



The Saddle Light Center for Therapeutic Horsemanship

March 2018

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.

Thanks to all who attended the 2017 Christmas Party!



Congrats to rider Tiffany Gallagher who won the digital camera for selling the most raffle tickets in one week!
Great job Tiffany!

big give

It's time for the BIG GIVE—March 22, 2018

The Big Give has been raising funds for San Antonio nonprofits for 4 years and this year, the Saddle Light Center needs your support. Donate through the Big Give to help us provide equestrian therapy for children, teenagers, and adults with neurological, orthopedic, learning, emotional or other disabilities. Unfortunately, we have had a rough start to 2018 with an unusually cold January and an unusually wet February impacting our riding schedule. Our #BigGive goal this year is to raise \$5,000, and any donation will help! Every \$10 donated to the center by March 22nd drawing will enter you a for a Saddle Light Center shirt and hat. Learn more and donate at thebiggivesa.org by searching for the Saddle Light Center.

What's going on around the barn?



Laura, Marina, Lara, Aubry, John, Kerstin, and Megan attended the **PATH International Annual Conference** held in San Antonio from Nov 8th to Nov 11th. There were opportunities for networking with other centers and educational, admin, instructor, equine, program, and mental health topics. Other events included the horse expo at the Kendall County Youth Agriculture and Equestrian Center. As always it was very informative!



Many thanks to the **Gordon Hartmann Foundation**—the Saddle Light Center received a \$5,000 grant for rider scholarships from the Foundation in late November. We are very grateful for their continued support of our programs and our mission!



On Tuesday November 28 **PTA students from St Phillips College** came out to SLC to observe Therapeutic Riding and Hippotherapy sessions. They were able to ask questions and have the benefits of each explained by Director Kerstin Fosdick who is also a Physical Therapist. Thank you

Thanks to the **San Antonio Jr. Forum** for their grant that will pay for Lara Artzberger's Equine mental health certification by Path. Thank you for your support!



The rails on the new area for our Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy got a new coat of paint. **Bryan Frazier of Media Blasting** donated his equipment for the project. Bryan and **John Fosdick** did all the prepping of the rails. **Paul's Paint Shop** in Sequin donated the industrial strength paint for the paddock rails. Then our wonderful volunteers got busy with the painting. We had Tuesday volunteers, Miguel & Jordyn, along with their friend, Eric, as well as Sunday volunteer, Brenda, and volunteer, Rakerd.



Rider Spotlight: Cameron Jennings



Cameron Jennings has been riding at the Saddle Light Center since she was 4 years old. Now a Judson High School Senior, she was recently awarded her Varsity Letterman jacket for Special Olympics Bowling and Track and Field. Cameron is a Two-time State Champion and Special Olympics Gold Medalist in the Softball Toss and the Wheelchair Slalom events. In addition, for the last three years, Cameron has been a member of the Judson High School Satellite Pep Squad. She is the first Special Needs student to participate in the dance program in the school's 58 year history. Cameron's parents, Bruce and Cassandra, have been very involved in her school and extra-curricular activities. Bruce is a SLC Board Member. Cameron has a younger sister, Hayden, who is in the 7th grade at nearby Kitty Hawk Middle School.

We had a group of ladies out on January 13th from the **Kappa Delta Chi Sorority at UTSA**. They applied the 2nd coat of paint to the top rail in our new therapy arena. And as you can see...they raked...and raked...and raked...the pecan leaves. Many thanks, ladies!



Saturday Feb 10th the **Pre-PT society at UTSA** came out and helped the regular Saturday volunteers to clean stalls, pull out the heavy rubber mats in the stalls, thoroughly strip and clean the flooring, replace the mats and put new wood shavings in each stall. We also went down to our new treatment area and picked up all the piles of leaves that were left from another Saturday project. They worked hard, fast and consciously. Great crew!! We thank them.

The second group of **UTSA Pre-PT Students** came in from 4-6 pm. They started off cleaning all 3 paddocks and filling both water troughs. They raked and tidied up outside of both hay rooms and all the way around to back side of the barn. They cleaned all bridles, Western saddles, English saddles and swept the tack room floor. Another great crew!!

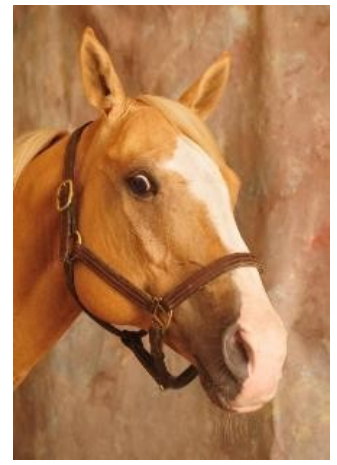
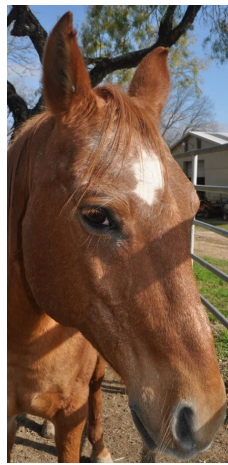


On Saturday February 24th, 21 students from the **UTSA Hispanic Students Association** came and helped by cleaning shelf units storage boxes, scrubbing water buckets and corner feeders, and cleaning all the

As you do your Amazon shopping, please don't forget to shop for Saddle Light through Amazon Smile!

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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**