

# HOOFPRINTS



Therapeutic Riding *of* Tucson

Fall 2015

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SANDI MOOMEY

In these past few months, I have had the privilege of working with passionate and dedicated groups – the TROT board, the staff and our supporters, servant-leaders who share a common vision and join in making it a reality. Together, we are on a path that ensures a bright future for TROT.

After our summer hiatus, we're glad to welcome back the familiar faces of students and volunteers. It's an enthusiastic reunion. Each week, more than 200 volunteers assist in every phase of our operations. TROT provides an average of **3,000 therapeutic riding sessions annually to children and adults** with a wide range of physical and cognitive disabilities.

More than 85% of our students are school aged children (K-12) with special needs such as cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, hearing/vision impairments and autism. Therapeutic riding offers vital physical activity and social interaction for students who may otherwise have very limited opportunities.

TROT also provides services for adults through its *Heroes on Horses* for U.S. Military Veterans with physical and emotional disabilities. We offer *Back in the Saddle* for adults seeking a specialized, safe riding experience.

TROT's measures of achievement come from the families we serve. Read their personal success stories in this issue. They inspire us to do more – and do it better.

We are grateful for your support. Together, we are changing lives one stride at a time.

## ★ PLEASE JOIN US AT ★ HORSIN' AROUND UNDER THE DESERT SKY

COTTONWOOD GROVE AT TANQUE VERDE GUEST RANCH  
14301 E SPEEDWAY • TUCSON AZ

FRIDAY  
OCTOBER  
◆ 23 ◆

6 PM - 10 PM  
\$85 PER PERSON

**DRESS IS WESTERN CASUAL**  
(OR WHATEVER IS COMFORTABLE)

PLEASE PURCHASE TICKETS BY OCTOBER 20

at [www.trotarizona.org](http://www.trotarizona.org)

or by calling 520.749.2360, x600.

*Limited amount of tickets available.*

\$27 of each ticket purchased is tax deductible.

For **Event Sponsorship** opportunities please contact  
Sandi Moomey at 520.749.2360, x601 or [SMoomey@TrotArizona.org](mailto:SMoomey@TrotArizona.org)



## TROT MISSION

To enrich the lives of people with special needs using equine-assisted activities and therapies to improve physical, mental, social and emotional well-being.

# Hearts & Horses Gala 2015 – “The Desert in Bloom”



Maycee and Family

The Hearts & Horses Gala is our major fundraising event of the year. It is always a fabulous night for TROT. This year was no exception, raising more than \$92,000 to support our life-changing programs. Results like this can only happen with the generous support of sponsors, auction donors, dedicated attendees and a hard working group of staff and volunteers.

As its \$10,000 Saguaro Sponsor, TROT is grateful to have the generous support of **Cardinal Pointe Financial Group**, a private wealth advisory practice of **Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.** In addition, we are honored to have Cardinal Pointe Financial Group representatives, **Steve Hester** as a TROT Board Member and **Bruce Irby** as Past President. Returning for another year as \$5,000 Ocotillo Sponsors were **Pat and Dick Goehrig**, long time benefactors of TROT.

The testimonials from two of our participating families were the highlights of the evening. The mother of **Maycee** spoke eloquently about her daughter and all of her successes. She credits TROT for helping Maycee achieve many milestones that they were told would never happen. **Dylan** and his mother presented an inspiring video of Dylan that showcased his numerous achievements at TROT. The crowd was visibly moved, and the spirit of hope and celebration permeated the event.



Dylan and Family



Steve Hester and Bruce Irby  
Cardinal Pointe Financial Group  
Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.

Mark your calendar for next year's gala, Saturday, April 9, 2016, at Loews Ventana Canyon.



