

Fall 2009



2009 TRI-FECTA The horses are in the starting gates!



After their well earned August break, our horses are ready to run in our 2009 TRI-FECTA. TRI-FECTA stands for "TRI - providing riders with Fun, Excitement, Challenge, and

Therapeutic Adventure. This is our annual fundraiser to support the care of our horses for the next year. Our horses are the very foundation of our program. Without them, we could never bring this amazing experience to our community. They work hard all year round, taking such excellent care of our riders. Now it's our turn to take care of them.

Each rider and volunteer will be competing to see who can bring in the most 'bets' to bring his or her favorite horse across the finish line first. Every little bit helps. Think you can't afford to donate this year? How much did you spend on that coffee this morning? Or a movie out recently? The price of just one or two cups

of coffee or movie tickets goes a **very** long way at TRI. And if everyone donated the price of a movie, just one movie ticket, we would be able to take care of two horses for a full year! Can you donate a little more than the price of a movie ticket? Here's what you could be doing for our horses.

- \$10.00 buys a tube of dewormer - our horses get dewormed every other month
- \$35.00 purchases ten bales of hay -two days worth for our herd of ten horses.
- \$50.00 buys a safety helmet for our riders - our helmets have to be replaced every five years.

• \$100 pays for 8 bags of grain - enough for 2 weeks for 10 horses

• \$150 provides a full scholarship for a rider for a six-week session.

So, if you are approached by one of our riders or volunteers, please give generously to help them support our horses.

“But I don’t know any riders or volunteers,” you say. Not a problem! You can go to our website at <http://therapeuticridinginc.org>, click on the TRI-FECTA link on the right side bar and either donate by credit card through our secure site, or send in the

form below with your check. You can choose your special horse to support. They all have their own bios on the Horses page. Check them out.

On behalf of our four legged angels, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



DID YOU KNOW?

• TRI subsidizes AT LEAST **79%** of each and every lesson.

• Scholarship requests have **doubled** since 2008. For many of our riders, TRI is the only affordable therapeutic care they receive.

• TRI currently serves approximately 80 riders each week, and provides lessons ten months of the year.

• We currently have 76 applicants on our wait list, eagerly awaiting their turn to ride with us.

• The cost of caring for our horses increases every year. For 2009, it costs an average of \$400 per horse per month for feed, bedding, and veterinary care.



Therapeutic Riding, Inc. 2009 TRI-FECTA

4715 East Joy Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105 - 734-741-9402 - <http://therapeuticridinginc.org>

Yes, I want to help bring the horses across the finish line in style.

My bet of \$_____ is on _____(horse’s name) and in honor of _____(rider or volunteer’s name, optional)

Donor Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Would you like to receive our newsletter via the mail _____ or via our website _____

I wish to remain anonymous Yes _____ No _____

Please make checks payable to “Therapeutic Riding, Inc.” or you may charge your gift via our secure website at <http://therapeuticridinginc.org>

TRI TEST

(Answers on page 6)

A little different this time – this test is a multiple choice one. To see how well you know our horses as they race in our 2009 TRI-FECTA, can you match their stable names with their registered names?



Stable names

1. Hannah
2. B Smiley
3. Hey Dobbs
4. Fable
5. Dakota
6. Ella

Registered Names

- a. Doty Road Dakota
- b. N&R-Tee-Man-Cassie
- c. Pokagon’s Rock Along
- d. Equinox Declaration
- f. Fable NTF
- e. Tammy’s Betsy

Julia Havlik

The girls’ Mom, Lynn, shared this insight into two members of her very special family.

Julia and Kayley are sisters. They come from a large family of 8 adopted children (TRI – Yes, you read that right, 8 adopted children, all special needs.). Julia is 7 and in second grade at Eberwhite Elementary, Kayley is 12 and is graduating from fifth grade at Abbot Elementary. She will be attending middle school in the fall. Kayley has Down Syndrome and Julia has Fetal Alcohol syndrome and was exposed to multiple street drugs prenatally. Both girls are in special education classes.

Both Kayley and Julia enjoy dance, music, and playing outdoors and they love “horsey lessons”. When they first started “horsey” they were both apprehensive, especially Julia who is affected by overwhelming anxiety. Because of the awesome staff, it took just a couple of lessons for each of them to feel comfortable.

