



Fall 2023
Volume 18, Issue 3

Ride With Pride

Greystone Manor
Therapeutic Riding Center

2023 Horse Show Recap: An Eventing Extravaganza



The weather may have been dreary, but the rain couldn't dampen the spirits of the 2023 Greystone Manor Therapeutic Riding Center (GMTRC) Horse Show participants, volunteers, and

Photo above: Allegra poses with Geym and volunteer, Dorothy.

attendees! The event featured 37 equestrians who proudly demonstrated their year-long accomplishments in horsemanship

to their friends, and family, as well as our supportive community of neighbors and volunteers.



This year's horse show theme was "Eventing Extravaganza: An Equestrian Triathlon!" The theme, brought to life by our incredible decorating team, featured diversity within the sport of Eventing. The lunch demonstration featured lifelong equestrian, Katie Weagley, and her equine partner, Donnie. The duo demonstrated the various skills and disciplines included in Eventing!

Photo left: Katie and equine partner, Donnie.

Thank you

The GMTRC staff and Board of Directors would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to the sponsors, participants, and volunteers who made this event a huge success!

- ◇ Class Sponsors—22 awesome supporters!
- ◇ Event Judges—Marilu Garofola and Ciara Young
- ◇ Photographers—Rachel Wertz, Dan Armstrong, and Sophia Mackison

- ◇ Announcers—Mark Leiden and Kristin Glass
- ◇ Program Designer—Vic Matroni
- ◇ Obstacle Course Artist—Katherine Leiden
- ◇ Food Tent Coordinator—Judy Davis
- ◇ Logo Tent Coordinators—Erin Dragann and Kathi Markley
- ◇ Special Guests—Katie Weagley and her horse, Donnie
- ◇ The 2023 Horse Show Decorating Committee: Shauna Masia, Zoa Kile, Donnalee Mylin, Audra Mylin, Diane Garrett, Natalie Martin, Kristina Weaver, Pat Bachman, and Natalie Martin.

In this issue...

- 2023 Horse Show Summary
- Planning for 2024
- Volunteer Feature: Jeremy Giffin & Megan Venerick-Giffin
- 2023 "Mane" Event Recap
- New Herd Members: Emmit & Shadow
- Participant Profile: Brittany Hershey, MSW
- Lil' Lacey's Retirement Announcement
- New Board Leadership

Planning for 2024

In 2024, GMTRC will continue to operate its lesson program on a year-round schedule:

Weekly lessons start 01/08/2024

Break Weeks:

- 03/25-03/31/2024
- 06/24-06/30/2024
- 09/23-09/29/2024
- 12/23-01/06/2025

Specialized programming dates (i.e. Aaron's Acres, Silver Saddles, Heroes & Horses, etc.) will be announced as that information becomes available.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Spring Cleaning Day - 04/20/2024*
Open House/Celebrate! - 05/04/2024
BINGO! - 05/09/2024
Fall Cleaning Day - 09/07/2024*
Horse Show - 09/21/2024
The "Mane" Event - 10/19/2024
Extra Give - 11/22/2024**

*Spring Cleaning Day and Celebrate/Open House subject to change

** 2024 ExtraGive Date is yet to be set by the Lancaster County Community Foundation. The Winners' Circle Event will become the "Winners' Circle Club" and tied into Celebrate!

2023 Horse Show—An Eventing Extravaganza

Congratulations to all of our participants!



