





THANK YOU
FROM THE BOARD

A phrase my mother used to say (often I might add) was “never a dull moment!” She was correct. These last three years for Jackson Hole Therapeutic Riding have proven that life is full of surprises and that “normal” is only a setting on our washing machines.

After two years of our annual fundraiser being held virtually, excitement was in the air for everyone to be back under the big white tent! Planning went smoothly as JHTR geared up for our 20th Annual Stomping the Divots event. The event sold out weeks in advance; artists donated their beautiful work; polo teams were ready to play and our participants were eager to show their new skills! It was a glorious evening until ominous black clouds developed in the west and continued moving our way. While Jackson is accustomed to thunderstorms in August, they normally blow out as quickly as they arrive. This particular microburst, in contrast, turned out to be one for the books.

Shortly after dinner was served and the live auction began, we unfortunately had to immediately evacuate the 400+ attendees. The storm showed no sign of ending quickly. Band equipment was damaged, glasses and plates were broken, and tables were blown over—but luckily no one was hurt. Everyone ended up wind-blown and drenched...but safe.

It was another year of uncertainty and unprecedented occurrences, but we survived the storm, prevailed, and conquered. With your help, we came through on the other side standing.

A heartfelt thank you for your continued support of JHTR and our commitment to serving our community. We are passionate about our program, staff, volunteers, and participants. We love our horses dearly. In life they say we “live and learn” and JHTR is no different. With your strength and support, we know that we can tackle any obstacle faced. It is truly amazing what people can accomplish together.

So, in the closing of our season, “May the wind be always at your back and the sun shine warm upon your face.” We look forward to seeing you all next spring. Have a healthy and safe winter.

thank you

KRISTIN NIELSON
Board President

OUR YEAR
AT A GLANCE

October 14th, 2022 marked the conclusion of our 29th year in operation. 29 years of bringing smiles to faces, strength to bodies, and confidence to minds. On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors, thank you for joining us in our mission to empower ability! Look at what your generosity and support enabled us to achieve:

VOTED SILVER BEST NONPROFIT
top 3 for the 4th year in a row

50 NEW PARTICIPANTS
engaged in our programs

284 PARTICIPANTS
received services

FIVE NEW SHELTERS
constructed for our herd

1,069 LESSONS
facilitated by our Instructors

4 HORSE SHOWS & EVENTS
for participants to display their newfound skills

7 PASTURES
donated to our herd

100% HORSE SPONSORSHIP

115 VOLUNTEERS
donated more than **2,750+ HOURS**

97 DIFFERENT DIAGNOSES
represented in 2022

SAGE LIVING
incorporated JHTR programs in their residents' weekly routines

>65% OF PARTICIPANTS
received scholarship assistance

CREATING IMPACT TOGETHER
ANOTHER REMARKABLE YEAR FOR JHTR



The entire staff and Board of Directors would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your contributions of time and resources over this past year! With your dedication and generosity, 2022 was another remarkable year for Jackson Hole Therapeutic Riding.

Together with our team of experienced staff, engaged Board of Directors, and dedicated volunteers, JHTR served 284 individuals through 1,069 lessons. Growing demand for our services was evident, as fifty new participants enrolled in our programs. Medical professionals, care providers, and educators continued to be our leading source of client referrals. Instructors and therapists served several community partners, including Community Entry Services, Lincoln Self Reliance, C-V Ranch, Teton County School District #1, and the Children's Learning Center. Whether faced with physical challenges like cerebral palsy, stroke, or paralysis, or invisible challenges like anxiety, ADHD, or PTSD, participants of all ages and abilities benefited from caring, engaging instructors and activities designed to empower, inspire, and enrich.

In the past year, we witnessed a marked increase in adult referrals with diagnoses like Parkinson's, cancer, or Alzheimer's. Among these referring agencies were St. John's Health and Sage Living, a local senior living facility. As adult needs increase in the valley, we plan to expand our focus to serve more of our adult population in need.

We were thrilled to gather in person at the 20th annual Stomping the Divots, Old Bill's Fun Run, the Teton County Fair Horse Show, JHTR's Community Horse Show, and the C-V Horse Show. It was wonderful seeing our participants back in the spotlight!