Emcee Heather Rowe  
KOLD TV 13



Sandi Moomey  
Executive Director



Paula Madden and Sherry Daniels, Board Members, and Bob Gordon



Lori Medcoff and Cathy Brooks



TROT Co-founder Barbara Rector and Ann Baldwin



Tom Keck with Rhonda and Tony Valentino



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Dianna Guilinger, Laurel Brown, Board President;  
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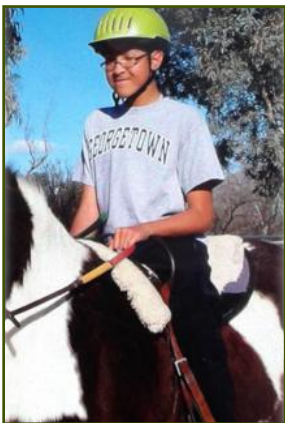
Sandra and Robert Johnston  
with Mary Vardi, Program Director

## WINNER'S CIRCLE: Nikkolas G *A Success Story*

### From a Grateful Parent

I want to THANK YOU for Nikkolas' experience at TROT, an experience that has helped him open up to others and enjoy his life and his surroundings.

**Nikkolas** now enjoys who he is as a person – a young man who is talented, bright and caring.



Nikkolas has built such a strong rapport with the staff of TROT and with his horse, *Skittles*. He speaks highly of the staff and how helpful they are to him. He is eager and willing to show and tell anyone who will listen about all he has learned.

Nikkolas has started taking a genuine interest in horses and other animals. Fears have disappeared that were once all encompassing, limiting his enjoyment of life and his surroundings. Nikkolas' eyes light up when he speaks of TROT and *Skittles* and how much he is looking forward to his next riding lesson.

TROT has helped Nikkolas open up to others – to family and to people outside of the home. On behalf of Nikkolas and all of his family, we wish to thank you for the light, the happiness, and the anticipation that TROT has brought Nikkolas!!

## Volunteers Make A Difference

On April 18, volunteers, staff, board members and friends of TROT gathered in the tribute garden for dinner and awards.

This was a chance for the TROT staff to honor and say thank you to the dedicated group of volunteers who help to provide life changing special services.

Volunteers accumulated more than 9,000 service hours last year. TROT Volunteers side walk, handle horses, help at the barn, maintain our property, assist with fundraising events, answer phones, and train new volunteers. Awards were given for 2, 5, 10 and 15 years of service. **Laurel Brown** was named TROT's Outstanding Director, **Ralph Houkom** joins TROT's Hall of Fame,

and **Karen Cromey** is our Volunteer of the Year with over 240 volunteer hours. Our raffle of ceramic horses from a friend of TROT was a big hit with lots of winners.

*"No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave."*

*~ Calvin Coolidge*



Mary Vardi and Karen Cromey



Ralph Houkom and Mary Vardi

*This year, make the choice on how a portion of your state income tax dollars will be spent.*

### TROT is a Qualifying Charitable Organization

Contributions to TROT of \$200 per year from individuals or \$400 per year from couples, will benefit both you and TROT! It's a Win-Win!

Donors receive a CREDIT for their contribution. This is not a deduction but a straight credit. So, when you designate your contribution to TROT as a tax credit, you will get that amount credited directly back to you.

How to participate:

- ❖ Visit our webpage [www.trotarizona.org](http://www.trotarizona.org) "2015 Arizona Tax Credit" and pay by Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express or PayPal
- ❖ Pay by credit card by phoning the TROT Office at (520) 749-2360, ext. 600.
- ❖ Mail your check to TROT, 8920 E. Woodland Rd., Tucson, AZ 85749

*Arizona taxpayers are eligible  
for a school tax credit AND the charitable organization tax credit in the same year!*

*Please check with your tax advisor for answers to specific tax-related questions.*

## A Long History, A Long Friendship!

For more than thirty years, children from the **Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind (ASDB)** have been coming to TROT. ASDB and TROT have forged a strong partnership that has served more than 400 visually and hearing impaired youth ranging in age from elementary school to high school.



ASDB staff member **C. J. Jansa** is credited with maintaining the enduring energy of the program, ensuring that new students arrive at TROT every year. Therapeutic riding brings smiles to the faces of the children, who perhaps for the first time are experiencing an exciting degree of self-discovery. In addition, ASDB students realize benefits in other capacities, such as strengthened posture that helps them focus in the classroom. They learn to follow directions, incorporate directionality in a functional way, and improve strength and coordination. Children have a sense of empowerment as they gain control of a horse, and they also take joy in learning about the care of the big, gentle animals that carry them.

