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**A Word from Betty Gray, ED**  
*Thank You, Dear Donors!*



Throughout the year, so many people in our community come together in a myriad of ways to help further the efforts of Stirrups 'n Strides Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc. We can't express our appreciation enough for your part in sponsoring our therapeutic riding programs and offering your support through donations, services and time. With your help, we continue to successfully uphold our commitment:

***Our Mission***

To provide therapeutic horseback riding and carriage driving to anyone with physical, mental or emotional challenges and to improve the quality of life for these individuals with the opportunity for emotional, educational & physical growth through horsemanship and competition.

From the start of 2018, we have been fortunate to receive these gifts from our supporters:

**Foundations, Organizations and Grants**

- Spector Foundation – hay-\$1000
- Sparr Building & Supply - \$600 gift cards from Purina challenge
- Morning Star Foundation - \$5,000 for arena
- Meraki Equine Sports therapy (Amber Scarbrough)
- Marion County Horseman's Assoc. – Self Defense on Horseback clinic
- Friendship Masonic Lodge No. 53, Ted Tucker
- Knights of Columbus (Queen of Peace Council # 09649) \$1000
- Arabian Horse Assoc. - \$70
- Clay Electric Foundation - \$15,000
- Quail Roost Foundation - \$3,000
- Betty Gray's birthday fundraiser - \$634

**Community Sponsors**

- OBS Feed & Supply
- Newport Hay
- Seminole Feed
- Brent London – Hay
- Mark Duran, farrier
- Camp Thomas, farrier
- Kevin McMinn, farrier
- Rodney Rowles (Boomer), equine dentistry
- Berrettini Feed Specialists
- Ocala Equine Hospital
- Taste-T-O Donuts
- Markel Insurance
- Cowboys for Christ

**Donors**

- Virginia Peterson - \$50 in memory of Fay Wright
- United Methodist Church Hawthorne (Dorcas Circle) \$200
- Sparr United Methodist Church – Holston Hall
- Ross Pruitt- Dallas (horse donation)
- Pam Stephenson – brick purchase
- Madeleine Quesnel – bathroom supplies
- Lynn Condermann – show clothes for riders
- Lori & Wayne Sigley - \$200
- Jim & Laney McGivern – golf cart
- Kim Lashley - \$100
- Irsuala Nash – tack & equipment
- Debby Gibson – tack & horse supplies
- Gordon Parker- siding for shed & help rebuild it
- Eloise & Bruce Ellsworths – BBQ grill
- Carmen Murvin – Zaxby's gift cards
- Cap't Leedy - Self Defense on Horseback Clinic
- Brenda Matusik - \$200
- Jim Olson –judge Special Olympics
- Conky Price- announcer and judge
- Tall Guy Photography, John Chittenden
- John and Erin Fann, Event Mix Photography
- Tim & Debbie Paisely- transport, judge Special Olympics

## ***Striding Into the Future Project Update***

We are excited to announce we hosted our very first event in the Quail Roost Arena with the Marion County Horseman's Association where they offered a Personal Self Defense & Trail Riding Safety Course. Special thanks to Captain Eddie Leedy (who also works with the Marion County Mounted Posse) for facilitating this very successful event. Twenty riders and 5 auditors enjoyed the clinic which included lunch. (Thank you Diane & all!)

We are pleased to be holding our Summer Fun Riding classes in the Quail Roost Arena! Adjacent to the covered arena, we now offer a new trail course under the trees. The summer program has been a great success and we've gained some wonderful new riding friends! We are also holding other sessions in the arena including our Veterans Program on Friday mornings and Friday afternoons. The arena provides a wonderful shelter for those afternoon showers!



While we still have quite a lot of work to accomplish with our ***Striding Into the Future*** project as a whole, we are thankful to offer the comfort of a shady environment during these hot summer months.

Our next step is to continue with construction of the Community Room, Feed Room and Tack Room. We are thankful to have received grants from the ***Morning Star Foundation*** and ***Clay Electric Foundation*** that will help us proceed with this next phase. We're looking for assistance including plumbing, concrete work, and general contractor building. Please contact Betty Gray, 352-427-3569 or grayhitime@windstream.net if you can offer help with this project.

## ***Horse of the Year – Congratulations, Nick!***

Each year our riders and volunteers vote for the Stirrups 'n Strides program horse they feel is best all-around for riding, temperament, achievement or simply out of fondness and favorites. ***Fortunate "Nick"***, a handsome 20 year old Oldenburg, won the vote this year and is dubbed "Horse of the Year – 2018". Nick was imported from Germany in his younger years and used as a hunter and dressage horse. His owner retired him from the show world and donated him to Stirrups 'n Strides about two years ago. Nick has proven to be a steady mount for both English and Western riders. Nick has a sweet temperament and is loved by all. He's available for sponsorship through our ***Sponsor A Horse*** program. Interested? Check our website at [stirrupsnstrides.com](http://stirrupsnstrides.com) or give us a call! (Nick is this issue's newsletter banner horse.)

