



NEWSLETTER

The Saddle Light Center for Therapeutic Horsemanship

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Executive Director

Licensed Physical Therapist
PATH Int. Registered Therapist
in Hippotherapy
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The Saddle Light Center is a non-profit organization created in **1991** to help disabled people reach their full potential.

Our mission is to provide equestrian therapy for children, teenagers, and adults that have a disability including: neurological, orthopedic, learning, and emotional - as well as a wide range of others.

Our goal is to inspire our riders to accomplishments previously considered beyond their capabilities.



IN LOVING MEMORY

It is with a heavy heart that we are saddened to inform you that our beloved Lyle crossed the Rainbow Bridge Saturday, July 16, 2022.

Lyle was born in April 2002 and came to us in January 2018, after an extensive and impressive show career. As a gray horse, he suffered from melanomas of the skin. For those who may not know, melanomas are a tumor of the melanocyte - the skin cell that produces pigment which gives the skin and hair its characteristic color. Melanomas are highly common in aging gray horses, with an incidence of 80% in gray horses ages 15 and older. Unfortunately, over time the melanomas metastasized internally and led to his ultimate demise. We are saddened by his passing but cherish the time he spent with us at The Saddle Light Center. He was the heart of the barn and provided incredible emotional support without ever saying a word. Lyle was an asset to our program and has left hoof prints on our hearts forever!

Make sure to hug your pets a little tighter tonight on our behalf.

WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND THE BARN

In July, we received **\$15,000 grant from the Najim Charitable Foundation** to support our Saddle Club Scholarship Fund. We are so thankful to them for their continued support of our organization!

We are pleased to announce that the Saddle Light Center has been recognized as an **EQUUS Foundation 2022 Guardian!**

The Guardian Seal of Transparency is awarded annually and appears on the Equine Welfare Network profile of an approved organization.

The Seal is a recognition of an organization's commitment to transparency and accountability by their willingness to make comprehensive data about their programs, horse care practices, and governance available for public scrutiny.



We are honored to received this designation once again and will continue to be transparent and accountable to the public through the disclosure of our equine care and use practices. in addition to being awarded this designation, we received a **\$1,500 grant from The Equus Foundation.**

We have been invited by Walgreens to be 1 of 3 nonprofits featured in the **"myWalgreens Donation Program"** in the San Antonio service area. Members of the myWalgreens loyalty program will be able to earn and donate Walgreens cash rewards to 3 local nonprofits that share Walgreens' values and meet certain eligibility requirements. This program will be available through the Walgreens mobile app and online at Walgreens.com. The Saddle Light Center will be **featured from December 2022 through February 2023.**

Unfortunately, the summer months were hard on us! With the extensive heat and/or COVID we had to cancel many lessons - and no lessons equate to no revenue. In **June we lost \$2,380** in revenue and in **July we lost even more - \$4,400** - amounting to a total loss of \$6,780 in revenue over those two months alone.

With this in mind, on August 2nd we published a **fundraiser on our Facebook** with the goal of covering the loss of revenue we incurred over the months of June and July. To date, **we have raised \$4,425** towards that goal. That fundraiser will be **closing on September 16th as we prepare for The Big Give.** We want to thank each and everyone of you that have donated! We are forever grateful!

The Big Give will be held on September 22-23, 2022. Please join our campaign and help us to reach our **goal of \$5,900** to continue chipping away at the immense loss of revenue we have incurred over the last few months. To date, we have now reached a **total loss of revenue of \$10,230**, as the Facebook fundraiser did not include **August's loss of \$3,450.** We need you to tell your friends and family members about the important work we do and ask them to join us in helping to make a difference!

In addition to being a participating nonprofit, the Saddle Light Center is eligible to participate in two Match Minute programs. The first being **The Nonprofit Council's Match Minutes** with **two \$5,000 pools** available. The first is on **Thursday, 9/22 at 10:09 P.M.** and the second \$5,000 is on **Friday, 9/23 at 7:09 A.M.** - mark your calendars accordingly! Each donation that comes in during that time has a chance to be matched **up to \$100 per gift** until the pool is depleted or the minute is over. During these two minutes, there are **only 123 agencies** who have access to these funds for a potential match.

