

Therapeutic Equestrian Center, Inc.

Spring 2017 Newsletter



President's Message:

We see many examples in late winter and early spring as a time of growth on Earth. It is harder to see these signs at TEC but they are there and are centered on growing the funds TEC needs to operate. Through participation in the annual The Future Begins Here Gala, TEC raises nearly a quarter of its operating budget. Volunteers are needed to solicit items for the Live and Silent auctions at the Gala and to help at the event. Further information about how to volunteer is available from Director Judy Zedonis and Volunteer Coordinator Tammie Badura.

In addition, this year there is something new in Funds Development at TEC. TEC's Board Vice-President Jill Apolinario has been working with a professional grant writer, Jean Savarese, who is donating her time, to help set up a grant application program for the center. This program will solicit funding to help TEC find the financial means to provide services now and in the future.

One of the most important parts of setting up a grant writing program is having a database that can be used by the grant writers to provide information to grantors about TEC, such as the population it serves and how it does its work. This is the part of a grant application in which Grantors are particularly interested. **The support of riders' families and caregivers is absolutely crucial to this effort.** TEC must be able to furnish a wide range of statistics when applying for grants such as where riders live; the variety of special needs TEC's programs help; and the percentage of riders' families having certain income ranges. To do this, a new set of information sheets has been designed. They are simple and clear and require very little time to complete.

At TEC there is an ongoing effort to keep participant's costs as low as possible. Income to TEC from fees represents **less than a third of the actual costs** of providing services to riders. TEC must raise the funds to cover the rest of the costs. Funding from grants is one of the ways this can be done.

TEC needs the cooperation of all parents and caregivers in this effort. Completion of the registration forms is both urgently needed and vitally important. The statistics to be developed will not include the identities of participants and their families. All HIPA regulations are carefully observed.

Sue Panitch

The Therapeutic Equestrian Center
537 Northampton Street
Holyoke, MA 01040
413-532-1462
info@EquestrianTherapy.org
www.EquestrianTherapy.org

The Therapeutic Equestrian Center, Inc. (TEC) is a private 501(c)(3) organization incorporated in 1984 dedicated to providing physical, learning and recreational opportunities to special needs children and adults. TEC is governed by a Board of Directors and managed by the Executive Director.

President - Sue Ellen Panitch
Vice President – Jill Apolinario
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Barn Manager - Nora Britton

Instructors:

Nora Britton
 Karen Dahmke
 Doreen Garde
 Nancy Karp
 Michelle Lague
 Annie Sexauer

Newsletter Editor - Judy Zedonis



The Food Court at the Holyoke Mall will be the setting for the 26th Annual “The Future Begins Here” on May 7, 2017. The Gala Event will start at 6:30 p.m. with a reception around the glass wall overlooking the Food Court with complimentary Wine and hors d’oeuvres. During this time a video presentation, underwritten by Peoples United Bank, describing the Gala and the work of the three participating agencies will be shown. Dave Madsen and representatives of the agencies will act as hosts.

At 7:00 p.m., dinner, Uno’s bars and the Beer Tasting Bar, featuring The People’s Pint and New City Brewery will open as will the displays for the Live and Silent Auctions. Following dinner Starbucks will provide coffee.

Music will again be provided by Eric Bascom and Blue and George Lewis of Skinner Auctions will again be on the stage to announce the Live Auction.

Sponsorships for the Gala are available from \$350.00 to \$1,000.00, each including a table for ten while general admission tickets run from \$35.00 to \$100.00. Tickets may be purchased on line at futurebeginshere.org or with a check payable to The Future Begins Here and mailed to P.O. Box 6808, Holyoke, MA 01040-6808 by April 30.

This is TEC’s major fund raising event of the year.

Volunteers to help at Future are needed as is help in soliciting items for the auctions. Please speak with Judy Zedonis or Tammie Badura for further information. Information cards and forms are available in the TEC Office. Updates for the event including lists of auction items can be seen at futurebeginshere.org and on facebook.

Events at TEC: Put these on your Calendar!

Balancing Your Horses Chakras on Saturday, April 8: 3 Hour Workshop from 10 AM to 1 PM with Nicole Birkholzer, creator of Mindful Connections ® a new approach to horsemanship where horses are honored as our partners, for anyone with the love of horses. This is a hands on workshop with the TEC Therapy Horses.

Volunteer Orientation on Thursday, April 20th: from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM, join us at the center for an informal session, to ask questions and learn about our program and what is required of our volunteers. TEC needs volunteers, our program cannot exist without them.