Overcoming their fear of riding, and learning to be in command

Kaylyn Havlik

of the horse has made such an incredible difference for them. It is clear to us that both girls have increased self confidence and are willing to attempt challenges that they would have shunned previous to TRI. Kayley was discharged from physical therapy about 6 months after she began riding. Her coordination has improved greatly. Julia learned to ride her bike without training wheels, something she was too afraid to do prior to TRI. Her coordination and emotional well being have vastly improved. The overall positive changes in both of them are unbelievable.

As their parents, Dave and I are so grateful for the TRI program. Neither of us could have ever guessed how horseback riding could have made such a positive difference in these girls given their challenges.

Pictures are definitely worth a thousand words, and I hope their photos make it clear why Julia and Kayley have captured the hearts of the instructors and volunteers. Lynn and Dave, thank you for sharing your daughters with us, and

MEET OUR RIDERS

Julia and Kaylyn Havlik

We want you to meet some of our many riders, to learn about what TRI means to them, and to hear how important it is in their lives. Every donation we receive helps to make it possible for us to provide Julia, Kaylyn, and their many riding friends with an amazing experience.

for making such an amazing difference in the lives of all your children. It is an honor to know you.

THANK YOU, TIM AND DAN FOLEY



Dan Foley riding his horse Ella, with help from his leader Lea and sidewalker Janet. Also pictured is Mom, Colleen, Dan's sister, and a family friend

If you've ever visited our barn, you've probably noticed the white buckets just inside the stall barn door. Each horse has his or her own treat bucket with a fancy name tag label on it. This way, riders and volunteers can leave special treats for their special horses. Originally, these buckets were just hand labeled – not very snazzy looking at all. Then, one of our rider families offered to help. **Dan Foley** rides

with us on Monday nights, and his Dad, **Tim** has been in the sign business since 1986. Their company is called "Sign and Art." Dan and Tim took the buckets home, made the special graphic signs for each horse's name and put them on each bucket. Tim can design and make most types of signs and his specialties include team banners, lawn signs, vehicle graphics, real estate signs, window graphics, and building signs. Some of his work can be seen at Comerica Park, Joe Louis Arena and the Palace of Auburn Hills – and of course, at our barn! If you want any signs of your own, they are located in Livonia at 12321 Stark Rd. and can be reached by email at tfoley7232@aol.com. On behalf of our horses, thank you Dan and Tim for their lovely treat buckets. We really appreciate your help.

AN EASY WAY TO SUPPORT TRI



In this newsletter, we've been talking about our upcoming TRI-FECTA fundraiser. Well,

I have another fundraiser to tell you about and it's a no-effort (well, almost no effort) way to help TRI while doing something you already do on a regular basis - grocery shopping.

TRI has joined the **Kroger Community Rewards program**. What this means is that, if you shop at Kroger and use a Kroger Plus card, Kroger will pay up to \$500,000 on a quarterly basis to participating organizations based on their percentage of spending as it relates to the total spending of all participating Kroger Community Rewards organizations.

Meaning, the more you spend, the more money we're eligible for from Kroger.

Signing up is easy. We've included step by step directions below. You have to register your card and select TRI as your organization in order for your purchases to count for TRI. If you do not yet have a Kroger Plus card, they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger. If you have troubles with this, or don't have internet access, let me know and I'll help you through it.

Then you just grocery shop as normal. When you check out, you must swipe your registered Kroger Plus card or use the phone number that is related to your registered Kroger Plus card for each purchase to count.

Thank you for helping to support TRI.

TO USE THE KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM:

1. Register online at krogercommunityrewards.com

2. Be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy.

3. Click on *Sign In/Register*

4. Most participants are new online customers, so they must click on SIGN UP TODAY in the 'New Customer?' box.

5. Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password, agreeing to the terms and conditions

6. You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email.

7. Click on *My Account* and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step.

8. Click on *Edit Kroger Community Rewards information* and input your Kroger Plus card number.

9. Update or confirm your information.

10. Enter TRI's number - 83817 - or our name - Therapeutic Riding - and select us from list and click on *Confirm*.

11. To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see our name on the right side of your information page.

12. Do you use your phone number at the register? Call 877-576-7587 to get your Kroger Plus card number.

Fall 2009 VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT Paula Evers



This newsletter, our Volunteer Spotlight falls on **Paula Evers**

Even if Paula wasn't one of our wonderful volunteers, she would be someone I just enjoy being around. She has an amazingly positive attitude, a ready smile, and a warm heart that makes her a very special person. Now add in the fact that she has been a volunteer with us since 2005, has attended leader training classes to learn how to lead horses, serves as our Class Coordinator on Wednesday

nights, and helps train our new volunteers at our volunteer orientations, and you can see why we wanted to spotlight her. In her own words, here's Paula's story.

