

Happy Trails Riding Academy

A publication of Happy Trails Riding Academy, a nonprofit organization of therapeutic horsemanship for people who have cognitive, physical or emotional disabilities.

Winter 2020

Roundup

Year in Pictures



Weekly Facebook Storytime with local celebrities



Happy Trails staff honoring Kay Connley during Breast Cancer Awareness month



Farewell to the Banks family



Classes resumed in June with new protocols in place



Friends helping friends. Happy Trails volunteering for a house build with Habitat for Humanity



Flags presented by Happy Trails Veterans

RoundUp Reimagined Virtual Ball Drop



SoCalGas grant presentation



Drive-in movie night



Volunteers continued to keep our facility shiny

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As 2020 winds down...

What a year it has been! Our 36th year of serving the community looked a little different than years past. New standards of operations were carefully developed and implemented including entry into the facility, social distancing, newly installed sanitation stations and volunteer and rider procedures. Fundraising was reimagined with two virtual events, Night at the Races Opportunity Drawing and Round Up Ball Drop. Outreach to our riders came in many new forms with weekly Facebook Live equine education and story time, drive thru herd visits, Halloween celebrations and a pen pal exchange.

With the support of our riders, families, friends, and donors our program is able to celebrate another successful year. Words are hard to express our gratitude. From those who jumped in to sew masks and saddle covers, to those who remained dedicated sponsors of our events, THANK YOU! To our volunteers who stayed true as our procedures evolved and our riders who gave it their all-always, THANK YOU! To those who sent good vibes our direction and to our community who has stayed strong, THANK YOU! And those who bought tennis balls when they had no idea what a Ball Drop was but wanted to support our program, THANK YOU! Our program and facility is a shining example of what a community can do to support all the riders who receive services at Happy Trails.

Your Board and Staff remains dedicated to continuing the fine traditions of Happy Trails and being good stewards of your donations and grants we receive, allowing us to provide quality therapeutic riding programs.

Wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Erin Brooks

President - Board of Directors

Leslie Gardner

Executive Director

Congratulations Sarah

We are proud to announce Sarah Elizondo is Happy Trails' newest PATH Certified Instructor. Sarah is a native of Strathmore growing up on her family's farm. Her involvement with equines began early but she did not fully embrace her love of horses until after college.

Sarah has jumped in with both feet teaching EFP and Therapeutic Riding classes. Her enthusiasm is contagious and her excitement for teaching is apparent. Sarah is a newlywed, married to Alex just two years ago. In their spare time they like to hike, travel and cook together.



Four of the Happy Trails ESH riders who participated in a national virtual horse show for veterans hosted by Brave Hearts Therapeutic Riding Center in Harvard IL.



Adopt-A-Thon

Happy Trails has kicked off its 2021 Adopt-A-Thon campaign! We hope that you join us to assist in reaching our goal of \$75,000. Embrace the season by donating the type of gift that helps someone in need.

Every adoption and contribution will directly benefit the riders at Happy Trails. New this year for your convenience, donations may also be made on your phone.

There are many different levels of giving in the Adopt-A-Thon campaign, providing you the option to choose the aspect of our program that you would most like to support:



Adopt-A-Rider
\$2500



Adopt-A-Horse
\$1000



Adopt-A-Class
\$500



Adopt-A-Ride
\$250



Adopt-A-Smile
\$25

We are thankful for our many friends who make our mission their own.

Now Available!

Donate from your phone. Text Happy to 269-89



2020 Happy Trails

Virtual Horse Show

This fall, our therapeutic riding students participated in Happy Trails' first ever virtual horse show! Twenty-three students worked diligently for six weeks to prepare themselves for the event. Sixteen riders rode their horses through a harvest trail obstacle course, and seven participants showed their polish and finesse in hand through a showmanship pattern. Everyone's final class was filmed and



sent to special guest judge Lisa Cotta-Meek for evaluation. While we missed having our traditional event with everyone gathered for lunch and awards, a great time was had by all in pursuing a new format to an important annual event in recognition of our students' hard work!



Thank you to our Horse Show sponsors

LMG Ag	Visalia Livestock
Goshen Mounted Police	Tulare County Stockyards
Mike's Farrier Service	Joe & Barbara Hallmeyer
Oscar's Feed	Takeuchi Family
VSI	



*An investment from your heart...
Riding builds strong wills*

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The staff, a few fabulous volunteers, and some great board members had a spooktacular time hosting a Halloween drive-through party! More than 40 cars came through and nearly 150 people showed off their creative costumes. Even a few of the equines on site dressed up for this special event!

Happy Halloween

