





THANK YOU FROM THE BOARD

In our most challenging times, we should follow the advice of Mr. Rogers and look for the helpers. Thank you to all of you, our most valued helpers. The Jackson Hole Therapeutic Riding family has truly come together during these tumultuous times. We have been humbled at your outpouring of support, financially and beyond. Your concern for our riders, staff and horses has been a ray of light and hope - a reminder of all of the good in our hometown.

This time away has redoubled our passion for what we do. The staff transformed all of the disappointment of not interacting with riders and volunteers in person into new and innovative programming to engage our stakeholders. The Virtual Engagement Program teaches riders and volunteers about horses and riding, encourages them to take care of their own bodies and minds, and provides fun activities like scavenger hunts and activity pages. We are so excited to bring this programming with us into our 2021 season. Whatever next year looks like, it will be much improved because of the time, energy and love all of our instructors and staff have poured into bringing the life-changing power of the horse and rider relationship to those we serve, regardless of whether we can all be in the same space together or not.

Thank you for your commitment to JHTR and our mission. As always, we will spend the fall and winter seasons growing and improving our programs to ensure that 2021 is our most vibrant and successful year yet. We look forward to working with you in the new year, and we wish you a restful winter.

thank you

NICKI MCDERMOTT
Board President

OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE

2020 did not unfold in a way anyone could have anticipated. It has been a year of tremendous uncertainty. The implications of COVID-19 have impacted us all in some way, and JHTR is no exception. Although we have faced many obstacles, we have been able to adapt to overcome every challenge thanks to the unwavering support of donors, volunteers, participants, and board members. These have been extraordinary times and we thank each of you for standing with us through it all. Take a look at what you helped us achieve:



FINDING THE ROSE A YEAR OF OVERCOMING OBSTACLES



Over the past eight months, I have found myself contemplating a phrase I stumbled upon years ago:

"We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses."

With our community, our nation, and our globe facing the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19, there has been no shortage of metaphorical thorns on which one could focus. But, as with the rose bush, the situation has provided aspects of beauty and growth despite—or perhaps in virtue of—the recent difficulties faced.

As with the rest of the world, Jackson Hole Therapeutic Riding has felt the thorns of the Coronavirus. In March, the arena doors closed to the public in response to the pandemic. During the months that followed, we deliberated the feasibility of reopening. After weeks of planning and problem solving, it became evident that the risks associated with reopening were far too great to safely resume services. Sadly, the 2020 in-person season was cancelled.

Rather than focus on the thorns and be consumed by the obstacles faced, JHTR has blossomed by being resilient and applying the very values we integrate into each and every lesson: adaptability, ingenuity, and teamwork.

Unable to provide in-person instruction, the JHTR team creatively adapted services to be offered virtually. Our Virtual Engagement Program was created using the same guiding principles as all JHTR services and has been offered weekly since April. Due to financial hardships experienced by so many, the program has been offered free of cost to all participants.

But the team's commitment to serving our participants did not end there. As greater understanding of the virus emerged and safety measures were amended, we crafted new ways to connect our participants with JHTR, their dedicated instructors, and their four-legged friends. *More on this topic can be found on page 4.*

Outside of developing virtual curriculum and connecting with participants in a safe, physically-distanced setting, the team focused their energy on:

- Expanding knowledge and proficiency through diverse continuing education opportunities
- Assessing potential additions to the herd
- Conditioning horses and exposing them to new techniques
- Organizing lesson tools, props, and curriculum for greater efficiency
- Low-cost facility upgrades, including paint, signage, and functionality

Without question, the 2020 season has been unusual for our team. But despite the setbacks, I have been overwhelmed with pride as I reflect on this year of great difficulty; for it has been one in which we could have easily been fearful of the prick of the thorn, but instead embraced the potential of the rose.

“ **We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses.** ”

But our ability to overcome these challenges has not been thanks to our team alone; it instead in large part because of YOU, our loyal supporters. During this time of uncertainty, you have been our rose. You have comforted, encouraged, and humbled us through your generosity and steadfast support. Whether your contributions were of time, love, energy, or resources, you have helped us to exceed our goals in a year in which we were simply hopeful to survive. Your commitment strengthens our capacity to sustain important programs, develop innovative services, advance instructor proficiency, maintain healthy, happy horses, and empower the abilities of hundreds.

We thank you for helping us meet the challenges of this moment, so we can continue to empower, inspire, and enrich the lives of those who depend on us.

