



2019 Winter Issue

Volume 14, Issue 1

a newsletter for friends of GMTRC



## Rider Snapshot: Meet Sophia!

Due to her terrific attitude, wiliness to try, and fabulous, ready smile, 7-year-old Sophia was awarded GMTRC's 2018 Janelle Conley Award. Sophia first came to visit the barn with her family as a 2 year old. Her parents were seeking an activity to help Sophia's physical, social and cognitive development, since she has cerebral palsy, with some effects to her hearing and speech. At that time, she was still too young to ride, but by 4, she was riding Hobbit and telling her parents that she wanted to win a big award at our annual party, "Celebrate GMTRC." Her mom reminded Sophia to keep trying to do her best in the saddle, and surely her dream would come true. Try she did!! Wow, we are incredibly proud of her!

Sophia represents GMTRC's ridership well. She loves having a sport to call her own, a kind pony that provides steady movement to challenge her body and mind, a knowledgeable, fun-loving instructor in Katie Gingrich, and long-time volunteer side-walkers who ensure her physical safety while providing consistent social support in lessons. Through trail rides, games, challenges and scavenger hunts in the arena, Sophia is making gradual progress. Riding doesn't feel like a "workout," but her weekly lessons stretch her tight leg muscles, help her to sit up independently, and challenge her coordination. Every year, Sophia looks forward to riding in GMTRC's annual Horse Show, where she can demonstrate her accomplishments to a cheering crowd. Clearly that ready smile reflects how much fun she is having at GMTRC!

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**Photo op with staff, instructors and lead volunteers at the 2018 Boots and Blue Jeans Gala.**

*Standing left to right: Ellen Barnes, Amanda Nimick, Katie Gingrich, Michelle Kaster, Troy Hess, Lisa Carvel, Myava Thibault-Cuhel, Terri Kutz*

*Seated left to right: Heather Mitterer, Linda Leiden, Deb Jeffrey, Sandi Keim*

*Absent: Bobbi Schmid, Patti Draude, Diane Garrett, Alice Brubaker, Lee Ann Ressler*





## Programs and Instruction: Michelle and Katie

**Happy New Year from the barn!** Looking back at 2018, we are thankful for a successful, safe and fun year with our therapeutic riding students. GMTRC was privileged to welcome 15 new riding students to the barn, as well as 57 returning students. What a great year it was! Looking ahead to 2019, we are excited to begin our mounted lesson programming, as well as adult unmounted clinics. Planning has begun for special field trips too. The School District of Lancaster classrooms and Aaron's Acres campers will return to the barn for equine experiences this summer.

GMTRC is eager to develop new partnerships in 2019 to meet our community's needs. If you know of potential program participants, whether groups or individuals, invite them to call the program phone, 717-615-9222. We would love to meet them!

Speaking of partnerships, keeping our horses happy and healthy wouldn't be possible without several area equine specialists. Kopec Veterinary Clinic, Dr. Rachael Shuster,



Farrier John Strunk, Parelli professional Dan Roser, Board member Alisa Pitt, and Centered Riding Instructor Debby Hadden all play important roles in helping our instructional and barn staffs maintain a well-managed team of equine therapists. It's been great to continue working together this winter as we prep for a new season!

We welcome new and old friends back to the barn in 2019 and look forward to a wonderful year ahead!

**P.S. Parents and caregivers, you are our ultimate partners. Please note the following updates to the paperwork process for 2019:**

- Remember, scheduling for lessons is completed on a first come, first served basis upon receipt of ALL completed 2019 paperwork. Please send in ALL paperwork!
- Please call the program phone at 717-615-9222 or email [programs.instruction.gmtrc@gmail.com](mailto:programs.instruction.gmtrc@gmail.com) if you have a specific concern or question about the forms required.
- Billing or business questions? Contact Sandi @ 717-844-1798 or [general.info.gmtrc@gmail.com](mailto:general.info.gmtrc@gmail.com).

*Left to right: schooling teams—Jessica with Neptune; Justina with Violet—ringing in the New Year!*

*Photo right: Bailey and Peppy on a lesson trail ride (in gorgeous weather!)*



## Community Outreach: Heather

Thank you to everyone who supported GMTRC through Lancaster County Community Foundation's 2018 ExtraOrdinary Give in November. We raised \$13,318 through this annual event.

GMTRC's website continues to improve! Look for new staff and horse bios in 2019. Volunteers, your page includes updates to downloadable annual forms and our volunteer handbook.

Looking to support GMTRC in a new way? Our website's *Support Us/Donations Page* [www.greystonemanortrc.org](http://www.greystonemanortrc.org) has an active PayPal® link to accept donations AND information on *Adopt A Horse* and *Legacy Fence* programs.

Contact Heather Mitterer,  
[community.outreach.gmtrc@gmail.com](mailto:community.outreach.gmtrc@gmail.com)  
or any staff member.



*Above: Elizabeth Newell and Heather Mitterer representing GMTRC at the ExtraOrdinary Give.*



## Volunteer Voices: Myava

**Welcome to the new Volunteer Portal.** We have now finalized the purchase and installation of our volunteer management software! I'm very excited that this process is moving forward, because it will make management of our volunteers much more efficient for our staff. Volunteers, we hope the new portal will make our volunteer communication processes clear, simple and updated to today's technology for you!

