





This year was a true testament that not only is Jackson Hole Therapeutic Riding wanted, but more importantly needed in our community. This was realized through the support of our generous donors, our relentless volunteers, and our brave parents who knew their rider needed our program now more than ever.

"Thank you" doesn't even begin to cover how grateful we are for your generous dedication to our program! There are not enough words to begin to express our gratitude and appreciation for all of the continued support you have given Jackson Hole Therapeutic Riding during such unprecedented times.

thank you

JASMINE SCHOLLES
Board President

OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE

As 2021 comes to a close, we look back at the many achievements that occurred despite the obstacles faced this year. United, we stood in strength and resolve, determined to keep our doors open so that we could continue empowering the abilities of hundreds. Fueled by your compassion and generosity, we were able to accomplish so much:

**40 NEW
PARTICIPANTS**
engaged in our programs

108 UNDUPLICATED PARTICIPANTS
received services



6 PASTURES
donated to our herd

**100% HORSE
SPONSORSHIP**



**REOPENED OUR
DOORS**
after a year-long closure



891 LESSONS
facilitated

**95 DIFFERENT
DIAGNOSES**
served in 2021

6 PASTURES
donated to our herd

62% OF PARTICIPANTS
received scholarship
assistance

21 PARTICIPANTS
no longer require volunteer support while in the saddle

83 VOLUNTEERS
donated more than
2,000+ HOURS

**ZERO COVID CASES
TRANSMITTED**

A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS
UNITED EFFORT TO OVERCOME CHALLENGE



As our organization, like the rest of the world, continues to contend with the persisting uncertainty of COVID-19, we are tremendously grateful for and humbled by each of you for remaining steadfast in your support of Jackson Hole Thru. Your gestures of encouragement, to finish the season, your gifts of time and energy, you have eased our focus on our topmost priority—providing a safe and healthy experience for our participants.

“What do we live for if not to make the world less difficult for each other?”

–George Eliot

Despite the cancellation of in-person fundraisers, donors continued to give generously to support the JHTR mission. These individuals eased the financial pressure from our shoulders as

we faced increased expenses associated with minimizing the risk of infection.

Throughout this unprecedented time, you have chosen to stick by our side. Whether you are a donor, volunteer, participant, board member, or staff, we could not have made it through this year without you. Time and time again, you have enabled us to draw strength, build resilience, and overcome any challenge faced.

Thank you for helping to ensure the future of JHTR for the many, many participants who depend on us. We are profoundly grateful for each and every one of you!

TORI PLENNES
Executive Director

IT WAS THE UNITED EFFORT OF SO MANY THAT MADE
THIS CHALLENGING YEAR SURMOUNTABLE:

In an effort to sustain daily operations and ensure safe and effective programming, our resilient board and staff swiftly and effectively adapted to the rapidly evolving restrictions and guidance of local and federal health agencies. We implemented strict processes, procedures and safety measures, and as a result, not a single case of COVID-19 was transmitted at JHTR.

Our volunteers demonstrated extraordinary patience and grace as we took time to find steady ground while navigating the realities of the pandemic. Week after week, these selfless individuals took time out of their day to support our participants in their pursuit of confidence, strength, and independence.

In addition to our volunteers, dozens of our participants' household members received training and stepped in to help as sidewalkers. We are tremendously grateful for the many parents, grandparents, and caregivers who filled these essential roles.

Participants of all ages eagerly returned to the saddle and worked hard to develop skills, increase strength, improve cognition, and enhance communication. Watching these individuals enjoying fresh air, socialization, and treasured horse time made all of the hurdles worthwhile.



JHTR VOLUNTEERS EVER-DEVOTED TO THE CAUSE



The 2021 season was filled with so many unknowns. From participants to volunteers, we did not know what to expect, particularly with regard to comfort levels on returning to the arena. While volunteer numbers were lower than previous years, the enthusiasm and generosity of our volunteers was greater than ever!