## ***Volunteer Orientation – September 15***

Our annual ***Volunteer Orientation*** will be held on ***Saturday, September 15 from 8:30AM-12:30PM***. Volunteers are needed in a variety of areas of our programs, so whether you would enjoy caring for our amazing horses, leading and side-walking, helping out around the farm, participating in events/fundraisers or bringing your expertise to the office, we welcome you to join the Stirrups 'n Strides family!



All current Stirrups 'n Strides volunteers should please plan to attend orientation. Bring a friend and receive a surPRIZE! Please RSVP to Anita Gossett, Volunteer Coordinator: 352-817-6446.

## ***Our Wonderful Volunteers!***

Stirrups 'n Strides is so very fortunate to have such a wonderful group of volunteers that are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of others. Many of you bring carrots, supplies, and give such tender loving care to program horses and riders, we are reminded each day how special you are. You are an amazing group...*thank you* for all you do!

### ***Farewell to Lorraine Simon, Volunteer Coordinator***

We wish a fond farewell to Lorraine and Richard Simon who have supported Stirrups 'n Strides in many ways ... from our database, website, volunteer and rider emails &

cards, to pitching in at events. Your expertise and contributions have been invaluable to Stirrups 'n Strides! We wish you both the very best as you transition to your new life in Bermuda!

**Ellen Rankin** will also be truly missed by riders and volunteers alike as she heads off to Rutgers University to pursue her doctorate degree. Ellen has largely contributed, not only as a PATH Certified Riding Instructor, but also a dedicated volunteer for Stirrups 'n Strides. "Happy Trails", Ellen! We hope to see you back!

#### **Patricia Lepak – Volunteer Coordinator**

A big "Thank You" goes out to Patricia (Pat) Lepak who has stepped up to take on a Volunteer Coordinator role at Stirrups 'n Strides. Pat also is a leader with the Volunteer Mentoring Program. Her dedication and contributions to Stirrups 'n Strides are so appreciated!

#### **Stirrups 'n Stripes - Veterans Program**



Co-facilitated by Stacey Spence, Board President and Gail McDaniel, Program Manager, our Veterans Program has taken a successful leap this year! Sessions are

held on Fridays at 9:00AM & 1:00PM. We provide a flexible response to the needs of each Veteran to help them experience the unique bond gained through connecting with horse partners in a peaceful setting. We offer our Vets opportunity to learn, build confidence and develop horsemanship skills, in turn gaining a sense of achievement. Thanks to those new and existing volunteers who responded to our call to help make this program a success! We truly love giving back to our Veterans through the "magic" of horses helping humans. For information, please call Gail: 941-809-3908.

#### **Student Intern Program**

Stirrups 'n Strides is a wonderful place to learn about working with people with special needs and the benefits of therapeutic riding. Investing in college student interns is a great way to provide academic learning, career development, and personal growth. We are pursuing relationships with our local colleges to further develop our Student Intern Program in three areas:

- Equine Assisted Services
- Non-profit Business Administration
- Volunteer Coordination

If you are interested in a student internship or would like additional information, please contact Gail McDaniel, Program Manager: 941-809-3908, [gemcd123@gmail.com](mailto:gemcd123@gmail.com).

#### **2018-2019 Fall Riding Season - October 2**

We're looking forward to the upcoming season with lots of exciting activities! There are updated Rider forms on our website that include some new class information. New and returning Stirrups 'n Strides riders should be sure to get completed forms in to Betty Gray by the September 7 deadline.

#### **Show Time!**

Several Stirrups 'n Strides riders have been participating in the **Sparr United Methodist Church Horse Shows**. Come on out and cheer everyone on! It's great practice for our riders and great Saturday family fun!



Don't miss the **Summers End Horse Show** held at the Southeastern Livestock Pavilion, Ocala on **Sept. 7-9**. We have up to eight riders competing in this show in preparation for the UPHA

Exceptional Challenge Cup Finals in Kansas City this November. Join us for our silent auction to raise funds for the Kansas City trip for these riders. If you have a donation to go toward the silent auction, please call Betty Gray: 352-427-3569.

#### **Fundraising - Grandest Event of the Year!**

## **Jammin' at Jumbolair 2018 EXTRAVAGANZA**

Plans are being made for our best event ever to be held on **Saturday, December 1!** Each year we are amazed and so appreciative of how volunteers and community partners pitch in to make this fundraising event a great success with theme baskets, auction items and donations. We've got some great plans this year, so be sure to save the date! Tickets available soon on [stirrupsnstrides.com](http://stirrupsnstrides.com). Please contact Betty Gray, Executive Director, 352-427-3569 or Mary Luster, Board Member and Jumbolair Committee Chair: 407-488-4069, for more information.

#### **Upcoming Dates of Interest**

- Summer's End Horse Show- Sept. 7-9
- SnS Volunteer Orientation – Sept. 15
- Fall Riding starts – Oct. 2
- Stirrups 'n Strides Yard Sale – Oct. 20
- PATH Natnl' Conference (Orlando, FL) Oct. 25-27
- Micanopy Fall Festival – Oct. 27-28
- UPHA Exceptional Challenge Cup – Nov. 5-10
- Jammin' at Jumbolair Extravaganza – Dec. 1