



Stirrups 'n Strides Quarterly

September 2016

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A Word from Betty Gray

A heartfelt welcome to our returning volunteers and new volunteers! We are looking forward to an exceptional year with many new changes on the horizon. We couldn't do any of it without the faithful commitment of our wonderful volunteers!! Thank you for all you do to make a difference in the lives of our riders, their families and with each other! We have a wonderful team who make up the family at Stirrups 'n Strides. I want to thank all the volunteers for a very successful and fun summer riding program. It was one of the hottest summers we have experienced, but so worth the effort to make riding possible for the riders. In addition to our six week riding program for our riders, we offered a six week pilot program for Veterans, partnering with, Vets Helping Vets and The Phoenix House. The Vets came out and learned how to groom horses and each Veteran developed a bond with the horse of their choice who they felt a connection with. It was extremely hot,

but the Vets didn't even seem to notice as they were so interested in getting to know the horses. It was awesome!!! This coming riding season we look forward to a continued partnership with the Phoenix House and Veterans Helping Veterans.

We will also continue to welcome the Arnett House as they come out to learn more about the horse's behavior, grooming horses, riding and helping around the farm.

I want to thank the Quail Roost Foundation for their generosity in providing the covered arena for Stirrups and Strides. We look forward to an amazing year with the growth of the program that their contribution has provided. It is a dream come true for Stirrups 'n Strides and what a way to "Walk into the Future"

This season we will begin using the new covered arena! This will allow us to continue to hold classes on rainy days

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and even on hot days it will provide a cooler place to ride. Until the stalls & community room are complete, we will put up some portable stalls to use for our horses, eventually there will be 9 stalls at the end of the arena along with the community room. The covered arena will eventually house a community room, 9 stalls, tack room and restrooms. When it's complete, we will move the entire program to the other side of the farm.

I look forward to a bright, new riding season and appreciate so much our loyal volunteers, our loyal donors, those on the front lines and those who work behind the scenes to make this program possible.

Many thanks, see you all at Volunteer Orientation on the 17th.



Meet Wayne Gray

For those of you who have never met or know who Wayne is, he is the quiet, Jack of all trades and master of every one, behind the scenes of Stirrups n' Strides! He has been married to Betty, our Executive Director since 1971. Little did he know in 1971 when he met his bride-to-be how much his life would change? Wayne is a carpenter by trade from Lakeland, Florida. Betty is from New York and was a big horse person at the time....Wayne...not so much, but he did grow up on a farm! They fell in love, married in 1971 and compromised as to where to call home and bought there 30 acre farm & named it Hi-Time Farm after Betty's Morgan she brought to Florida named Greenmeads Hi-Time!

At the time, Betty trained Morgan's and Wayne eventually got into the

thoroughbred business. He escaped the Florida heat by taking horses up north to race in the summer. He retired from that a couple summers ago and has made himself very useful around the farm now twelve months out of the year! And, we couldn't do it without him!! If you don't see him around the barn during class time, it's because he's out mending one of the many fences, mowing, repairing equipment, remodeling or repairing other buildings on the property, or whatever else that needs to be done. He keeps all the vehicles running, packs the horse trailers for shows and absolutely does it all!! A HUGE thank you to Wayne for all he does to keep Stirrups n' Strides up and running!!

Introducing Lilli

Lily is a 15 year old Quarter Horse who came to us from Merritt Island. She belonged to a family whose daughter was very active in 4-H. Lily, for many years was the daughters loyal, very abled-bodied mare receiving many top honors in the numerous shows they participated in. Lily is a beautiful, sweet mare and loves her job as a therapy horse and we are thrilled to have such a talented horse!



Nicker to Nick! He's New!

Nick is a 15 yr. old Oldenburg gelding 16 h. tall! Nick came to us from the St. Augustine area where he has been a show horse in the hunter world & also in Dressage for many years! Nick is extremely sweet & very laid back. I'm sure he will be one of the favorites of both the volunteers & riders alike. Welcome Nick!



Upcoming Events

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Our next volunteer orientation will be, Saturday, September 17th at the farm from 8:30 am until noon. Please plan on attending as this is vital to having a successful program and gives us all a chance refresh our skills & to meet each other. You will have opportunities to learn how to do various things around the farm and get to meet some of our wonderful horses! We need lots of volunteers, please ask friends & family if they would like to volunteer!

FALL RIDING SEASON BEGINS

SEPTEMBER 27, 2016

Tuesdays Classes: 8:30, 9:45; 11:00 AM - -----6:00 PM until time change, then 5:00 PM.

Wednesday classes: 8:30, 9:45 & 11:00 AM

Friday – Veterans (8:30- 10:30)

Saturday classes: 9:00 & 10:30 AM

BRICK FUNDRAISER FOR THE COVERED ARENA - WALK INTO THE FUTURE- ONE BRICK AT A TIME, COME WALK WITH US

The brick fundraiser will be used to build the community room which also will be available to other organizations for meeting purposes. We offer small bricks for \$100 & large bricks for \$200. See website for details on how to purchase bricks. You could have your name or business name lining our walkway to the future!!!

DATES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR!!!

SPORTSABILITY

September 30th, 2016 – Martin Luther King Recreation Complex (1510 NW 4th St., Ocala, 34475) People who attend Sportsability learn about the value of recreation and active leisure for everyone – especially people with disabilities. People discover the latest in



equipment, trends, and resources. This event provides an opportunity for people to network with people with disabilities, resource providers and community organizations. There is NO CHARGE to participants thanks to our generous sponsors. We will be providing horseback rides during Sportsability. **We need lots of volunteers to make the day a success, please let me know if you are available for September 30th.**

October 7th – Veterans riding

program starts

October 22nd – Stirrups 'n Strides Annual Yard Sale. We are in need of lots of items for the sale.

Please, NO clothes or electronics! Will pick up if

needed. Ask all your friends & neighbors what they might have laying around in good shape that they no longer use!!

October 29th – 5K run – Ocala Square

November 3rd to 8th – UPHA Exceptional Challenge Cup Finals – We have four riders qualified to attend this prestigious show at the American Royal in Kansas City this year. Our riders will be showing on November 8th.

November 17th – the CEP (XLO Club) will be visiting to watch our amazing Vets program

December 3rd – Saturday – Jammin' at Jumbolair – Our biggest fundraiser of the year!! Sponsorships & tickets are available. Table of eight - \$500.00 and

comes with adult beverages on your table! Individual tickets - \$40.00; 12 & under, \$25.00. Good food, live music, dancing and lots of theme baskets to win! Won't you donate a theme basket for our auction?

December 10th – Annual Christmas Party at the farm for all volunteers, riders and families. Santa will be there of course!

January 3rd, 2017 – Riding season starts again!



January 7th – Challenge Show at Grand Oaks – Weirsdale

February 11th – Special Olympics Area Games – hosted by Stirrups 'n Strides

March 24th – 25th, 2017 – State Special Olympics – Grand Oaks, Weirsdale

Thanks to Anne and Ken Blue



Anne & Ken have very graciously adopted our wonderful sweet "Ranch" Ranch developed a few problems that made him not useful for our riding program and a good home was looked for. Anne & Ken have a beautiful new 15 acre farm that they just acquired a few months ago; what a perfect place for this wonderful horse. Anne & Ken also

have adopted 2 other horses that were retired from the program over the years, they are Doogie & Tom and they have a life for the rich & famous!! Thank you for being one of our Angels.

Stirrups 'n Strides
Quarterly

4246 W Hwy 318
Citra, FL 32113
(352)427-3569
grayhitime@windstream.

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