TORI FANCHER
Executive Director

JHTR VOLUNTEERS

FIND NEW WAYS TO HELP

2020 has not gone how anyone expected. March began much like it would any other year, with volunteer applications pouring in from dedicated individuals anxious to return to the arena. Excited by the enthusiasm, I began gearing up for our annual trainings. But, unlike in the past, things came to an unanticipated halt with the arrival of the novel coronavirus in the United States. Despite the closure, we experienced continuous outreach from

“ **Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.** ”
—Helen Keller

people throughout the community offering to help. Typically, that would have been music to my ears! Unfortunately, without traditional session taking place and strict social distancing measures in place, normal volunteer tasks were not possible.

Nevertheless, volunteers—both new and returning—found creative ways to get/remain involved. From offering their personal pastures to our horses on the weekends to fundraising remotely for Stomping the Divots, these individuals were there for JHTR when we needed them.

Like our individual volunteers, organizations were also eager to help. Since 2015, First Interstate Bank (FIB) has encouraged their employees to volunteer with JHTR during and outside of the work day. Even though in-person lessons did require the help of FIB employees, the team still found a way to show their support by cleaning up around the arena on their company-wide volunteer day.



I have truly been inspired by the generosity of those who believe in what we do and their continued drive to further our cause. Even though volunteering has looked different this year, the passion for our mission is as strong as ever.

As we begin preparations for the 2021 season, I am so eager to welcome all of our compassionate volunteers and inspiring participants back to the arena, and look forward to meeting the many new individuals who reached out to offer their time, talents, and resources during these difficult times. With your help, I have no doubt that 2021 will be our best season yet! I look forward to seeing you at the arena soon!

MARA KINGSCOTT
Volunteer Coordinator

CARING FOR OUR THERAPEUTIC PARTNERS

At JHTR, our horses are our therapeutic partners. Whether used in physical lessons or virtual instruction, our ability to deliver life-enhancing services is dependent on the health and happiness of these magnificent animals. We would like to recognize the following individuals who generously supported our herd in 2020.

2020 HORSE SPONSORS

Beau <i>Melissa & Tim Kelly</i>	Charlie Brown <i>Beth & Greg McCoy</i>	Henry <i>Laura & Ed Opler</i>	Taco <i>Toby Biolchini</i>
Buckwheat <i>Fran Biolchini</i>	Dakota <i>Eileen & Greg Prugh</i>	Josh <i>Melissa & Tim Kelly</i>	Two Socks <i>Colleen & John Murray</i>
Captain <i>Toby Biolchini</i>	Duke <i>Nicole & Andrew Sheehan</i>	Rodger <i>Fran Biolchini</i>	In Memory of Rosco <i>Christi & Alan Yannelli</i>

2020 PASTURE SPONSORS

Julie & Chris Green	Bobbie & Tom Laughlin	Stacey & Brian Miller	Colleen & John Murray
Renee & Bobby Holik	Barbara & Richard Pack	The Infanger Family	Mara Kingscott
Snake River Ranch	Jessica & Scott Eastman		

RESILIENCE, ADAPTABILITY & EMPOWERMENT ADJUSTING TO A NEW NORMAL



In March, when our world rapidly changed around us, and uncertainty was looming in everyone's lives, we knew that we wanted to help in any way that we could.

As school, work and social lives transitioned to a virtual setting, we decided that our JHTR programming could as well. As a team we brainstormed topics and developed materials that align with our goals and curriculum in our traditional programming. By the first of April, the JHTR Virtual Engagement Program was born. Our initial hope was to engage virtually until we returned to the arena, however it became clear that prioritizing the health and safety of our participants, volunteers and staff meant that our 2020 season would be cancelled.

We briefly found ourselves disappointed and discouraged, but we reminded each other that we encourage resilience, adaptability and empowerment in our participants each and every day. And now it was time to dig deep and find it within ourselves.

We continued to work together, and developed a robust and diverse bank of materials and created a schedule that would allow us to provide weekly resources. We spoke with and surveyed participants, families and caregivers in order to understand what would best serve our community. It became clear that although we wouldn't be able to work with our participants in our traditional and preferred fashion, we were creating materials that will be used for years to come. Additionally, we decided this programming would be offered year-round to supplement our traditional in-person programming that is offered six months of the year. We are adapting to our surroundings, and learning to do so from our inspirational participants.

The creation of our Virtual Engagement Program was an accomplishment we were, and still are, truly proud of. However, we recognized the importance of the horse and human interaction and connection in the work that we do. We knew the virtual materials were a wonderful addition to life in our now socially distanced world, but we wondered how we could do more.

After much discussion and research, we decided that we would host socially distanced visits with participants. We created plans and protocols to ensure the safety of our participants and staff, and away we went! Time slots were blocked off to ensure no crossover between participants, and the visits ranged from feeding the horses treats, grooming, taking photos of the horses and visiting with instructors. These visits filled us with more joy and hope than we could ever explain. Being able to share our wonderful horses with our participants was the reassurance that we needed. We met with many returning participants, as well as new individuals who will be joining the JHTR family in 2021. Once again, we were adapting.

