



The Saddle Light Center for Therapeutic Horsemanship

May 2023

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.

End-of-School Break is May 21st through June 4th

—Volunteers will still be needed for horse care and barn chores everyday. Please sign up in the barn or email volcoor@sbcglobal.net if you would like to help.



Thanks for coming to our 10th Annual Rider Showcase!

Our riders enjoyed showing friends and family their skills and a great day was had by all. Thanks to all the volunteers, instructors, therapists and supporters for their help!



What's Going on Around the Barn?

Welcome to our newest team member, Mac! Mac is a 15.3 hands, 1,200 lb. Paint, but without spots. He's an elderly gentleman with lots of experience as a lesson horse for flatwork and jumping. He is a kind and willing horse with excellent temperament. He is already becoming a great asset to our program and is a favorite with riders and volunteers!



Thank you to our recent volunteer groups!

We are so thankful for the organizations and groups that choose to spend their Saturdays helping us! Activities range from cleaning tack to barn upkeep and sometimes special projects like painting our facilities and equipment. If you is interested in a service project at Saddle Light please contact **Volunteer Coordinator Erika Suniga** at volcoor@sbcglobal.net.



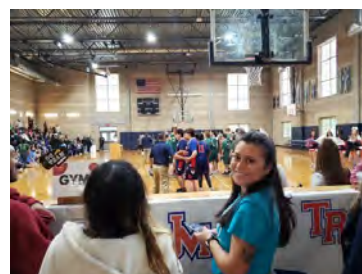
Central Catholic High School

Roosevelt High School



We are seeking a **new Volunteer Coordinator**—as Erika Suniga will be moving out of state to attend veterinary school. We are hoping to find someone who can commit to the position and plans to stay at SLC for a while. Details of the position are listed as follows: job begins mid to late July (flexible); pay is \$12 per hour; 10-20 hours per week; requirement to visit the SLC 1 to 2 times per week; responds to all volunteer inquires in a timely and thorough manner; encourages and schedules volunteers to visit SLC; plans recruitment campaigns for daily operations and project work; seeks new sources for volunteer recruitment; hosts group projects. Please contact slcdirector@sbcglobal.net.

We had a great time at the **Special Olympics basketball tournament** and community fair held at Lopez Middle School. We set up a booth and had a great turn out!



Our Fundraising Committee is seeking members

Currently the fundraising committee is seeking members to start planning for EquestFest™ 2023. We will meet at the SLC office on Saturday or Sunday, time to be determined. The committee needs individuals who can help with obtaining sponsors, marketing, advertising, vendors & activities, and have the time to execute the tasks assigned. Please email saddlelc@aol.com if you would like to help!



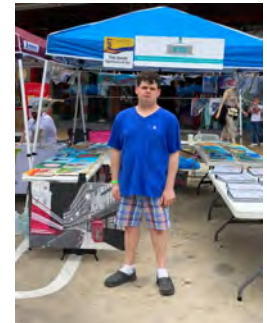
We are pleased to announce that the **Saddle Light Center achieved re-certification of our Premier Accredited Center status by PATH Int'l.** (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship). PATH certifies centers and instructors to provide equine-assisted services to individuals with a diagnosed disability. In Texas there are a total of 68 PATH Centers, but only 23 have met the requirements to be a Premier Accredited Center (PAC). The others are Member Centers. There are only 3 PAC centers within 100 miles - Pipe Creek, Georgetown, Saddle Light in Selma and no others south of San Antonio. Others are located in and around Houston, Dallas and farther north.



Recent Grants Received:

- The **Amy Shelton McNutt Trust** awarded us a grant that paid for the horses' "annual migration" to the veterinarian for Coggins test, sheath cleaning for the boys, and teeth cleaning .
- The **American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP)** awarded us a grant to pay for the horses' inoculations
- The Saddle Light Center is listed in each section of the **San Antonio Metro Public Sector Campaign, Bexar County Charitable Campaign, City of San Antonio Charitable Campaign, Combined School District Charitable Campaign and San Antonio Water Systems Charitable Campaign**, for employees to be able to donate. "8036 The Saddle Light Center" is our listing in the brochures if you or someone you know may be interested in donating.

Congratulations to Saddle Light Center rider, **Elijah Giorgi**, on his May 6th art exhibit at the **2023 Art for Autism** event hosted by the Autism Treatment Center, Texas Society of Autism, Mind-color Autism, and La Cantera Mall. Elijah is a talented artist who also donated his work to our 2022 EquestFest™ silent auction!

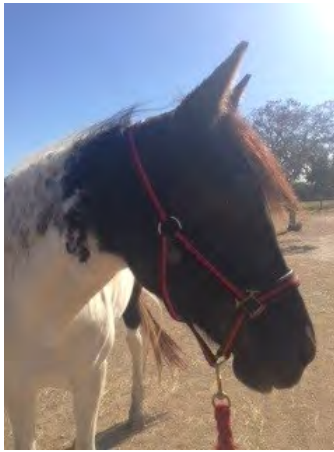
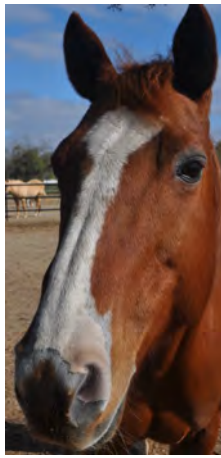
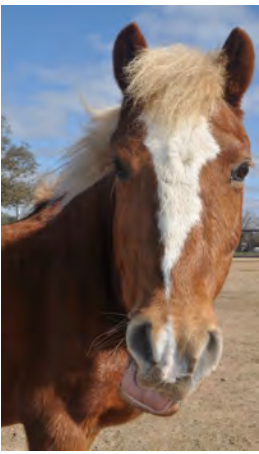


Introducing **Anna McIntyre**—Anna has been working on her Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor credentials and when she finishes she will be teaching on Tuesdays and Fridays. We are thrilled to have her on board!

You can honor someone special in your life this summer with a donation to the Saddle Light Center. If you would like to make a donation in honor of someone, you can order through our website at <https://thesaddlelightcenter.com/how-to-help/honorary-gift-program/> and they will receive a card notifying them of your gift (we can send cards from an anonymous donor if desired). Please allow at least a week for delivery.



Please go to greatnonprofits.org and write a review for us—we still need 4 to be recognized!



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 rider assistance by spotting, side walking, or horse leading, as well as 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 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Most volunteers sign up for either a 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. shift or 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.. 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**