Live Auction Preview

Details on page four
From the Executive Director Lesley Rich

Hello TROT enthusiasts!

I am thrilled to have taken the reins as TROT’s Executive Director at the beginning of 2019. Spring time is now in the air and the riders continue to be inspired every day by their horses, instructors, volunteers and each other. Our amazing team is serving over 75 children and adults this semester and with each session our riders are making progress. We know that progress comes in all shapes and sizes. We are proud to celebrate all accomplishments, from 10-year-old Shiloh being able to keep her focus throughout her lesson, to our school group from Ocotillo Elementary working on their verbal skills and strength, to our veterans building confidence and riding more independently with every lesson.

TROT enthusiasts come from far and wide. I would love the opportunity to hear your story. As we celebrate the 45th anniversary of this life changing organization there are so many milestones to remember and honor. Every life that has been changed by TROT is the reason we celebrate. My vision for TROT is to grow our programs to serve more vulnerable children and adults. Our horses have so much to offer, our volunteers and trainers are committed and willing and there is so much need. Together we can impact the lives of hundreds of people each year. As you can see by the beautiful stories captured in this publication... TROT changes lives!

Lesley Rich

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TROT Can Grow Grass

Last spring TROT was made aware of a program for agriculture properties who wanted to upgrade their irrigation and water conservation efforts. This program is funded by the US Department of Agriculture and the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) division. With help from Bob Sharp and Sandi Moomey, TROT was able to qualify for the program. The reimbursement funds could only be spent on materials and supplies. NO LABOR! So rather than throw our hands up and quit, the TROT property committee along with Steve Ozee, TROT barn and property manager, decided they could do the labor. We put the word out and volunteers showed up to help.

We broke ground on January 4 and finished February 9 with over 800 volunteer hours! These volunteer hours saved TROT over $40,000 in labor costs. We even had volunteers cooking lunch for everyone every day. The new system covers all five pastures, totaling 2.5 acres utilizing 22 large sprinklers. As you can see from the pictures, this is not your average backyard irrigation system. It was a lot of long days and hard, manual work but the reward is very gratifying. We will plant our first crop of grass in early April and before we know it the horses will be grazing in tall grass.

A big thank you to Joe Dehn & Bert Settle from Sprinkler World. Don Tewart of Catalina Well & Pump. Also, the USDA/NRCS folks; Bret Myers, Lou Catallini & Kristen Egen. Without your guidance and support this project could not have happened.
Wednesday evenings at TROT are bustling with classes for our elementary aged youth. Everyone has shown great improvement during their lessons and are working on meeting their goals during each ride.

**Grace** struggled the first time she arrived for her lesson at TROT; in fact, she did not want to leave her parents' side. Her beginning struggles showed through some nervousness and an inability to verbally express herself. Fast forward 12 weeks and Grace is in her second semester of classes. Now, when she arrives to her sessions, she is the first child to grab onto her sidewalker's or instructor's hand and march them straight to the mounting block. With confidence, she places her hands on her saddle and sits up tall with a smile on her trusty partner Ringo, her partner since the start of her therapeutic riding journey. About six weeks into the semester, Grace surprised everyone and said "walk on" for the first time since being here at TROT. This was a great step in meeting Grace’s goals and her instructors, volunteers and family marvel at her progress each and every time she rides Ringo.

**Ben** is in his second semester here at TROT. During the first semester, he spent the majority of his lesson in tears and did not want to leave his mother's side. He refused to place his hands on the reins and blocked his ears with his hands. Through steady work, patience and dedication, the instructors and volunteers helped Ben find his groove. He is now ready to mount as soon as he arrives; he walks up the mounting block and greets his partner Sparky. Ben holds onto his reins for the entire session and has begun to move his hands left to right to direct rein. He uses his verbal cues of "walk on Sparky," “whoa,” and much more. Ben and Sparky have truly become a dynamic duo!

**A VETERAN’S PERSPECTIVE**  
**by Jenifer Fisher**

I am an Air Force veteran and I participate in the Veteran’s program (Heroes on Horses) at TROT and volunteer as a horse handler in other classes. After serving 23 years in the military it has been a difficult transition back into the civilian world. I felt like I didn't fit in anywhere, and that I no longer had a purpose, I felt lost. TROT has been a great experience for me. Working with the horses as a horse handler is very calming and I enjoy working with the students. Riding in the Veterans program has been challenging for me because I didn't have any experience coming in to the program. In just six months I have gained confidence and am learning a lot about how my emotions affect the horse. This has helped me to focus on being calm, confident and relaxed. TROT has helped me transition and has been a positive impact on my mental well-being. The TROT family is amazing and I truly appreciate being a part of it.

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**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*
Another great event for TROT! The Cottonwood Grove at the Tanque Verde Ranch was the setting for Horsin’ Around on a warm October afternoon. More than two hundred supporters attended last Fall’s event, raising over $24,000 for the life changing programs at TROT. TROT is grateful to those who helped make this event another success.

Some of the highlights of the afternoon were the fabulous “Tubs Galore” silent auction, a “pick a tag for TROT,” and a high spirited live auction. Thank you to the Paul Ramirez Auction Team for its continued support and dedication to TROT.