The other Match is provided by **The Najim Charitable Foundation Match Minutes**, where we qualify to participate in BOTH time slots. The **first \$20,000 pool is available on Friday, 9/23 at 10:09 A.M.** and the **second \$20,000 pool is available on Friday, 9/23 at 11:09 A.M.** Each donation that comes in during that time has the chance to be matched **up to \$200 per gift.** There are **only 96 agencies** who have access to these funds for a potential match, so have your donation form already filled out a minute or two prior to that minute as your donation will have the greatest chance to be matched.

Thank you in advance for your generosity to our organization! All giving will **end at 5:59 P.M. on September 23**, so make sure to mark your calendars and get your gift in on time!



EQUESTFEST 2022

Sunday, October 16, 2022

from 1:00 PM until 6:00 PM

Ole' Rustin' Tustin' Day of Family Fun!

EquestFest is our annual festival benefitting The Saddle Light Center for Therapeutic Horsemanship. The funds raised support our horses and equestrian programs.

In Advance At the Gate

Adults

\$10 : \$12

Children (Ages 5 - 12)

\$5 : \$7



petting zoo, games, artisan crafts, bake sale, face painting, bounce house, inflatable obstacle course, food vendors, silent auction, and performance by the Guadalupe True Women Drill Team & Ole West Gunfighters



featuring live music by **Just 4 Fun Band**
fun/creative outdoor activities
\$1 per activity

Come Out & Horse Around!
HELOTES FAIRGROUNDS
12210 Leslie Road
Off Hwy 16 in Helotes

To purchase tickets in advance, go to: www.thesaddlelightcenter.com

Just 4 Fun Band is a San Antonio cover band playing songs you know & love from the 60s to Today's Hits! Some of the great acts they cover include:

- Doobie Brothers
- Pretenders
- The Go-Go's
- Jimmy Buffett
- Johnny Cash
- Harry Styles
- Blondie
- & Many More...

Also performing this year will be the Ole' West Gunfighters. Featuring a sheriff and old west cowboys, Ole' West Gunfighters' thrilling stunt show features non-stop action and plenty of audience participation! The show is set in an old western town backdrop complete with Saloon, Bank, Sheriff's Office and Jail, the Livery Stable and the Trading Post!

Schedule OF EVENTS

Ole West Gunfighters
Greeting incoming people at the main gate: 1:00 - 2:00 PM
Gunfighter Show: 2:00 - 2:30 PM & 4:30 - 5:00 PM
Petting Zoo
Left Side of Coryoval Drive
2:00 - 5:00 PM
Rodeo Arena
Guadalupe True Women Drill Team: 3:00 - 4:00 PM
Main Stage
Just 4 Fun Band: 1:00 - 2:30 PM, 3:00 - 4:30 PM & 5:00 - 6:00 PM
Silent Auction Closing at 5:30 PM
Stage 1
Right Side of the Fairgrounds
Cibolo Animal Shelter: 1:00 - 6:00 PM
Stage 2
Left Side of Fairgrounds
Face Painting: 1:00 - 6:00 PM





This year we will be returning to the Helotes Festival Grounds to host **EquestFest 2022 on October 16, 2022 from 1:00 – 6:00 P.M.**

Tickets for EquestFest 2022 will go on sale, September 19th. Make sure to mark your calendars accordingly!

Pre-Sale Pricing – Adults: \$10.00 | Children: \$5.00

The funds raised through EquestFest play a critical role in the viability of our program and the care of our four-legged therapists and is responsible for approximately 20% of our budget. Your support of this event makes it possible to continue the high-quality care of our horses and keep our fees affordable!

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to seeing you there! If you are interested in sponsoring the event, please find further information on our website.

