



The Saddle Light Center for Therapeutic Horsemanship

May 2020

Official Newsletter for Saddle Light Riders, Volunteers & Supporters

Dear Friends, Clients, and Supporters of Saddle Light,

We wanted to use this newsletter to keep you up to date on how we are operating through the current pandemic. As an organization that provides social services we are still operating to the best of our ability, but we are experiencing significant losses. Our number of riders has decreased by 50 to 60% per week.

Our fundraising opportunities have also been affected. Our annual fundraiser **EquestFest** is in question – we are unsure if the climate in the fall will be improved enough to safely hold an event of that size. We have also decided to err on the side of caution and cancel this year's **Rider Showcase**, which would have taken place in May.

We are so grateful to the **Amy Shelton McNutt Trust** for their grant of \$2,800 which covered the annual veterinary visit for our 13 horses; we are also grateful to **Dr. Robert Ball** whose recommendation will get us all needed inoculations from the AAEP (American Association of Equine Practitioners).

One thing that hasn't changed during this time is the level of care we provide for our horses—we can't compromise the health and happiness of our equine partners. We need them to be at the top of their game when riders return.

In order to accomplish this our staff has generously agreed to make drastic changes - the Director and our Horse Trainer have agreed to work without pay. The Barn Manager and Office Admin have reduced their hours significantly. The owners of Retama Equestrian Center have been kind enough to reduce our rent from \$2300.00 to \$1900.00 per month. Even with these cuts we still need \$10,000.00 per month to cover essential expenses.

We know so many are struggling right now but we would appreciate your consideration in helping us cover any of the following expenses:

<u>Sponsor a horse for a month</u>	\$300.00 month
<u>Sponsor feed for a week</u>	\$500.00 week
<u>Buy a bale of coastal hay</u>	\$9.75 bale
<u>Buy a bale of alfalfa</u>	\$18.00 bale
<u>Rent for a week</u>	\$475.00 week
<u>Rent for a day</u>	\$68.00 day
<u>Shavings</u>	\$415.00 month
<u>Veterinarian</u>	\$375.00 month
<u>Medicine</u>	\$312.50 month

Donations can be made through our Big Give page:

https://www.thebiggivesa.org/donate?campaign_id=67027

Or our website: <http://thesaddlelightcenter.com/how-to-help/general-donations/>

Thanks for your continued support!