The staff of ASDB and TROT continues to learn from each other. Both have gained knowledge and understanding from ASDB sponsored in-services that help individuals experience the world of the visually and hearing impaired.

The unique partnership shared by ASDB and TROT encourages mutual respect, camaraderie, compassion, and responsibility. Aided by our loyal and patient equine friends, the collaboration continues to grow and thrive.

## TACK SALE

Saturday, December 5 8am - 12pm

TROT, 8920 E. Woodland Road

*Donate your used tack and receive a tax donation. All sales benefit TROT!*

## Staff Spotlight

### Cathy Brooks, Volunteer Coordinator

Many of us don't stop to think that without dedicated, responsible volunteers within our communities, many of the wonderful non-profit agencies would not exist today. TROT is no exception to this scenario. The coordination of nearly 200 TROT volunteers presents an extremely challenging experience.

It is for this reason TROT is honoring **Cathy Brooks**, its Volunteer Coordinator. She is the energetic engine that keeps the wheels turning and coordinates all



aspects of screening, scheduling and coordinating training for the diverse volunteers at TROT. Cathy discovered TROT in 2006 while receiving medical treatments nearby. "When I would go by TROT I would see the students on horseback in that beautiful setting and wanted to be part of it." In 2008, she fulfilled that goal and began as a volunteer side walker immersing herself in this healing environment. Her only experience with horses was trail riding as a teenager. As Cathy comments, "When the position of Volunteer Coordinator was offered, it was a no brainer!" That was in 2010 and her enthusiasm for her position is even greater today, five years later.

When asked what keeps her so committed to TROT she explains, "TROT is a healing place for all in different ways. It is a life-affirming, positive environment with dedicated staff and volunteers who are witnesses to small bits of magic every day." This is what keeps her coming back. "I love the interaction between staff, volunteers and riders which is what makes TROT successful. It's truly a team effort."

# BARN BUZZ



Tiny

This summer, we retired two longtime residents. Our handsome, chocolate dappled Belgian Draft, **Tiny**, was a favorite of our veterans and adult riders. His slow and steady nature made him a perfect first horse for many of our riders. Tiny retired this summer and found an ideal home with one of our veterinarians. We also retired our gorgeous Icelandic Wonder Horse, **Newta**, who worked in our therapeutic riding and hippotherapy programs for nine years! Newta is still looking for a permanent retirement home, but until she finds the perfect place, she's enjoying daily turnout and grooming sessions at TROT. We're lucky to have had both of these wonderful horses, and we're thrilled to give them the chance to enjoy their twilight years – they certainly deserve it!



Applejack



Newta

We've also added a few horses to our TROT herd. **Applejack** is a striking Cremello pony with two light blue eyes and (if you look very carefully) a big blaze. Applejack is young and somewhat green, but his intelligence, sensitivity to aids, and desire to please make him a quick study. Applejack is currently working in our therapeutic riding program, and he's great for lead lessons as well as lunge line lessons. At 17.3 hands, **Wally** is a commanding presence. But don't let his size intimidate you, this Percheron cross is as sweet and mellow as can be. In addition to having a cooperative personality, Wally is also very well-trained and a joy to ride. Wally can give lead lessons, as well as independent and lunge line lessons. And he's a blast to ride bareback!



Wally

**Thank you for partnering-up with TROT.** We are grateful to hundreds of TROT supporters who gave generously to support the care and feeding our horses during our summer recess. Your generous gifts helped to provide hay, grain, horseshoeing, veterinary care, and exercise for the herd. With your help, every horse is rarin' to go this fall!

## WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR DONORS

*July 2014 through June 2015*

TROT thanks the hundreds of generous individuals, businesses, foundations and community groups who make TROT possible through their financial and in-kind donations. Please look at this report and see how many people it takes to enrich the lives of TROT riders. Your name is most likely among them. Thank you for your support!

### GENERAL DONATIONS

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**Up to \$4,999**

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**2014 HORSIN' AROUND**

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