Our behind-the-scenes stewardship of the arena this year included erecting five new shade structures for our growing herd, painting storage sheds, and repairing damaged gates and fence posts. The work of keeping up a facility like ours is truly never ending!

The JHTR herd continued to be well cared for, receiving 100% sponsorship via the “Adopt a Horse” auction at Stomping the Divots. Furthermore, four new horses will join our herd in 2023 thanks to generous individuals who contributed to “Help Purchase a JHTR Horse”!

“ **Never underestimate the valuable and important difference you make in every life you touch. For the impact you make today has a powerful rippling effect on every tomorrow.** ”

—Anonymous

We are incredibly grateful for the flexibility these funds provide in selecting the most gentle, sound, and suitable horses for the work we do. We look forward to introducing you to these additions in the spring.

Everywhere you look, you can see the impact we have created together. But none of this would be possible without you, our dedicated and caring supporters. Your support gives hundreds of our neighbors, family members, and friends the opportunity to thrive in the saddle and in life. We are immensely grateful for you!

TORI PLENNES
Executive Director



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

LISA LINDLAU



Since joining JHTR as a volunteer in 2021, Lisa has quickly become a very familiar face around the arena. She has become a regular at JHTR most days of the week and often returns for multiple lessons throughout the day.

Lisa's dedication to JHTR's mission is obvious and her passion for our participants and horses is instantly recognizable. Lisa is always willing to jump into any lesson when help is needed and is happy to work with participants of all ages. Her positivity is infectious and always appreciated.

Lisa never fails to come into the arena with a bright smile and funny remark whether it's 8am or 6pm. Aside from her humor, Lisa shares endless kindness with everyone she encounters. Many of our participants benefit from Lisa's consistency and reliability while our staff has come to appreciate her willingness to adapt at a moment's notice when needed.

Thank you, Lisa, for your continued support and dedication to our participants. You are a beloved member of our JHTR family and we are proud to honor you as the 2022 Volunteer of the Year.

MARA KINGSCOTT
Volunteer Coordinator

JHTR VOLUNTEER AWARDS

We are grateful to the over 100 volunteers who gave their time and talents to JHTR in 2022. Without their commitment to our mission and vision the success stories at the JHTR arena would not be possible. Week after week they rallied to fill the holes in our busy schedule to ensure no participant was without the support they require to ride.

As our program continues to expand, so too does our need for volunteers. In 2023 we will celebrate 30 years of empowering ability

with the help of our dedicated volunteers. We hope to continue to expand our volunteer base so that we can keep up with the growing community demand for our services.

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please visit jhtr.org.

Congratulations **VOLUNTEERS!**


2,765
TOTAL HOURS DONATED



LISA LINDLAU
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



RACHEL GODFREY
DEEDE MCDONALD AWARD



MADelyn HOLAND & WILL GEITTMANN
RONAI WHITE STOMPING
THE DIVOTS AWARD



ANDREA LINDLAU
ROOKIE OF THE YEAR



ANGI DAVIS
ELAINE INFANGER AWARD



CAMILLE WALTERS
MARTI ANDERSON AWARD



JAN LEWIS
ROBIN LIGHTNER AWARD



JOSH ZIOLKOWSKI
UNsung HERO AWARD



LAURA SHERVIN
SUNNY DAWN PETERSEN
AWARD



CONGRATULATIONS, RICK!

2022 RIDER OF THE YEAR

At one point or another, we all meet someone who will change our lives for the better. They may add joy, improve your perspective or teach you something new. And if you are really lucky, they may even do all three. Rick Lawrence is one of those people.

Rick dedicated 14 years to serving our country as a Chief Petty Officer in the United States Navy. Afterwards, he continued to serve by organizing recreational hunting trips for his fellow veterans through the California Waterfowl Association Veteran Hunt Program. These programs grew year after year due to Rick's dedication, hard work and passion. He is open about his battle with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and found some healing through the act of serving others. Rick works to combat the stigma of PTSD, specifically for veterans, by continuing to openly share his experiences, all with the hope of helping others. These are a few of many examples of the generosity and kindness that are defining characteristics of Rick.

