FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SANDI MOOMEY

“You must have a great team,” remarked a recent visitor at TROT. Indeed we do! Teamwork is a high priority among TROT’s staff, board of directors, and volunteers. Together, along with supporters like you, we share common goals to enrich the lives of families with special needs.

In the months ahead, the TROT team will work to define a strategic plan to address its needs and priorities. As we plan TROT’s future, we recognize the need to build capacity for programs, as well as fund the increasing cost of horse care.

Please continue your generous financial support and gift of service as we continue to strive for excellence and advance the TROT mission. Together, we can be confident that we are changing lives, one stride at a time.

IN APPRECIATION OF OUR VOLUNTEERS

On April 30 TROT had the pleasure of honoring the volunteers that enable us to do the great work that we do. In addition to horse-handling and sidewalking, volunteers help out at the barn, keep our property looking good, answer phones, stuff envelopes, work our fundraisers, train other volunteers, and the list goes on. Volunteers clocked more than 6,000 hours this past year and were awarded service pins at the Volunteer Appreciation Party. More than twenty people received two year pins and ten people received five year pins. Nik Busarow, Dick Goehrig, Jill Janis and Anne Lieberman received ten year pins, and Suse Hope received her fifteen year pin. Karen Cromey was named Volunteer of the Year for the second year in a row. Nancy Godwin, a volunteer since 1998, is our Hall of Fame recipient going over and above her regular duties. Steve Hester is TROT’s Outstanding Director of the Year for his exceptional leadership. We appreciate the involvement of all our volunteers. Whether you help out for one hour a week or chair a committee, it is the hands of many that help make the magic happen here. Hats off to all!
The Hearts & Horses Gala is our major fundraising event of the year and is always a fabulous night for TROT. This year was no exception, raising more than $120,000 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. TROT was honored to have returning sponsors, Cardinal Pointe Financial Group, a private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc., and Dick & Pat Goehrig, long time benefactors in the Silver Sponsor category at $5,000 each. TROT is grateful to have their support.

Testimonials from two of TROT’s participating families were the highlights of the evening. Marla, a long time adult participant, spoke about the goals she had set for herself and how gratifying it has been to achieve even more than she thought was possible. Her experiences at TROT follow her into her everyday life by giving her added confidence and strength.

Seven year old Bentley and his mother presented an inspiring look into Bentley’s life and how they as a family credit TROT with achieving many milestones, and making a little boy very happy!

Each of the testimonials was accompanied by a video detailing the scope of their individual lessons at TROT. The crowd was visibly moved, and the spirit of hope and celebration permeated the event.

Save the Date | 2017 Hearts & Horses Gala
Saturday, April 1, 2017 at Loews Ventana Canyon Resort
NEW ADDITIONS AT TROT

Noticed anything different around the TROT property lately? Thanks to grant funding from generous donors, TROT has made some much-needed improvements over the summer months.

A major gift from Bonnie Kay helped renovate the riding arena with an upgraded watering system and new, soft sand as “footing” for the horses, creating a better experience under hoof. The gift also enabled the construction of a new concrete walkway extending from the handicapped parking area, as well as a heavyweight grader to help groom the arena and sensory course.

Another major improvement came in the gift of a Ford F250 Super Duty truck from donors Tom and Linda Grissom. While TROT’s previous vehicle, a 1996 pickup, was showing its age, the new truck hauls plenty of hay and loves pulling horse trailers. Keep an eye out at the feed store – our new truck proudly displays TROT’s logo.

The Tucson Conquistadors and the Eugene C. and Wiletta F. Denton Family Foundation provided funding for arena equipment, including brightly colored cones, eye-catching flower boxes, and weighted poles that help visually-impaired young riders to guide their horses around obstacles.

TROT thankfully acknowledges major gifts from five enduring benefactors, Adele Ward, Moritz Foundation, Bert W. Martin Foundation, William and Mary Ross Foundation, and the Lynn and Irene Lawver Family Trust. Their loyal commitment and extraordinary support help to sustain our goals for life-changing programs for people with disabilities. On behalf of all of the families we serve, we tip our hats to you.