A **list of events** taking place the day of can be found on our Facebook or on the event page of our website. We look forward to seeing you there!

On **Saturday, May 14th**, we were able to host our **9th Annual Rider Showcase** after two long years of waiting!

The Showcase consisted of three classes that allowed riders of different skill levels to exhibit what they have learned through our program. At the end of each class, all 13 riders received a trophy for their amazing advancements and accomplishments! We are so proud of each of you!

Thank you to everyone who came out and to all who volunteered to assist with the Showcase! You ALL made it a wonderful day full of joy and fun! We are grateful for each and everyone of you and your continued support of our program!

On **June 24th**, we celebrated our **fearless leader and Executive Director, Kerstin's, birthday!** Kerstin is the backbone of our organization and we would not be where we are without her!

Thank you to all those that shared such kinds words and their favorite memories of Kerstin on our Facebook in celebration!

The Saddle Light Center 9th Annual Rider Showcase





On April 19th, we were blessed to have a group of **UTSA - The University of Texas at San Antonio** students join us for their annual Day of Service, coordinated by UTSA Leadership & Volunteer Services!

We put them to work as they cleaned and disinfected Mr. Cool's stall and stall mats, all the corner feeders, stall walls, and the water trough in the Paddocks! The barn had never looked so clean!

We truly appreciate all their help and are incredibly grateful!

UTSA Day of Service



On Saturday, May 21st, we were lucky enough to have **Security Service Federal Credit Union** join us for a Group Volunteer Project!

We put them to the test - having them clean and paint the tie rails, clean tack, and drain and clean the water trough in Paddock 1. And let us just say, they passed with flying colors!

Thank you for your time and hard work - we look forward to having y'all back out in October!

Security Service Federal Credit Union



Scouts BSA Troops 398 and 3982

Over the weekends of **September 3 and September 10**, we were blessed to have groups from **Scouts BSA Troops 398 (boys) and 3982 (girls)** chartered by **Madison Hills Baptist Church** and students from the **Student Psychology Association at UTSA** join us for Group Volunteer Projects!

The Scouts BSA Troops took on quite a bit when we put them to the task of cleaning and disinfecting the stall mats, leveling out the ground surface, and cleaning Kai's stall. Both Kai and we thank you tremendously!

The Student Psychology Association at UTSA went above and beyond! During their time with us, they were able to tackle uninstalling, cleaning and disinfecting, and reinstalling all corner feeders and water buckets - in addition, to cleaning all saddles and saddle pads.

We are incredibly grateful for each group's time and hard work!

UTSA Student Psychology Association





We are always looking for dedicated and committed volunteers for a not so ordinary volunteer opportunity

... working with The Saddle Light horses and riders who benefit from our equine therapy program!

We need over 120 volunteers each week to provide support and help with items such as rider assistance by spotting, side-walking, or horse handling, 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).

We have two shifts on weekdays, the first from 3:00 - 6:00 P.M. and the second from 6:00 - 9:00 P.M.. Our weekend shifts focus more on general barn chores and we have both an A.M. and P.M. shift on Saturday and Sunday. No experience necessary! We will teach you the reins, literally.

Contact Rebecca Hollington, our Volunteer Coordinator, at volcoor@sbcglobal.net for further information.

A sincere welcome to our **new volunteers!** We thank you for your dedication to our program, Our volunteers are the backbone of our program! Our next **Volunteer Training** will be held on **September 17 from 10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.** Help us spread the word! If you know anyone that may be interested, please have them email volcoor@sbcglobal.net.

Additional Volunteer Training Dates can be found below:

- October 15, 2022
- November 12, 2022
- December 17, 2022

Should you or a group be interested in hosting a **Group Volunteer Project**, they are held on **Saturday from 10:00 - 1:00 P.M.** We still have several available dates, so make sure to reach out to get something scheduled!



WWW.THESADDLELIGHTCENTER.COM



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Free
Matter for
the Blind
&
Disabled