In February of 2021, Rick was given unimaginable news. He was diagnosed with service-related terminal cancer and given an estimated 18 months to live. His perspective on his life, and his future, changed in that moment. Rick then – with some encouragement from his loved ones – decided that it was time that he began to accept the same care and kindness that he had dedicated years to giving others.

With the love of his life, his wife Brandy, by his side they are both learning new riding skills while navigating this new reality. They

“ At one point or another, we all meet someone who will change our lives for the better. ”

bothadd so much joy to the lives of everyone they meet at the arena, and have given a new perspective to the meaning of making the most of every moment. They are dedicating this time together to making memories, and leading by example in reminding others to live for the experiences that bring you happiness.

While the mission of Jackson Hole Therapeutic Riding is to empower, inspire and enrich the lives of our participants, the truth is that Rick Lawrence empowers us to want to work harder, inspires us to make the most of every moment, and enriches our lives more than we can say. He is a bright light every day that he is at the arena. His warm smile, joyful laugh, positive attitude and admirable determination are weekly reminders to all of us at JHTR of what life is truly all about. He brings love and joy to all that know him, he helps us to look at life in different ways, and leads by example in living every moment to its fullest. It is a true privilege to know Rick, and to have him as a part of our JHTR family, and an even greater honor to have him as our 2022 Brad Swett Memorial Rider of the Year.

ADRIENE HENDERSON
Program Director

RIDER HIGHLIGHT

GUS' STORY



When I was asked to write "Gus' Story" for this newsletter, I thought, piece of cake! I had so many thoughts and reflections about our experience with JHTR. Not until I sat down to write it did I realize how truly impactful this program has been on not only my kiddo, but my entire family. The practical and therapeutic skills are a huge deal but beyond that, Gus has found friends and love, both human and horse. That, more than anything else, will be the thing we take away and remember from this beautiful program. Let me tell you a little about my youngest child, Augustus.

My beautiful boy Gus is like no one else in this world. He is sweet, brave, kind and very animated. He also works harder than any kid I know. He came into this world with so many unexpected challenges. Gus has to work hard at things that come naturally to most people. Talking, walking, coordination and many other things. Gus was born with a genetic disorder. This comes with several conditions that impact his everyday function. Gus has been in speech, PT and OT intervention therapies since he was eighteen months old. His biggest challenges are speech and coordination. Gus has Apraxia of Speech as well as Global Apraxia. Combined, these two conditions give Gus the most trouble. Gus struggles to express himself and make himself understood. Needless to say, for a four-year-old this can be overwhelming and frustrating. Apraxia is a motor planning disorder. It is different than other speech delays. It will be a lifelong challenge. Gus's brain knows exactly what he wants to say but the signal from his brain to his mouth is the problem, the connection and movement is so hard for him. He also works with his therapist and horse to further his speech. His horse understands that he should respond to

“ **The saying 'It takes a village' is so true and as a mother of a special needs kiddo this is especially true.** ”

Gus when he says "walk on" and "whoa". Gus has to practice his enunciation and clarity every time he rides.

Additionally, and the piece that JHTR is so impactful with is his Global Apraxia. Global Apraxia is rough. Gus struggles with proprioception. This is the sense of how we understand and navigate our bodies in space, or more simply, spatial awareness, Gus has none. He has no idea what to do with his body in his environment. He falls down, runs into walls and climbs things with no regard to his safety. This is where Physical Therapy comes in. Teaching Gus to be aware and careful is key. He often wears a weighted vest to help ground him in his environment and surroundings. When Gus first started riding his body worked hard to find balance and a rhythm with the horse. It was incredible to watch as he began to understand what parts of his body needed to move as his horse moved. His center of gravity and coordination has improved so much since he began riding at JHTR. His hand-eye coordination with the reins and his attention span has also improved. It has been such an amazing journey!

When Gus' physical therapist told me about the Jackson Hole Therapeutic Riding program, I knew I had to get him involved. Gus has always loved animals. They bring peace, joy and excitement to him like nothing else. When Gus began riding, my expectation was that he would be so excited to see a horse up close and eventually ride one, my expectations were surpassed more than I can express. Through Gus' riding he has learned and developed in ways that were so exciting and unexpected

to watch. The horse brings a calm and inner peace to Gus that is often difficult for him to access due to the storm of conditions rolling around inside of him. It's one of the few times in Gus' week that he can sit with a calm body, slow down and find pace with his horse. It's beautiful.