ValleyGives, Tuesday, May 2: Please support TEC !

Valley Gives is an online giving event that allows individuals throughout the Pioneer Valley and beyond to have a philanthropic impact by collectively supporting nonprofit organizations. In 2016, more than \$1.6 million was raised for over 450 nonprofit organizations; since its inception in 2012, Valley Gives raised \$7.2 million. These nonprofits support all the communities of the Valley and they focus on a broad range of missions to ensure our community's needs are met. Nearly 20,000 donors spanning our region, the state, country, and globe joined the effort. Valley Gives has become a well-known brand in the Pioneer Valley, relied upon by nonprofit organizations and looked for by donors.

Valley Gives is a 24-hour giving day that helps TEC raise needed funds to support our program. Valley Gives 2017 will occur on **May 2, 2017**, the 24 hours of giving begins at 12:01 am and ends at midnight. Valley Gives is hosted by the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts. Advanced giving for Valley Gives 2017, will begin on **Tuesday April 25**. This means that donors can go to the Valley Gives website one week early and make a donation. These donations will not be processed until early morning hours of May 2; donors won't need to make an account to donate early.

Future Begins Here on Sunday, May 7th: the 26th Annual Gala , Gourmet Dinner Tastings, Live Auction/Silent Auction to Benefit the Children of the Pioneer Valley at the Holyoke Mall at Ingleside. This is TEC's biggest Fundraising event.

Music at the Barn on Saturday, May 20th: Join us for a late afternoon concert at 4: 00 p.m. at the picturesque grounds of TEC with the critically acclaimed singer, songwriter, **Jill Sobule**. Tickets can be purchased on TEC's website.

TEC Tag Sale on Saturday, June 17th: Annual Fundraiser from 10 AM to 4 PM. New and used horse equipment and tack, plus many other interesting things. We have expanded this year to include a variety of items. Rain or Shine.

For more info check out www.EquestrianTherapy.org
or call 413-532-1462 or email info@EquestrianTherapy.org

TEC's Cancellation Policy:

TEC follows the same schedule for cancellations, holidays & vacations as the Holyoke Schools. If Holyoke schools are closed TEC will cancel classes. TEC will also cancel due to extreme weather conditions..

Call TEC at 413-532-1462 to find out if classes have been cancelled. There will be a message on the answering machine at TEC with information.

Join us on Facebook for updates.



We're going green! Please help us save trees and postage! Sign up today for electronic delivery of our newsletters! It's fast and it's easy!

Please let TEC know if you wish to be removed from the mailing list.



Professional Association of Therapeutic
Horsemanship International

TEC Class Schedules

May/June 2017 – Session #3

Monday: May 1 to June 26 – 8 wk session (no class 5/29)

Groups at: 4:00 PM, 5:00 PM & 6:00 PM

Tuesday: May 2 to June 27 – 8 wk session (no class 5/30)

Groups: 9:30, 10:30, 11:30AM, 12:30, 4:15, 5:15, 6:15PM

Wednesday: May 3 to June 28- 8 wk session (no class 5/31)

Groups at: 4:00 PM, 5:00 PM & 6:00 PM

Thursday: May 4 to June 29 – 8 wk session (no class 6/1)

Groups at: 4:00 PM, 5:00 PM & 6:00 PM

Friday: May 5 to June 30 – 8 wk session (no class 6/2)

Groups at: 4:00 PM, 5:00 PM & 6:00 PM

No Class May 29 to June 2

July/August 2017 – Session #4

Monday: July 10 to August 14 - 6 wk session

Groups at: 9:30 & 10:30 AM & 4:00, 5:00 & 6:00 PM

Tuesday:

July 11 August 15 – 6 wk session

Groups: 9:30, 10:30, 11:30AM, 12:30, 4:15, 5:15, 6:15P

Wednesday:

July 12 to August 16 - 6 wk session

Groups at: 9:30 & 10:30 AM, 4:00, 5:00 & 6:00 PM

Thursday:

July 13 to August 17 – 6 wk session

Groups at: 9:30, 10:30 AM, 4:00, 5:00 & 6:00 PM

Friday:

July 14 to August 18 – 6 wk session

Groups at: 9:30, 10:30 AM, 4:00, 5:00 & 6:00 PM

**Morning Summer Camp classes are only 5 wks long
TEC Picnic Saturday, August 19th**