While 2020 limited our operations in a traditional sense, it opened our eyes to a whole new world of possibilities. We are committed to moving forward with the lessons we have learned, and implementing these new programming techniques in conjunction with our in-person lesson structure. Our program is growing and strengthening through these trying times. We are adapting, and pledge to continue to do so. Empowering ability will remain the focus of all that we do.

We confidently await a return to the arena in 2021, at which time we will continue to adapt to our ever changing world.

ADRIENE HENDERSON
Program Director



2020 "PIVOT NOT DIVOT"

August 9th marked the conclusion of the 18th annual Stomping the Divots fundraiser. This year's event looked considerably different than in years past. Rather than gathering under the big white tent at the polo fields, hundreds of individuals from across the nation tuned in via computers, tablets, and smart phones to show their support of Jackson Hole Therapeutic Riding.

“Generosity lies less in giving much than in giving in the right moment.”

—Jean de La Bruyère

The exhilaration of witnessing the agility, speed, and athleticism of the polo players and their equines, the inspirational display of our participants' hard work and abilities, and the thrill of bid paddles shooting into the air during the horse sponsorship and live auction were missed by all. But in their place was an equally palpable enthusiasm for the JHTR mission.

Despite the lack of an in-person polo match, Stomping the Divots stayed true to its namesake thanks to Paul von Gontard and the Jackson Hole Polo Club. Drone footage of a made-for-JHTR-match offered a unique view of the field and athletes, including world-renowned polo player, Mike Azarro. Thanks to announcing by Tim Kelly, even first-time polo spectators were able to understand what was taking place.

Over the course of a month, gifts of \$5 to \$25,000 arrived from more than 300 caring supporters across 35 states. At midnight on the event's final day, our family of donors had contributed a remarkable \$252,000!

With appreciation for JHTR and all those who stepped up to help during these trying times, long-time supporters and volunteers—Pam and Tom Grossjung of The Grossjung Foundation—announced one final and momentous gift: an astonishing \$48,000 to bring the fundraiser victoriously across the finish line!

All of us at JHTR are tremendously grateful for the outpouring of support from so many. We are particularly grateful for our enduring event sponsors who pivoted with us without hesitation.

Thanks to your heartfelt contributions, we achieved our \$300,000 fundraising goal! And because of your unwavering dedication, the JHTR arena will remain a place of strength, laughter, and inspiration for decades to come.

TORI FANCHER
Executive Director



JHTRA STAFF YEAR-END 2020

Tori Fancher
Executive Director

Adriene Henderson
Program Director

Mara Kingscott
Volunteer Coordinator

Jessica Eastman
Occupational Therapist

Anna Voigt
Occupational Therapist

Nichole Cox
Instructor

Sarah Hoffmann
Instructor

Samantha Melton
Instructor

Stacey Miller
Instructor

Cailey Ryther
Instructor

Emily Stephens
Equine Manager

Christi Yannelli
Instructor

BOARD OF DIRECTORS YEAR-END 2020

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CONSIDER THESE ways to help

In looking to 2021, there is still so much unknown about where we will be with the pandemic. While it is our intent to resume traditional services, we recognize there is a high probability of continued challenges related to COVID-19. Implementing safety measures to minimize the risk of infection will likely mean reduced capacity, limited opportunities for earned revenue, and increased expenses. Adapting to these new economic realities means we will need your help more than ever before.

So, as 2020 comes to a close, we encourage you to consider a final year-end gift to Jackson Hole Therapeutic Riding. Your support is crucial to ensuring that we can continue our important work in the months and years ahead.

1. **CHECK OUT OUR WISHLIST:** Visit gifthero.com/JHTR and consider purchasing an item on our wishlist. Items range from \$5 to \$600, and your gift can help us acquire much needed items.
2. **SPONSOR A PARTICIPANT:** 73% of riders depended on financial assistance to participate in our programs in 2019. With your help, we are able to offer scholarships to those who might not be able to participate otherwise.
3. **EMPLOYER MATCHING:** Your gift to JHTR could be matched dollar for dollar by your employer! Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match any charitable contributions you make!
4. **HOLIDAY SHOPPING:** Make purchases through AmazonSmile.com to benefit JHTR.
5. **LEAVE A LEGACY:** Include JHTR in your estate planning. “A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in.” —Greek Proverb
6. **VOLUNTEER:** Can't contribute financially? Volunteering your time and talents to JHTR is just as helpful!



Please consider a year-end gift

Your contributions make a meaningful and lasting difference.

TO DONATE ONLINE OR TO LEARN MORE: jhtr.org