After a bountiful barbecue dinner, everyone enjoyed dancing to the western music of “Clear Country.”

**Mark your calendar now for this year’s**

**HORSIN’ AROUND**

**Sunday, October 27, 2019**

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**2019 Hearts & Horses Gala Live Auction Preview**

If you are interested in bidding on these items, but can't attend the Gala, we will bid for you. Call Lesley Rich at (520)749-2360 x601.

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**“Gambel’s Quail”**

19”x16” original oil painting by internationally renowned artist **Bill Moomey**.

**Metal Horse**

Handcrafted in Tucson, 10 foot tall metal horse.

**Sapphire & Diamond Pendant**

Sapphire and diamond pendant (.50 ct total gem weight) set in 14 kt white gold.

**Dinner for Ten**

Get ready for a taste adventure with your best friends! A professional chef assisted by the TROT Board of Directors will work with you to create a very special menu including a selection of fine wines. A memorable dinner will be prepared in your home, served with style, and your kitchen will be left as they found it.

**Diamond Ring**

.75 ct oval diamond set in custom 14 kt yellow gold setting.

**Breckenridge CO Getaway**

One week in the pristine mountains of Breckenridge in your favorite season. This lovely condo with panoramic views has 2 bedrooms/2 baths that include a queen bed in the master bedroom, queen sleeper-sofa in the living room plus two bunk beds located in the second bedroom and sleeps 7-9 comfortably. The spacious living room has a gas fireplace and 27" flat screen TV.

The condo is fully stocked with all the essentials and has internet access. The back deck overlooks Four O’Clock Run and affords wonderful views of Horseshoe Bowl and Peak 8 above.
At the start of 2019, TROT bid goodbye to two beloved horses, Mr. T and Tootsie. Mr. T has been a wonderful part of the TROT program for five years. He was on loan to us and his family now has two little girls who have been begging for their own pony. We wish him the best in his next adventure to be their companion. We will miss his incredible patience and steadiness. Tootsie is off to enjoy retirement after working with countless people at TROT over the past nine years. She will spend her retirement just down the road from TROT in a lovely pasture. Tootsie was known for her ability to connect with the children and everyone at TROT wishes her a happy and well-deserved retirement.

TROT was also thrilled to welcome Alaska to the herd. He is a 10 year old paint who spent the first part of his career in the western world. He has a sound mind and a gentle soul and has been excelling in his training program. He will join the classes in the coming months.

TROT is looking forward to growing our herd to offer more lessons to those in need. If you know a horse that would be a good fit for the TROT program, please contact Connie Petri at epetri@trotarizona.org or 520-749-2360, ext 608. The ideal horse is sound, has a kind heart, is brave and patient and is between eight and 18 years old.

YOU CAN HELP TROT ACCOMPLISH ITS GOALS

- **Sponsor a Rider**
  Since its beginning in 1974, TROT has never turned away an applicant because of their inability to pay for services. However, one of our biggest ongoing challenges is to maintain funds sufficient to meet the ever-increasing needs of our rider families.

- **Make an Arizona charitable tax credit donation**
  TROT is a Qualified Charitable Organization able to accept donations of $400 per year for an individual and $800 for couples. Make your gift any time before April 15.

- **Sponsor a TROT horse**
  The cost of boarding, feeding and caring for our herd is over $115,000 annually. This amount does not include any unscheduled or emergency veterinarian visits or medical care. Our program cannot function without our wonderful horses. If you would like to fully or partially sponsor one (or more) of our horses, please view their profiles online at www.trotarizona.org and let us know which horse(s) you would like to sponsor. A gift of $6,600 will sponsor one horse for a year and we will recognize your sponsorship with a plaque on their stall.

- **Volunteer**
  TROT is able to function due to the assistance of more than 150 trained volunteers per week. A volunteer must be at least 14 years of age and in good health. Volunteer opportunities include:
  - Working directly with the riders (horse handler/side walker)
  - Facilitating non-mounted therapeutic equine activities
  - Office tasks, yard work
  - Special events

- **Goods & services**
  Have a saddle or tack to donate? TROT accepts donations of goods and services throughout the year.

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. Volunteer applications available online.
TROT LEGACY

TROT was founded 45 years ago, and foresees many generations of students, volunteers, and staff to come. TROT’s mission is never ending. As you plan your own future and legacy, please consider TROT part of that legacy.

When we seek the advice of estate planners, we look to them to help us plan to take care of the people we love and the charitable causes we believe in so passionately. With a will or other estate planning document, you can make a gift to support TROT and continue your commitment to future generations.

Leaving a gift is easy. Consult your legal or financial advisor about adding TROT to your will or other estate planning document, or designating a portion of your life insurance policy or investment account to go to TROT. To add TROT as a beneficiary, please provide your advisor with TROT’s Federal Tax ID #86-0329294.

If you have already done this, please let us know! Please contact Lesley Rich at (520)749-2360, x601 or email lrich@trotarizona.org to add your name, or the name of anyone you wish to honor, to TROT’s Legacy Society. If you would like your gift to remain anonymous, we will happily honor your wish. We know that because of your planning and commitment, TROT will continue to thrive and serve our communities’ vulnerable children and adults and our honored veterans.