“ **...I'm so happy and grateful to say that the incredible staff and very gentle and patient horses at JHTR are now an important part of our village.** ”

Gus talks about his riding all the time. He looks forward to it every week. When we arrive, he's out of his car seat in a flash and runs up to Samantha (his trainer), hugs her and tells her he loves her! She is simply incredible. She is kind, patient, consistent and has gotten to know Gus so well. Samantha structures his sessions each week to include all the things he loves. Last week she got a "phone call" from the zoo keeper saying that she needed Gus' help to round up the escaped animals! So, Gus and his horse Charlie Brown corralled them all, it was fantastic. As I write this, we've just come home from our second to last session for the year. Today, Gus got to be a knight. He earned a sword and slayed a dragon to save his best friend the monkey from the tower in the castle. The joy on my kid's face was contagious. My cheeks hurt from smiling. Next week is our last week and we will miss JHTR immensely. The saying "It takes a village" is so true and as a mother of a special needs kiddo this is especially true. I'm so happy and grateful to say that the incredible staff and very gentle and patient horses at JHTR are now an important part of our village. Gus will be back

next year and I can't wait to see all the growth and happiness that comes his way.

ERIKA HUBBERT
Gus' Mother



RODGER: HORSE OF THE YEAR



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

Rodger joined the JHTR herd in 2019 as a donation from the Zacco Family. He came to JHTR with a jumping background and a big personality, but settled into his new role as a therapeutic riding horse almost instantly. He has quickly become one of our most versatile and reliable horses for any type of lesson. From a nervous 3-year-old to an independent participant who wants to learn to jump, Rodger can do it all! He is known for his quirky behavior among the volunteers who often must keep him occupied during lesson breaks to avoid being licked or “love nudged”. He is one of our older horses, but you would never know it with his energy and handsome conformation.

We are so grateful to have Rodger as a part of the JHTR herd and look forward to many more years of watching him impact lives.

Next time you are at the arena stop in and congratulate Rodger on his new title of 2022 Horse of the Year!

EMILY STEPHENS
Equine Manager



STOMPING THE DIVOTS
AN EVENTFUL RETURN TO THE POLO FIELDS

On Saturday, August 13th we celebrated the 20th annual Stomping the Divots! This year's event sold out weeks in advance and delivered a night to remember.

After a thrilling polo match and moving adaptive riding demonstration by the organization's participants, our beautiful evening was brought to an abrupt end by unexpected torrential rain and hurricane-like winds. A compromised tent necessitated the immediate evacuation of more than 400 people. JHTR would like to thank all in attendance for their understanding and help while securing the premises and keeping everyone safe!

For the last 20 years, Stomping the Divots has been an opportunity to showcase our important mission. Jackson Hole Therapeutic Riding is profoundly grateful for our guests, generous sponsors, gracious host and vendors who turn out year after year to celebrate and support this program.

Because our live auction could not take place in person, we were left with a fundraising deficit. To help bridge this gap, we hosted an online auction via GiveSmart. Many of the items sold, bringing in an additional \$12,750 in net proceeds. Through these combined efforts, we were able to move closer to our fundraising goal.

We appreciate your continued commitment to our mission, riders and horses. The impact your generosity has in the lives of our participants, volunteers and staff is profound. Your donations are essential and so, so appreciated as we look forward to our 30th anniversary next year.

JACKSON HOLE THERAPEUTIC RIDING
Board of Directors & Staff

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT THEM
THEY COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

At JHTR, our horses are our therapeutic partners. These incredible animals assist us in teaching valuable lessons that extend beyond the arena. Their health and happiness are paramount to ensuring longevity in our program and optimal outcomes for our participants. As such, our equine team works diligently to train, exercise, and maintain their wellbeing to ensure each horse is physically and mentally prepared to help our participants achieve their goals.