“ In helping others, we shall help ourselves, for whatever good we give out completes the circle and comes back to us.
—Flora Edwards

This year we utilized parents and caregivers as sidewalkers as much as possible. The idea started as a way to decrease participant exposure but also as a method to ensure lessons could still occur even if volunteer numbers were low. This gave many parents/caregivers a different perspective by being able to more directly experience the lesson progression, while seeing every smile and hearing every giggle up close.

As we wrap up the 2021 season, I cannot say enough how grateful I am to our volunteer team. No classes were cancelled in 2021 due to inadequate volunteers, and we have you all to thank! From permanent positions to last minute fill-ins, heat waves to smoke-filled air, you remained devoted to our mission and ever-generous with your time. Thank you for all you do to empower ability!

MARA KINGSCOTT
Volunteer Coordinator

JHTR VOLUNTEER AWARDS



COLLEEN MURRAY VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

We are proud to announce Colleen Murray as our 2021 Volunteer of the Year! Colleen began volunteering with JHTR in 2018 and has since expanded her role within the organization, both inside and outside the arena. On top of being a dedicated lesson volunteer, Colleen serves on the JHTR Board of Directors, donates weekend pasture to our herd, and never shows an ounce of frustration when Tuck and Tater decide to “tour” the neighborhood. Congratulations, Colleen!



TINA WEBER DEDE MCDONALD AWARD

This award recognizes someone with a heart of gold and service to others is second nature to them. Tina has been a dedicated volunteer for many years and has been able to create strong bonds with the participants she works with. Her compassion and kindness can make even the most nervous rider feel comfortable. Thank you, Tina for giving your time and talent to our participants at JHTR!



BRAD GOERING ELAINE INFANGER AWARD

This award recognizes someone with a strong desire to serve and a natural initiative for helping others. Brad is always generous with his time and has been a role model to many of our participants over the years. We always know that our participants are safe in Brad's presence. Thank you, Brad for your dedication to JHTR!



JOSH ZIOLKOWSKI ROBIN LIGHTNER AWARD

This award recognizes someone who is extremely generous with their time and inspires others with their genuine compassion. Josh is always willing to sign up for extra classes throughout the week to ensure no participant has to miss a lesson. He is never afraid to answer the phone when he sees "JHTR" on the caller ID. Thank you, Josh for your commitment to JHTR and our participants!



LISA LINDLAU ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Over the last six months, Lisa has donated more than 40 hours and has become a familiar smiling face around the arena. She is always willing to come in for an early-morning class and return again for an afternoon lesson. No amount of time spent at the arena is too much for Lisa. Her lighthearted sense of humor and eagerness to help make her an asset to our program. Congratulations, Lisa!

HUMANS & HORSES WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



Humans and horses have many similarities. Aside from our mutual dependence on food, shelter and water, we are both compassionate beings who feel a variety of emotions and rely on companionship for a healthy, happy life. It is natural to think of horses as herd animals, but humans too are very much herd based beings. While some humans may choose to be a part of bigger herds than others, we all need human interaction to live happy and fulfilled lives.

During the ever changing state of the world these past two years, a lack of social interaction has affected everyone in one way or another. While many, including JHTR, transitioned to virtual modalities to temporarily replace in person interaction, we knew that it could only perform as a temporary solution for a much bigger problem. Our human herds shrank in size as we all retreated into our homes, hoping we would be reunited quickly. The time continued to extend, and all aspects of life looked different, especially for our participants. Their normal herds included family, classmates, teachers, coworkers, therapists and friends. Yet, they were now living in a virtual world and seeing very few people.

When the time finally came to return to the arena and adapt to what many are calling our “new normal”, we were faced with a unique set of challenges. Returning to social settings, including the JHTR arena, proved to be complicated for many individuals. Their herd sizes had shrunk so drastically and so quickly, that returning to being around new or unfamiliar individuals proved jarring, challenging and frightening. Remembering how to

interact, and that it is safe to interact, took varying amounts of time. While we saw effects of the isolation in participants of all ages, our preschool and early elementary aged children struggled the most. Many of them were forced to pause their social development for a year during a very influential time, and then asked to re-enter their traditional settings in ways they were no longer comfortable with. They spent a year at home, with tiny herds, many learning and socializing through a computer, then

expected to pick back up as if they had spent the last year continuing to develop socially.