TRI - What made you decide to join TRI in the first place?

Paula - *I feel that I have been very blessed with my family and work, and I have a joy for life that I want to share. I was looking for an organization to volunteer with. I also love animals, so a friend suggested that I attend a TRI orientation (Humane Society was the other organization that I was considering, but it is a lot harder to take a horse home than a puppy or kitten). My friend was so funny, I kept telling her that TRI sounded like something I would like to do, but I never got around to going to the website. So the next time I saw her she had printed out the application and handed it to me along with the date of the upcoming orientation.*

TRI - Why do you keep coming back week after week?

Paula - *For a very selfish reason - I feel so good when I leave at the end of the night.*

TRI - What makes TRI special to you?

Paula - *The instructors, volunteers, riders, parents, and the horses. Everyone is so nice.*

TRI - Is there a story or memory you want to share with the readers?

Paula - *My first several sessions I was paired with a lovely woman who was in a wheelchair. I was in awe of her balance once she was in the saddle and I wondered what it must be like for her to be out of her chair for an hour. I could not begin to imagine her life, but if riding was something that made a difference for her then I wanted to be a part of it.*

TRI - Anything else you feel you want to share about your experiences with TRI?

Paula - *I also have a lot of fun learning about horses from the other volunteers. They are so nice about sharing their knowledge (tips), and very patient when showing me how to do things.*

See? Didn't I tell you she was a wonderful person? If you are interested in learning how to join Paula and the rest of our wonderful volunteers, please check out the "Volunteer" page on our website at <http://therapeuticridinginc.org> or call 734-741-9402

Van Million Dollar Charity Challenge".

Diane Karageozian, Mom to longtime rider, Ani, is a member of the advertising staff at Art Van. When she heard about the Challenge, she quickly contacted Tracy in the barn office and said "You have to apply for this!" Tracy filed a grant request and we all kept our fingers crossed. Needless to say, we were thrilled and honored to be chosen as one of just 50 Michigan charities to receive funds.

In honor of Ani, we have applied this grant to our Adopt-A-Horse program, adopting Sigbjorn, Ani's horse, in the name of Misters Van Elslander and Art Van Furniture. Board Member Marcia Mullen was proud to attend a press conference at the Art Van store on 14 Mile Road in Warren to receive the check on behalf of TRI.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Mr. Art Van Elslander and Mr. Gary Van Elslander, and congratulations to them and all their staff on their 50th Anniversary. Your donation will make it possible for Ani and her many friends to continue to enjoy their riding lessons with us. And special thanks to Diane Karageozian for letting us know about this wonderful opportunity.



Art Van Furniture President Gary Van Elslander, TRI Board Member Marcia Mullen, and Art Van Furniture Chairman and Founder Art Van Elslander. August 2009

Grant from Art Van Furniture

TRI is very excited to announce that we were the recipients of a \$5,000 grant from Art Van Furniture. In celebration of their 50th anniversary, Art Van Furniture Chairman and Founder Art Van Elslander and President Gary Van Elslander gave away \$1 million to 50 charities in the State of Michigan as part of their "Art

ANSWERS TO TRI TEST

Now you know why we use stable names! Some of these registered names are a real mouthful.

- 1.Hannah
- 2.B Smiley
- 3.Hey Dobbs
- 4.Fable
- 5.Dakota
- 6.Ella
- e. Tammy's Betsy
- c. Pokagon's Rock Along
- d. Equinox Declaration
- f. Fable NTF
- a. Doty Road Dakota
- b. N&R-Tee-Man-Cassie



Ella



April



Hannah



Dakota



Fable



Dobbs



B Smiley

Meet our four legged angels

See pages 1-2 to learn how you can help take care of our wonderful horses.



Robbie



Star



Sigbjorn

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