

To Our JHTR Family:

Throughout Jackson Hole Therapeutic Riding's rich, nearly three-decade-long history, our people have always been our top priority; and in March 2020 when our program, our nation, and our globe faced the implications of the novel coronavirus, our commitment to our people became more vital than ever. As we navigated the uncharted waters of COVID-19, our core value of "People First" served as the guiding principle in all decision making. In the interest of protecting the health and safety of our participants, volunteers, employees, and donors, we have made the following, heart wrenching decisions:

2020 Riding Season

On June 16, 2020, in prioritizing the safety of our people, the JHTR Board of Directors unanimously voted to remain closed for the 2020 season. After months of significant deliberation, it was evident that the risks associated with reopening were far too great to safely resume services. Countless alternative options were explored, all producing the same outcome.

Although many businesses have begun to reopen, JHTR faced unique challenges when considering the individuals we serve—many of whom fall within the CDC's "vulnerable population" classification—and the direct contact required of our activities. Maintaining adequate social distancing and assuring consistent, collective use of Personal Protective Equipment would not be possible for the vast majority. Inability to fully adhere to these and other safety measures would ultimately place our people at risk.

Participants

The decision to remain closed will not deter us from continuing to serve our participants. Though not in our traditional format, we are committed to engaging participants in meaningful ways throughout the 2020 season. Our Virtual Engagement Program will be delivered via email, social media, and the JHTR website on a weekly basis. It is our goal to provide relevant and diverse content that appeals to a broad range of individuals, and your feedback will be essential in the ongoing development process. We are exploring additional, social-distanced service offerings and will communicate related information as soon as it becomes available.

Volunteers

We are busy producing alternative engagement opportunities during this extended closure. More details will be provided in the coming weeks. In the meantime, we want to hear from you! Your feedback is critical in ensuring our offerings align with your interests.

Staff

JHTR staff will continue working remotely until June 23, at which time they will transition to a hybrid remote work/on-site shift schedule. The remainder of the year will be dedicated to promoting engagement throughout 2020, and ensuring a successful return in 2021. We will work diligently to upgrade all existing materials, enhance and augment program offerings, and participate in continuing education opportunities to further expand our knowledge and proficiency in the field.

Horses

The JHTR herd will remain in various pastures throughout the community for the duration of our previously scheduled season, being transported to the arena on a rotation basis to allow for conditioning, schooling, and essential/routine care. JHTR does not have pasture of its own, and we are tremendously grateful for the generosity of our supporters who have opened their hearts and their pastures to us during these trying times.

Now more than ever, pasture turnout is crucial for the mental and physical well-being of our equine partners. If you or someone you know is interested in supplying pasture between now and October 2020, please contact us for more information.

How YOU Can Help

While we cannot be together in person, we invite you to stay connected to JHTR in these other ways to help ensure an exceptional, vibrant season in 2021:

- **Stomping the Divots:** Our annual fundraiser is going virtual this year! To increase accessibility, the event will be free to attend and your participation is encouraged. Our traditional one-day polo match and festivities will be transformed into a week-long "Pivot Not Divot" campaign, including a live virtual event. We invite you to join us for an assortment of interactive social activities, student exhibitions, along with everyone's favorite auction, all from the comfort and safety of your own home.

If you are unable to participate, please help spread the word! Networking is equally valuable in supporting the program and ensuring the success of our most significant fundraiser of the year.

- **Unrestricted Gift:** Unrestricted gifts are of critical importance, particularly as we adapt to unforeseen circumstances. Your gift at any level will allow JHTR to meet the current and future needs of our participants, launch new services and support general operations, such as facility upkeep and equine care.
- **Old Bill's Fun Run:** Although nonprofits and their supporters will not be gathering in booths on Town Square to celebrate Old Bill's this year, the community-wide fundraiser will still take place. Now, more than ever, we ask for your support and consideration in making a gift of any amount during the giving period (August 1- September 18).

Until We Meet Again

2020 has been a devastating year for many, and JHTR is no exception. While we share your sadness and heartache over the decision to remain closed, we know that this is only a small bump on our long and promising journey together. All of us at JHTR are immensely grateful for your patience, understanding, and support as we have put forth our greatest effort to adapt to and problem solve these difficult and unprecedented circumstances.

We invite you to reach out to us directly with any thoughts or concerns you may have, as well as any ways in which we can be of assistance to you or your loved one(s) during these trying times.

Until we meet again, we will find comfort in the echoes of laughter, the memories of triumph, and the palpable enthusiasm from seasons past that will forever reverberate the arena walls.

Be safe, stay healthy, and have an enjoyable summer!

Best regards,



Tori Fancher
Executive Director