9:00 AM Class: Walk Only - On Lead

Participant	Horse	Rider #
Rafael Horta	Peppy	113
Brian Meyers	Makeda	140
Charlotte Bouscher	Lil' Lacey	131
Lori Rottmund	Bailey	160



9:45 AM Class: Walk/Trot - On Lead

Participant	Horse	Rider #
Amy Slider	Geym	151
Nancy Shreiner	Sam	133
Becky Watts	Nando	145
Wil Schweigert	Opi	104
Sierra Holliday	Neptune	105



10:30 AM Class: Walk – Off Lead/Trot - On Lead

Participant	Horse	Rider #
Lyndsi Binford	Violet	137
Nathan Buckwalter	Sam	119
Addison Hays	Makeda	146
Stephen Lazun	Opi	123
Cordell Hebensberger	Neptune	153
Tracy Weaver	Geym	149



11:15 AM Class: Walk/Trot – Off Lead

Participant	Horse	Rider #
Kammi Witmer	Nando	129
Regi Theodore-Wise	Sam	127
Audra Mylin	Violet	107
Holly Thatcher	Geym	148
Jennifer Sahd	Opi	128



1:00 PM Class: Walk Only - On Lead

Participant	Horse	Rider #
Zoey Adair	Lil' Lacey	120
Emily Lincoln	Makeda	163
Mary Nejme	Opi	102
Angelica Zander	Violet	152

1:45 PM Class: Walk – Off Lead / Trot – On Lead

Participant	Horse	Rider #
Jon Sensenig	Sam	106
Allegra Essis	Geym	139
Camryn McComsey	Opi	147
Heri Banza	Makeda	126
Grace Trout	Violet	154

2:30 PM Class: Walk/Trot – On Lead

Participant	Horse	Rider #
Sam Knighton	Opi	142
Alejo Bair	Neptune	150
Maria Otto	Nando	116
Mark Palmer	Violet	122

3:15 PM Class: Walk Only – On Lead

Participant	Horse	Rider #
Andrew Swarr	Sam	103
Anne Wissinger	Nando	114
Hayden Bashore	Geym	121
Jack Link	Makeda	132

Program & Instruction

Photos from the 2023 Horse Show are available for free download for the participants and their families. To obtain the link to the photos and the password to the photo website, contact Kristina at kweaver@greystonemanortrc.org.



Volunteer Spotlight: Jeremy Giffin & Megan Venerick-Giffin

Megan Venerick-Giffin and Jeremy Giffin are faithful GMTRC volunteers since 2017. They help with barn duty and hay delivery. They also have their own barn full of horses, including GMTRC's retired pony, Wiz!

Q: How did you learn about GMTRC?

A: Jeremy works in the area, so we drove by the barn frequently but had no idea it was a therapeutic riding facility. Once we looked into it and saw that there was a need for volunteers, it seemed like a perfect fit for us.

Q: When did you (and Jeremy) become volunteers?

A: We've been volunteering since 2017.

Q: What activities do you do in the barn?

A: I help with morning barn duty three times a week.

Q: What about this experience has been rewarding for you?

A: There are many aspects of volunteering that have been rewarding for me over the years, but in particular, I love caring for the horses and getting to know their individual personalities, their likes and dislikes, and all of their little quirks. Since I do not help with lessons, I have also especially enjoyed helping with the horse show and witnessing the connections between the riders and horses and seeing how much joy it brings the riders.

Q: Why did you decide to continue volunteering at GMTRC after you moved to Harrisburg?

A: Although the distance is challenging at times, it would be very difficult for me to leave behind the horses that I have grown to love and the friendships I have made over the years.

Q: What would you say to someone who is considering becoming a volunteer at GMTRC?

A: Give it a try! Because there are so many different ways to volunteer, you can try different activities to find out what you like to do. It is such a rewarding experience in many regards, and it offers a way to escape the stresses of work and daily life while making a positive contribution to a wonderful program.

Q: How did you come to own Wiz and how is he doing?

A: All of our horses are rescues that needed a soft place to land where they can spend the rest of their days as companions. So when Wiz needed a retirement home, we figured he would fit in well with our herd and made room for one more. He is loving retirement; he is deeply devoted to our mare, kicks up his heels with the boys from time to time, and still engages in mischief every chance he gets!



From left to right, Opi stands with Megan and Jeremy along with volunteer Phyllis Spotts, Program Horse Sam, and volunteer Adam Metz.

