. Most volunteers sign up for either a 3:00 to 6:00 shift or 6:00 to 9:00. We also need volunteers to assist with barn chores on Saturday and Sunday mornings and afternoons. Contact us for more info—(210) 651-9574 or volcoor@sbcglobal.net.

No experience necessary! We will teach you what you need to know.



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**Free Matter
for the Blind
&
Disabled**