These social anxieties presented our team with a new set of challenges to overcome. We worked to adapt quickly, adding communication and socialization skills to the list of goals for many of our participants. We were inspired by the resilience of our participants, and their dedication to reaching their goals through the discomfort. Together we worked hard week after week to increase the comfort of our participants, with the goal that these added social skills would also translate into their daily lives.

While our world, and this “new normal”, continues to change, we remain dedicated to changing with it in order to best serve our participants. We are reminded every day that we, like our horses, are better together.

ADRIENE HENDERSON
Program Director

“ We are reminded every day that we, like our horses, are better together. ”

A DECADE OF ENRICHING LIVES



This year marks Dakota's 10th anniversary with JHTR! A beautiful palomino gelding, Dakota joined the JHTR team in 2011 at age 17.

He has happily spent the last ten years enhancing and enriching the lives of hundreds of children, adolescents, and

“ For one to fly, one needs only to take the reins. ”
—Melissa James

adults. At 27, he is the oldest of the herd. While his laid-back demeanor guarantees that his horse leader will get a workout trying to get him to a trot on a hot day, he is equally notorious for taking off running and bucking like a colt when let out to pasture. He is as patient as he is resilient, and his gentle and willing heart has been putting riders of all ages at ease since his first days with the program all those years ago. He has given young children the opportunity to experience the sensation of walking and he has provided older adults the chance to regain lost strength due to trauma. In addition to his patience in the arena, Dakota is also one of two JHTR horses who are trained to support riders who use the electronic lift. This process requires a horse who is incredibly steady, quiet, and trusting. His ability to work with the electronic lift means that participants who may otherwise not be able to ride are able to experience the joys of life on horseback. Dakota is a one-in-a-million horse and we could not be more grateful for his relentless dedication to his riders.

The next time you are at the arena, be sure to thank Dakota for all of the smiles and laughter he has evoked over the past 10 years!

EMILY STEPHENS
Equine Manager

CARING FOR OUR EXCEPTIONAL HERD

Our horses are exceptional animals and are fundamental to the work we do. Their job requires them to be patient, gentle, well-trained, tolerant, and healthy. Finding a horse that can willingly and effectively fulfill these requisites is a lengthy process that results in fewer than 5% of prospects being accepted. The ones that are accepted are treated as family, receiving exceptional care, compassion, and love. We recognize that the better we care for these unique animals, the better they will be able to help fulfill our mission. The expense of maintaining the physical health and mental wellbeing of our herd is significant, but thanks to generous horse and pasture sponsors, we never have to compromise on our horses' level of care.

HORSE & PASTURE SPONSORS

Buckwheat
Melissa & Timothy Kelly

Captain
Nancy McGregor
& Neal Manne

Charlie Brown
Beth & Greg McCoy

Dakota
Christi Yannelli

Duke
Joanie & Robert Zelnio

Josh
Colleen & John Murray

Rodger
Toby Biolchini

Taco
Nicole & Andrew Sheehan

Tater & Tuck
Laura & Ed Opler

Two Socks
Colleen & John Murray

Pasture:

Julie & Chris Green

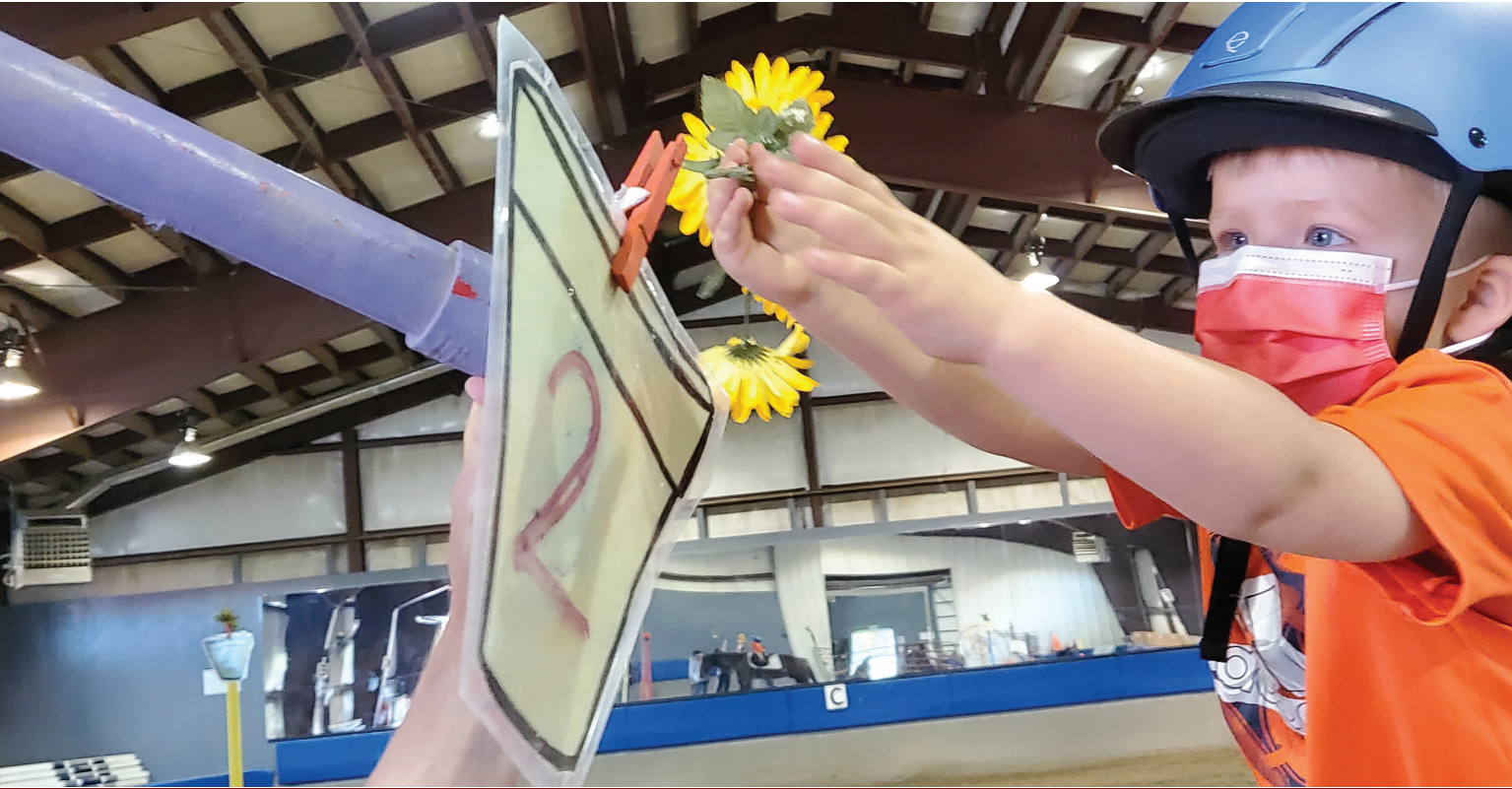
Renee & Bobby Holik

Snake River Ranch

Adam & Julia Long

The Infanger Family

Colleen & John Murray



BACK IN THE SADDLE ADAPTING OUR EFFORTS TO FUND OUR MISSION

Social distancing measures and large event gathering limits once again put a damper on in-person events in 2021, forcing Jackson Hole Therapeutic Riding to creatively shift our most significant fundraiser of the year. Recognizing the reality of "Zoom fatigue" that resulted from nearly a year of remote work, social visits, and virtual galas, we elected to replace Stomping the Divots with a non-event fundraising campaign and photo competition.