I want to be very open during the transition to this software. I would love feedback and will do my best to answer questions along the way, because any type of change is a learning process for everyone. Please feel free to contact me or any staff member if you have a question or concern about the new portal.

**New year, new forms!** Thank you to all of the volunteers who already have submitted their 2019 Waiver of Liability, Volunteer Acknowledgement, and if needed, PA Clearances. We look forward to seeing you all at our:

**Returning Volunteer Orientation – (you are encouraged to join us if returning, but are not required)**

Tuesday, Jan. 15 (5:30 to 7:30 p.m.)

Saturday, Jan. 19 (10 a.m. to noon)

**New Volunteer Orientation (NVO)**

Saturdays, Jan. 26 (10 a.m. to noon)  
and

April 20, Aug. 3, Nov. 16 (1 to 3 p.m.)

Wednesdays, Feb. 27, May 8, June 5,  
Sept. 25 (7 to 8:30 p.m.)

### NEW FOR VOLUNTEERS!

"A new volunteer appreciation program and fresh training opportunities are in the works! Details to be announced at orientations."

Contact Myava – [vol.coordinator.gmtrc@gmail.com](mailto:vol.coordinator.gmtrc@gmail.com)  
ph: 717-203-7388



Above: Aaron's Acres rider on Nando as Katie instructs.



Left: Cordell on Lucy at the 2018 Horse Show.

Right: Susie and Sam in the indoor arena.



Below: Ellen and Miagi greet Nando.



Right: Dorothy and Violet got into the holiday spirit!



Below: Terri, Troy and Diane make sure our barn is in tip top shape!





## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Thomas G. O'Brien, president**  
**Drew Hostetter, treasurer**  
**Mary Beth Schweigert, secretary**  
**Eric Robert Lukacs**  
**Lauren Maxwell**  
**Randy Metz**  
**Alisa L. Pitt**  
**Linda Leiden, board advisor**

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PO Box 10724  
 Lancaster, PA 17605-0724

**Ph: (717) 615-9222**

Please send newsletter comments to:

**general.info.gmtrc@gmail.com**



*Photo left: Our two retirees—Elizabeth Newell and Cassie.*

*Bottom left: Stuffing hay nets is Lesli, a rider parent and volunteer. She's a smiling example of the close community at GMTRC.*

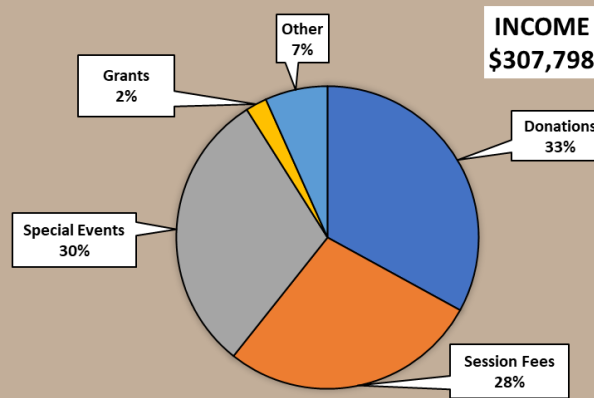


*Below: Terri with Opi*



## Board of Directors Note: Tom O'Brien

We are proud of how our GMTRC team continued to provide quality services and thorough care of our equines through fiscal caution and hundreds of volunteer hours. As reflected in our 2018 income and expense pie charts, it is noted that 65 percent of our revenue is from donations, fundraisers and grants, whereas 85 percent of expenses are spent directly for the program and capital improvements.



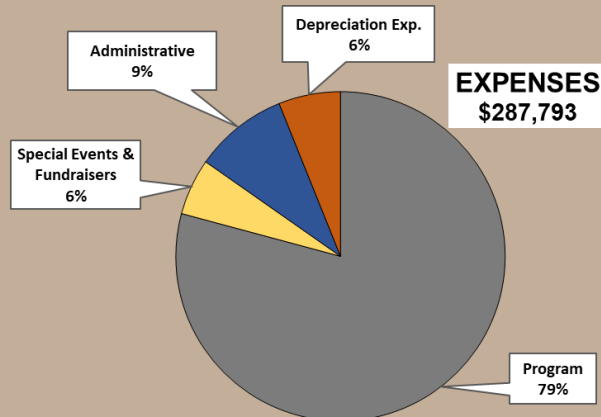
To remain successful for the future, GMTRC depends on the continued support of our contributors and new program friends. If you are aware of new funding

sources, applicable grants or a donor match program at your place of work, please contact a member of the Board of Directors, or email our Volunteer Coordinator / Grant Writer, Myava Thibault-Cuhel, at [vol.coordinator.gmtrc@gmail.com](mailto:vol.coordinator.gmtrc@gmail.com).

**We look forward to welcoming you at the barn in 2019!**

*Tom*

**Greystone Manor Therapeutic Riding Center is a non-profit organization with 501(c)(3) status.**



## From the Barn Aisle: Lisa and Terri

**Have you met our newest horse, Opi?** This 10-year-old, strawberry roan, Quarter Horse gelding is winning hearts already with his soft eyes and gentle attitude. He's handsome and tall, standing 15.3 hands, yet narrower than Sam through his barrel, filling a nice niche in our herd. We expect him to carry riders of all sizes to great success in the saddle! You might find yourself singing the theme song to "The Andy Griffith Show"!

*Photo: Troy and Miagi greeting Opi*