But behind the staff, there is silent group of caring and selfless individuals equally dedicated to these invaluable animals. Horse Sponsors and Pasture Donors are vital contributors to our herd’s comprehensive wellness. These enthusiastic supporters cover the cost and provide the space for our horses to maintain the highest quality of life and ensure that their needs are met. We are overwhelming thankful for the following individuals for their generosity and love:

HORSE & PASTURE SPONSORS

Buckwheat <i>Paul von Gontard</i>	Rodger <i>Monica & Thomas Parr</i>	Two Socks <i>Catlin Dix & Chulo Sanchez Duggan</i>	Pasture Donors: <i>The Dietz Family</i>
Captain <i>Nancy McGregor & Neal Manne</i>	Shorty <i>Colleen & John Murray</i>	Help Purchase a Horse: <i>The Garaman Family Foundation</i>	<i>Julie & Chris Green</i>
Charlie Brown <i>Christian Burch & John Frechette</i>	Taco <i>Christi & Alan Yannelli</i>	<i>Annie & Greg Jackson</i>	<i>The Infanger Family</i>
Dakota <i>Leslye & David Hardie</i>	Tater <i>Ronai White</i>	<i>Monica & Thomas Parr</i>	<i>Adam & Julia Long</i>
Josh <i>Melissa & Tim Kelly</i>	Tuck <i>Leigh Chrisinger</i>	<i>Anne Fish & Jim Wunsch</i>	<i>Eric & Dana Macy</i>
		<i>Mary Gray & Donald Shockey Jr.</i>	<i>Colleen & John Murray</i>
			<i>Snake River Ranch</i>

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A TRIBUTE TO PAUL VON GONTARD



If you have attended Stomping the Divots at any point in the last 20 years, then you have undoubtedly seen him. With his leather fringe vest, bolo tie, and cowboy hat, he has been our host since this exciting event launched in 2002. The only thing that might capture your attention more than his ensemble is his beaming smile and warm hospitality. He is the owner of the Melody Hereford Ranch, the founder of the Jackson Hole Polo Club, and the MVP of JHTR's most significant annual fundraiser—Mr. Paul von Gontard.

While you may recognize him and know of his adventures, you might not be aware of the sheer impact he has had on Jackson Hole Therapeutic Riding. For two decades, Paul has gifted the use of his property for Stomping the Divots. His generosity has ensured not only the most breathtaking venue, but that a greater percentage of the proceeds directly benefit the program and its riders.

Paul is responsible for helping coordinate the thrilling polo match that is the hallmark of this longstanding fundraiser. In 2020, when COVID disrupted our ability to host an in-person event, Paul and the Jackson Hole Polo Club stood by our side as we pivoted to a virtual approach, ensuring the exhilarating sport would continue to entertain our online supporters.

Paul is beloved in this valley, a man rich in spirit, character, and humor. We are deeply appreciative of the devotion and generosity he continues to bestow upon JHTR and are grateful to call him a friend.

This year marked not only the 20th anniversary of Stomping the Divots, we also Paul's 90th birthday—a truly momentous occasion! Please join Jackson Hole Therapeutic Riding as we celebrate this iconic man who inspires us to live life to the fullest and enjoy the ride.

TORI PLENNES
Executive Director

JHTR STAFF YEAR-END 2022

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

Amber Schonert
Instructor

Emily Stephens
Equine Manager

Hana Cynkar
Equine Assistant

Christi Yannelli
Instructor

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EVERY DOLLAR & EVERY GIFT *matters!*

Every day, we equip participants of all ages facing physical, emotional, social, and cognitive challenges with skills, connections, and tools that last a lifetime. But none of this would be possible without your support. All lessons are subsidized and more than 65% of riders depend on further financial assistance in order to participate. It is only through your selfless giving that we are able to maintain affordable programs, healthy horses, skilled staff, and accessible facilities.

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 providing essential support to those who need 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. Your contributions of time, resources, and talent have a lasting impact.

YOU GIVE. WE SERVE. THEY THRIVE.



SPONSOR A PARTICIPANT



HELP MAINTAIN OUR FACILITIES



DONATE TACK & SUPPLIES



VOLUNTEER WITH US



GIVE WHERE NEEDED MOST



HELP REPLACE OUR TRUCK

Please consider a year-end gift

**Your contributions make a
meaningful and lasting difference.**

TO DONATE ONLINE OR TO LEARN MORE: jhtr.org