The “Mane” Event Dinner & Auction

The “Mane” Event Dinner & Auction Presented by Garman Builders was held at Bent Creek Country Club on Saturday, October 21, 2023. The evening was hosted by Dr. Elizabeth Newell, GMTRC’s former Board President. Event ambassador, Connery, and her family shared their story in front of a crowd of over 130 guests. With the assistance of H.K. Keller, the event raised over \$75,000 to support scholarships, care for our horses, and maintain our facility.



Thank you to our event sponsors!

Platinum Sponsor

Garman Builders

Décor Sponsor

E.G. Stoltzfus

Entertainment Sponsor

Assured Partners

Bronze Sponsors

EZ Solutions

Fulton Bank

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Iaquina

Kinsley Construction

Lancaster Toyota

Trout CPA

Friends

Autohaus Lancaster

Mr. & Mrs. Eric Brubaker

Mr. and Mrs. John Felegi

GMTRC Music Lovers

Riverside Camping Association

RNSC

Patrons

Mr. & Mrs. Philip Frey

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Lazun

Lancaster Mazda

Tomlinson Bomberger

Yocum & Company

(right) Connery and Kara Pham speak at the event



Have you heard about our herd?

GMTRC is carrying out its equine succession plan with the careful selection and training of new program horses! Recently, Shadow and Emmitt joined the herd. They are currently in training and will be integrated into programming in 2024.



Breed:

Appendix
Quarter Horse/
Thoroughbred Gelding



Height:

15.2 hands



Age:

16 years old



Status:

Free Lease



Emmitt



Shadow

Breed:

Paint-cross
Pony
Gelding



Height:

13.2 hands



Age:

9 years old



Status:

Donation



Participant Spotlight: Brittany Hershey, MSW



Brittany, a hospital social worker, joined the first session of Heroes and Horses that started in October 2023. This program is dedicated to providing **free** group intervention to individuals who work in the medical field or first responder field and experienced trauma during their COVID-19 experiences.

Q: What about this program made you want to participate?

A: Coming home to my dog and cat after a stressful day has always had a calming effect on me. Animals have an

incredible way of making someone feel at ease. When this program became available, I was so excited to have the opportunity to work alongside horses and to also experience another form of intervention other than traditional therapy.

Q: How did COVID-19 affect your career?

A: As a hospital social worker, we already have a limited number of resources to work with and availability within these resources change constantly. During COVID, the need was even higher, but the supply was even more limited than before. Working in health care, social workers are responsible for helping to address the social needs of the patient and working to overcome these barriers that they may have. When the resources are not there, this leads to even greater frustration, and we tend to be one of the main targets. This has led even more to higher burn out and feelings of defeat.

Q: How is this program different than other interventions available?

A: Working with animals! Although medication and individual therapy can be helpful, I was really looking for something where I could connect but not necessarily have to talk. I work with clients daily and as much as I love it, I like to be able to sometimes not talk but still be able to work through emotions. Heroes and Horses has been a wonderful way for me to experience that. It is almost that my horse and I can look at each other and just know. It's such a cool feeling!

Q: What do you enjoy most about this program?

A: I have learned so much about horses in the short time with being in the program. Although I have always loved horses, I still had some



intimidation around them due to their size since I didn't know much about them. With the education that has been provided by the staff, it has given me much more confidence with being around them. I have loved getting to work with Emmitt and his quirky personality. It has also forced me to be at ease

during the program since I have learned that the horses really do follow your energy.

Q: What would you say to someone considering this program?

A: Absolutely do it! I don't typically look forward to "most interventions" and this is something I look forward to every single week and will be super sad when it is over. It is a great way for someone to be able to feel at ease and de-stress from the day, and not have to do a lot of talking!

Q: How do you plan to apply what you have learned to your daily life?

A: It has been a great reminder how your energy goes a long way with communication. What you say can be interpreted very differently depending on your tone and movement. I do also want to try and still be able to connect with horses even after the program is over.

