



The Saddle Light Center for Therapeutic Horsemanship

June 2018

Official Newsletter for Saddle Light Riders, Volunteers & Supporters

The Saddle Light Center for Therapeutic Horsemanship

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Kerstin L. Fosdick

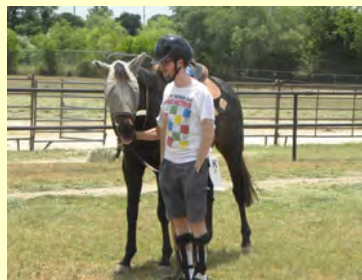
Executive Director
Licensed Physical Therapist
PATH Int. Registered Therapist in
Hippotherapy
PATH International
Certified Therapeutic
Riding Instructor

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.

Thanks to all who attended the 2018 Rider Showcase!



Once again Saddle Light has earned a spot on the **2018 Top Rated List from Great NonProfits!** We will be featured on their site and their Top Rated list which is distributed to the media and corporate foundations. This honor was received based on feedback from our riders and volunteers. Thanks to everyone for your feedback and support. This designation will be very helpful as we apply for grants this year!

What's going on around the barn?



On March 8th a group from **Bank Member Experience of USAA** cleaned all the english and western saddles and cleaned the hairs off the western saddle pads (no small task). They also cleaned all the halters and bridles and weeded the 2 flower beds outside the barn. Thanks to all!



We received a grant for \$2,500 from the **Amy Shelton McNutt Charitable Trust** to cover the veterinary expenses of our annual spring examination which includes teeth floating, Coggins tests and sheath cleaning for the geldings. This is the 5th year in a row we have received this grant to cover this cost and it is a huge benefit to us—we are grateful for their continued support!



Alison and Kerstin attended the **Easter Egg Hunt at Morgan's Wonderland** on Saturday March 31st, giving out candy stuffed eggs and playing games. It was a great day with lots of people visiting our table for eggs and receiving information about our services.

Students from the **Central Catholic HS** under the leadership of Mr. Bendele came out to SLC on Saturday 4/7 from 10-1 pm. This is a yearly spring event for some of the students. They removed the horse's corner feeders cleaned thoroughly all around the feeder and then remounted the corner feeder. They also swept the dust off the cinderblocks in all 13 stalls. Thank you gentlemen!



A donation of \$1,000 was presented to SLC on April 27th by **Jacob Puente of Puente & Sons Funeral Chapel** from the sale of their Fiesta medals. Jacobo Puente has been a rider at SLC for quite a while and his family has always been very generous to us— in fact King belongs to Jacobo's aunt and Jacobo rode him when he was younger. Thank you for your support!

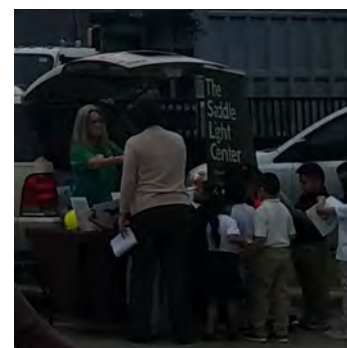


On May 26th SCL and Retama hosted the Family Spring Picnic for **Transplants for Children**. They offer emotional support and crisis funding to families as well as create community awareness for the need of organ and tissue donors. Rudy's BBQ provided food while the kids enjoyed games, horse rides, a petting zoo, prizes and photos. It was a fun day for a great organization and we were



honored they asked to collaborate with us!

SLC tries to attract volunteers and raise awareness by staying active in the community, and no one does that more so than our tireless volunteer coordinator, **Charlan Calhoun**. Here is Charlan talking to the community about what we do at **Ben Franklin Elementary School Career Day**. Maybe she met some future instructors!





Friday rider **Cameron Jennings** celebrated her graduation from Judson High School with a party at Rio Cibolo Ranch on Saturday, June 9th. Schooner (her horse before he retired) gave her a trophy. He even signed it :). Congrats and best wishes Cameron!

Congratulations to **Megan Pena** on her graduation from Texas A&M San Antonio with an MA in Guidance and Counseling. On May 19th Kerstin and Marina attended her graduation celebration. Megan has been employed at SLC since 2015 as a therapeutic riding instructor. She and Laura will be seeing clients with a mental health diagnosis.



On May 25, 2018 the **International Order of Alhambra, Alamo Caravan #269** sponsored a day at Morgan's Wonderland for our riders and their families. 37 individuals attended. They were given an armband at the entry and were free to wander throughout the park and enjoying all the activities.

Our Administrative Assistant in the SLC office, **Kristi L. Meccia**, just completed her Master's degree in Social Work from Walden University. Congrats Kristi and thanks for all you do!



Congrats to **Laura Artzberger** on the birth of **Brendan Edward Artzberger** on June 1, 2018. He weighed in at 6 lbs 5 oz and measured 19 3/4" long. Laura is a practicing Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and she and Megan will be seeing clients later into the summer for Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy.

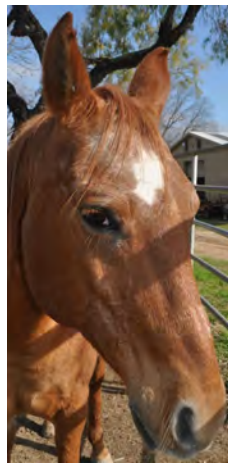
On May 2nd the **Order of Alhambra, Bejar Caravan No. 56** sponsored a day at the SA Zoo for our riders and their families. 7 families with 31 individuals enjoyed the day at the zoo and a hot dog lunch with chips and sodas. Thank you!



On June 16th a group from the **Navy** that has helped us previously returned and they accomplished a lot in 3 hours! They stripped stalls, cleaned mats, and added new bedding. They also cleaned water buckets and light fixtures and did some much needed maintenance in a few of the stalls. Thanks for your hard work!



On April 20, 2018, we received a generous donation from Leslie Elsasser in honor of her friend, **Katy Morton Krista, D.V.M.**, who was tragically killed in a car accident in January of this year. Dr. Krista was loved and respected in her community of Middleburg, VA. She loved horses and believed in helping women further their education. We are deeply touched that Leslie thought of us as a way to honor her extraordinary friend.



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**