Long-time event sponsors Bank of Jackson Hole and Kismet Fine Rugs remained devoted in their support, despite the absence of an in-person celebration. Prugh Real Estate and First Interstate Bank eagerly joined in to ensure a successful launch of our Back in the Saddle Campaign. From August 1 to September 1, contributions flooded in from individuals from across the country. From horse sponsorships to "fund a lesson" to "give where needed most", more than 233 individual donations were made. Included in those gifts were an exciting and motivating \$25,000 matching gift challenge from Toby Biolchini and a closing \$25,000 gift from Ronai White to push us past the finish line. In the end, our loyal supporters generously contributed \$301,200, exceeding our fundraising goal! Together, look what we accomplished:

- ★ 27 LESSONS FUNDED
- ★ 11 FULL SEASON SCHOLARSHIPS
- ★ 11 HORSES SPONSORED
- ★ \$256,545 IN UNRESTRICTED GIFTS

Check out more results at FundDuel.com/JHTR.

We could not have done it without our incredible campaign sponsors and each of you who selflessly supported our efforts. We are humbled and grateful for everyone's financial support and continued belief in the work we do.

TORI PLENNES
Executive Director

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



PARTICIPANT SPOTLIGHT HENRY'S STORY



“ **He went from silent, to a whisper, to chatting with his amazing instructors and volunteers.** ”

Our three-year-old son Henry first came to therapeutic riding in spring 2021. After months out of his daycare, and being a naturally shy and watchful kid, he was having a very hard time being back in his school. He was so scared of talking to his teachers that he was having a hard time asking for water, or communicating that he needed to use the restroom.

Henry's first lesson at JHTR was hard. Pre-COVID, he had been comfortable at school, attending dance and swim lessons, and branching out into our wide, beautiful world. It felt like watching all of my fears about what he had “lost” during our hunkered-down winter crystallized in an hour – he was afraid to talk to his instructor, refused to get on the horse, and wanted me right by his side the whole time. Everyone was so kind after that first lesson, and assured us that this was just a starting point.

And a starting point it was! Every week, we have watched Henry get more comfortable and confident with all of the adults in his lessons, as well as with and on a horse. He went from silent, to a whisper, to chatting with his amazing instructors and volunteers. He comes home and talks up a storm about everything he learned that day, and how he can't wait to go again the next week. He is blossoming at school, and his teachers tell us every week how happy they are that he is coming out of his shell and showing them how funny and sweet he is.

The JHTR staff and volunteers have been amazing in helping us

navigate these strange new circumstances, and the experience of having Henry there has been invaluable. We will miss riding this winter!

GRACE PECK
Henry's Mother



HOW JHTR HELPED ME FIND MORE HAPPINESS & CONNECTION IN MY LIFE

I've used a wheelchair for the last 5 years. I have many different chronic health conditions that I was born with. They have all gotten worse as I got older, to the point of preventing me from doing most of the things I love. Because of that I haven't been able to pursue any of my life goals or dreams in a long time. JHTR helped change that.

A year ago I had a surgery that changed my life and allowed me to start to learn to walk again. It has been a long and difficult journey, and I am nowhere near the end. One of the hardest parts is actually doing the physical therapy. You have to wake up every morning with commitment. During the first 6 months after my surgery I was doing at least one hour a day of intense exercises to strengthen my atrophied muscles, build my balance, and learn to walk. This got very boring. I was working towards a beautiful future but the actual journey was very hard. That's where JHTR came in. They gave me an opportunity to build my strength and balance while doing something I loved. I never thought it would be possible for me to learn to ride a horse, but it has turned out it is! My sessions with them have helped my physical health as well as my general well-being and happiness so much. The best part of the whole experience was the connection I felt with the horses. In my opinion, to be happy most people need family, friends, romance, and a connection with animals. I had the first three but I had really been missing out on the fourth one.

I looked forward to my sessions all week. The connection I felt to another living being while riding, the fulfillment of learning new skills

“ **The staff was able to work with my specific needs; they treated me as a unique individual instead of as just a list of standard protocols.** ”

and new information, and the very helpful and kind people who worked there all made the experience amazing. One of the things that I did not expect is the feeling of power and confidence that riding horses gave me. I was so used to being in a wheelchair, that being so high up felt amazing.