Q: Tell us something interesting about this experience:

A: The horses are so amazing and hysterical. It is fun coming into the barn and seeing the horses and their personalities. My project horse, Emmitt, I felt as though we connected right from the start and he is a hoot. He is newer to Greystone Manor and I believe he will do very well. When I reflect on it, I was instantly drawn to Emmitt for his outgoing personality and "class clown" mannerisms. I believe this is due to my personality as well. He is a horse that wants to get his point across but will then lay his head on your shoulder to take a nap. I was able to see a lot of similarities between Emmitt and myself and I believe this is why I was able to bond with him well. One of my favorite activities we did was both an art project and to get the horses to move in certain directions with just our body language. That was super cool to see!

*Heroes and Horses is a **free** group program providing mental health intervention to medical professionals and first responders. If you work in the first responder or medical industry and are interested in participating in this program, contact Steph at sfleck@greystonemanortrc.org Additional spots for this program will become available in the Spring of 2024.*



Emmitt and Brittany work together during Heroes and Horses Programming.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Judith Davis, President
Drew Hostetter, Treasurer
Randy Metz
Terri L. Kutz
Cherie Brubaker
Erin Dragann
Marilu Garofola
Kristin Glass
Marilyn Gehringer
Carolyn Strohm
Thomas G. O'Brien
Kathy Phillips
Kathi Markley
Ciara Young

MAILING ADDRESS:

PO Box 10724
Lancaster, PA 17605-0724

Ph: (717) 615-9222

Please send newsletter comments to:
general.info.gmtrc@gmail.com

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

**Our mission is to enhance the lives of
individuals with special needs through
equine-assisted activities.**



Follow us on Facebook to
keep up-to-date on
happenings at the barn!

Congratulations on your upcoming retirement,



*Lil'
Lacey!*

Lil' Lacey has been a GMTRC program favorite since 2016. We all love her adorable palomino coloring and Welsh Pony features. Because of her gentle nature and quiet confidence in the arena and around the farm, she has been the first mount for many children ages 4 to 12, and the first pony many volunteers have had the opportunity to lead in lessons. Several anxious Silver Saddles participants, ages 55+, learned to relax around horses by working with Lacey too!

Since Lacey will soon turn 30, which makes her a Silver Saddles gal herself, we have decided that 2024 will be her year to retire. We do not know exactly when she will be free to "just be a horse", but it was extremely important to GMTRC's staff that we honor her work and celebrate her upcoming retirement in the grand environment of our annual Horse Show.

Let's all celebrate with her owners, Heidi and Jess Courneya, as we honor Lil' Lacey's contribution to GMTRC. We are so grateful to the Courneyas for sharing Lacey with GMTRC. Lil' Lacey has been such a wonderful friend to all of her students; whether they arrived in a stroller, wheelchair, on crutches, or on foot, she assured them a safe and comfortable ride as they practiced their horsemanship skills.

Executive Director's Note: Jenn

Dear Friends:

For TEN years, we were blessed to have Tom O'Brien serve as our President of the Board. Under Tom's guidance, we survived the COVID-19 pandemic, received our first program grant, hired our first Executive Director, hired our first Program Director, and filled the board to 15 members for the first time in organizational history. On October 31, 2023, Tom stepped down as GMTRC's President of the Board and on December 31, 2023, he will leave the board completely to focus on new career aspirations. We will forever be grateful for his leadership.

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to our new board President, Judy Davis! Judy is a donor, a board member, and an avid barn volunteer. We are excited to have Judy guide us in a new chapter of growth and community service!

Fondly,

Jenn and the GMTRC crew



*New board president, Judy, poses with
volunteer Vicki Fitzgibbons during the 2023
"Mane" Event at Bent Creek Country Club.*



*Exiting board president, Tom O'Brien, is
interviewed by a reporter during the
2017 Horse Show.*