MADARAS GALLERY INVITES YOU TO A TROT BENEFIT

Thursday, October 27, 2016  5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Be one of the first to see Madaras Gallery's new permanent home at 3035 N. Swan (between Ft. Lowell and Camp Lowell on the west side), and enjoy a party to honor TROT. Twenty percent of all proceeds from the evening will benefit the horses and therapeutic riding programs. Enjoy complimentary refreshments with the wonderful company of other TROT supporters and sign-up to win a $440 canvas of your choice! Remember to bring your friends, too. **RSVP by October 24, 2016 to 749-2360 ext. 600.**
Emily has been a long-time rider at TROT. Like many students, she began by having a horse handler and two sidewalkers accompany her during her lessons. Emily rode for eight years mastering the basics such as halting, steering, two-point, sitting trot, posting trot, and in 2014 she set her sights on independent riding. Emily, her family, and her instructor, Melanie Roeder, worked hard to develop a plan that allowed her to safely ride without volunteer assistance. Finding the right horse and experimenting with adaptive equipment were the first steps in the journey. After trying out several mounts, Emily found the perfect partner in Skittles, TROT’s 12-year-old paint/draft cross. Skittles is quiet and steady, but also sensitive and smart enough to learn and respond to Emily’s cues, which include voice, hands, seat, and artificial aids. Emily also tested several types of saddles, stirrups, and reins to discover what combination gave her the most control and security. In the past year of working with Skittles and her new equipment, Emily has transitioned to riding entirely on her own. She walks Skittles through challenging obstacle courses, and she trots independently on the lunge line. Achieving these goals has not been easy; it has taken much physical and emotional effort for Emily to reach this point in her riding. And she’s not finished! Next year, Emily will focus on trotting off lead. Emily’s determination and perseverance is inspiring, and we are so excited to see what the future holds for Emily.

Maycee has flourished and made many doctors recant the life-projection that they gave her. “When we started coming to TROT at the end of summer 2014, Maycee’s anxiety from any sort of physical task was at an all-time high. She walked in a crouch position and her head was bent with her line of vision to the floor. She required maximum assistance in walking and her demeanor was often in an agitated state. Participation only happened by creative tactics from Kristen Revis, her physical therapist at TROT. I can attest that TROT is a magical program. It is an environment that has a peaceful and calming effect. Maycee’s anxiety has decreased. She is sitting up on Skittles and looking around and labeling the flag, other horses and vehicles. She is identifying letters and pictures and her mood is lighthearted. You know, how do you measure the value of a person’s life and decide to give so a person can continue to get to their next step? Everyone has a different value measuring stick, but I do have to say that for the seven years I have been a resident of Arizona, I have seen what a charitable community it is. As a resident it is promising, but as a mother it is life changing.” – Maycee’s Mom

HELP TROT WHEN YOU SHOP AMAZON
Do you shop Amazon on a regular basis or at the holidays? With everything you purchase through Amazon Smile, TROT receives a donation of .05%. It may not sound like much, but it adds up! Simply go to Smile.Amazon.com and select Therapeutic Riding of Tucson as your charity of choice.
WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR DONORS

July 2015 through June 2016

TROT appreciates the hundreds of generous individuals, businesses, foundations, and community groups who make TROT possible through their financial and in-kind donations. Your name is most likely among them, and we thank you.
TROT welcomes Lauren Schroeder as a PATH International Certified Riding Instructor and Equine Health Coordinator. Lauren has had a life-long passion for horses and riding. She also brings to TROT more than 12 years’ professional experience with nonprofit organizations, working in public health, advocacy, and leadership development in the U.S. and Zambia. She holds a B.A. from St. Andrews Presbyterian University and an M.P.H. in Health Behavior/Health Promotion from the University of Arizona.

TROT is pleased to announce the appointment of Kaitlin Compton to the position of Barn Manager. In her new role, Kaitlin resides on the grounds and oversees TROT’s 18-acre property. She is responsible for the daily care and well-being of the TROT herd, and is an integral part of TROT’s organizational leadership team. Kaitlin continues to pursue her studies in Veterinary Science.

TROT Rider to Preside at Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony

TROT and our friends at Loews Ventana Canyon Resort are partnering to make a special Christmas for a TROT family. They will be the honored guests of Loews Ventana Canyon Resort for the annual tree lighting ceremony. The TROT family will be randomly picked from those who participate in a drawing coordinated by TROT. Additional details will follow.
YOU MADE THIS SMILE POSSIBLE!!

Make a charitable gift to TROT and reduce your Arizona income tax, dollar-for-dollar.

Here’s how it works:

1) Donate to TROT and receive an Arizona Qualifying Charitable Organizations Tax Credit of up to $400 filing as a single or up to $800 if filing a joint return. Help those in need and donate at zero cost to you. You can take advantage of a charitable tax credit and a school tax credit in the same year.

2) Make your gift any time before April 15, 2017. Call TROT (520) 749-2360 x600, or visit www.trotarizona.org to donate by credit card. Or, send a check payable to TROT, 8920 E. Woodland Rd., Tucson, AZ 85749.

3) Claim the credit when you file your 2016 Arizona tax return. You do not have to itemize your deductions in order to claim this credit. It’s that simple!