And I was able to do all this while also strengthening my muscles and balance. The staff was able to work with my specific needs, they treated me as a unique individual instead of as just a list of standard protocols. That is a very unusual experience for me and it made all of this possible. JHTR helped me see all the possibilities that I can have in my life even with my current health issues. I hope to continue working with them and continue finding new ways to live the most fulfilling life I can.

PRANA CASTALLIAN
JHTR Participant

2021 RIDER OF THE YEAR



always changing, with the hopes that we can continue to lengthen the goalposts of our participants' riding aspirations.

When I think of the definition of adaptation, one man comes to my mind more than perhaps anyone I have ever met. Al came to us acknowledging what his strengths as a rider could be, and where roadblocks in his journey may arise. At every turn Al has adapted to any challenge thrown his way; he has ridden multiple horses, combining their strengths with his own. His determination led to immense improvement in a short period of riding time, starting with a full support team and outside assistance with his balance in the saddle and control over his horse, to riding independently.

Al's journey did not come without some trial and error. But at each checkpoint, Al has been ready to adapt to any opportunity to improve, with a smile on his face and fire in his veins. If a horse's sensitivity to leg pressure did not pair well with Al's strength, he did not throw in the towel or decide his skills had plateaued. Instead, we sat down together as a team and assigned a more suitable horse, used different equipment that better fit his strengths, and even taught our herd of horses some new skills to accommodate Al's physical needs. Because of his perseverance, patience with himself and his horse, and love for riding, Al has advanced from a beginner rider to an incredible equestrian. It is a joy to watch him utilize every technique in his toolbelt to continue progressing as a rider and developing his love for the sport.

NICHOLE COX
Instructor

Adaptive riding is one of the many forms of Equine Assisted Activities provided at JHTR. As the name implies, the goal of adaptive riding lessons is to reach a rider's full potential on horseback through adaptation. If one form of learning or practicing a skill does not work for a rider, we switch gears and try something new. Adaptive riding is

JHTR STAFF YEAR-END 2021

Tori Plennes
Executive Director

Adriene Henderson
Program Director

Mara Kingscott
Volunteer Coordinator

Jessica Eastman
Occupational Therapist

Nichole Cox
Instructor

Sarah Hoffmann
Instructor

Samantha Melton
Instructor

Stacey Miller
Instructor

Emily Stephens
Equine Manager

Hana Wilkins
Equine Assistant

Christi Yannelli
Instructor

BOARD OF DIRECTORS YEAR-END 2021

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Sarah Beninga
Treasurer

Patty Chapman
Secretary

Renee Holik

Donald Hughes

Robin Lightner
Founder

Nicki McDermott

Colleen Murray

Eileen Prugh

YOU MAKE OUR PROGRAM *possible*

People are at the center of all we do—and the past year has only amplified that foundational truth for the work we do at the arena every day. But we cannot do this work alone. We rely on the kindness and generosity of friends like you to provide the flexible resources that allow us to be innovative and responsive to our participants' needs, maintain accessible, affordable and effective services, and meet the critical challenges we face in recruiting and retaining our important workforce (both horse and human).

During this joyous holiday season, we ask that you please remember Jackson Hole Therapeutic Riding in your year-end giving. With your help, we will continue to empower, inspire, and enrich the lives of those who depend on us.

If you're unable to donate at this time, there are many other ways you can support us! You can advocate for us by sharing our mission with a family member or friend. Even a quick mention on your social media would mean the world to us.

Thank you for being part of our community. Without you, none of it is possible.

EVERY DOLLAR MAKES A DIFFERENCE:



\$30

Funds a lesson



\$100

Covers the cost to shoe one horse



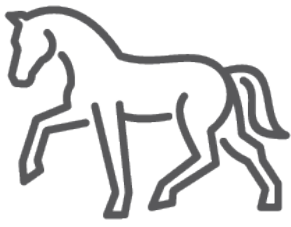
\$250

Annual replacement of outdated helmets



\$1,000

Pays for the utilities for one month



\$5,000

Purchases a new horse to bring joy and enrichment to our participants

Please consider a year-end gift

Your contributions make a meaningful and lasting difference.

TO DONATE ONLINE OR TO LEARN MORE: jhtr.org

