

AN EARLY BIRTHDAY SURPRISE A NEW TRUCK FOR JHTR!



In late 2022, Jackson Hole Therapeutic Riding received a substantial gift from an anonymous donor. The donation's intended purpose: to replace the organization's 20-year-old vehicle. Together with a grant from the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole, a generous donation from Pegi and Kent Bernard, and the proceeds from the sale of our old truck, JHTR secured adequate funds to purchase a new company vehicle.

The procurement of the 2023 Chevrolet Silverado 3500 provides many noteworthy benefits: greater reliability, improved safety and considerably increased towing capacity. We are comforted to know that our team (both horse and human) will be better protected while on the road. We are immensely grateful for the support we received to make this possible!

If you see us around town, we hope you'll give us a wave!



A LOOK AT OUR SEASON AHEAD

Please mark your calendars for our celebratory year:

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Ongoing in-person or virtual trainings throughout the year!

SESSION DATES

- SESSION 1: May 8th – Jun 2nd
- SESSION 2: Jun 19th – Jul 28th
- SESSION 3: Aug 14th – Sep 1st
- SESSION 4: Sep 18th – Oct 13th

STOMPING THE DIVOTS

Saturday, August 12th



OLD BILLS FUN RUN

Saturday, September 9th

COMMUNITY HORSE SHOW

Saturday, September 16th

CONSTRUCTION CAUSES CONCERN



For 30 years, Jackson Hole Therapeutic Riding has been dependent on thousands of kindhearted individuals to serve our participants safely and effectively. Since our founding, we have experienced year-over-year growth in ridership, consequently making us reliant on a greater number of volunteers each year. Now entering my fifth season as the Volunteer Coordinator, it has been a joy to see so many familiar faces returning each year to help us achieve our mission. Equally pleasing has been the opportunity to welcome new individuals into the JHTR family. As a team, we are so grateful to live and work in a community that has supported us as we grow and expand.

Over the years, our afternoon and evening lessons have become the

most requested times for our participants and have become the hardest time of the day to recruit volunteers. This struggle will be multiplied this season with the construction project in Wilson on the Snake River Bridge. With unpredictable seasonal and rush hour traffic, we are hoping to recruit more volunteers who live in along the West Bank and Wilson to help fill these spots. This can be a perfect volunteer opportunity for high school students looking to give back to their community after school as well! If you are an existing volunteer, we hope you will join us again this year! If you are, or know someone who is interested in becoming a volunteer, please reach out to us!

To every person who has volunteered at some point in the last 30 years, thank you! And to all the future volunteers, we can't wait to meet you!

MARA KINGSCOTT
Volunteer Coordinator

ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, June 17 • 9am-12pm
3870 Wilderness Drive • Wilson, WY

For 30 years, Jackson Hole Therapeutic Riding has been opening doors for participants to reach their full potential. Now, we're opening our doors to the community for a celebratory open house!

Explore our facilities, learn about our programs, become a volunteer, meet our horses, and see first-hand why JHTR has been named one of the top three nonprofits year after year.

RIDER DEMONSTRATIONS • RAFFLE
SUCCESS STORIES • FOOD & DRINKS

This event is free and open to the public. We kindly ask that you leave your pets at home.

let's celebrate!

VIBRANT, RESILIENT, AND DEEP-ROOTED CELEBRATING 30 YEARS



This year, Jackson Hole Therapeutic Riding celebrates a big milestone: 30 years in operation. In 1993, DeDe McDonald, Robin Lightner, and Elaine Infanger came together with a vision: to harness the unique bond between a horse and its rider to empower individuals with confidence, strength, and independence. Although our beginnings were modest — operating out of borrowed arenas and relying on loaned horses— the tenacity of our founders and the support of our community led us to the vibrant, resilient, and deep-rooted organization we are today.

At the heart of our anniversary milestone and progress as an organization is our people: our founders who had the vision to bring equine therapy to our small community; our volunteers and Board members who have offered their time and talent to ensure we have thrived through good times and bad; our participants

and their families who have informed our programs and allowed us to be a part of their journey; our supporters who have given generously to guarantee affordable and accessible services; and our team members whose daily efforts and passion make a profound and lasting difference in the lives of those we serve.

Throughout this year, our video storytelling will feature many individuals—past and present—who have been a vital part of JHTR's continued history. Their stories are a rich representation of the important work that is done at the arena, and provide a glimpse of the sheer number of people JHTR has touched and relied upon over the last three decades.

“ At the heart of our anniversary milestone and progress as an organization is our people. ”

So, to our people, thank you for being part of our shared history, present reality, and the collective vision we have for JHTR's future. Your friendship, support, inspiration, success stories, and uncompromising dedication have meant the world to us. We look forward to what is next as we humbly advance the work of those that came before us and empower the abilities of future generations.

TORI PLENNES
Executive Director

AGE IS JUST A NUMBER

It is often said that “age is just a number” and at JHTR we are able to say with certainty that this sentiment couldn't be more true.

In August 2022, the partnership between JHTR and Sage Living – the St. John's Health Senior Living Community – began and it was better than we could have ever imagined. We worked closely with the Teton Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation team to develop individualized plans for each Sage resident to ensure that their time at JHTR was structured for their abilities, working towards their goals and enjoyable for the residents. Many of the residents who were scheduled to join us face a gamut of challenges beyond that of just their age (late 80's and early 90's) – many are also facing Parkinson's and various types of dementia, so utilizing a team approach of including their nurses and therapists, as well as the JHTR staff was crucial during the planning process.

The Sage Residents then joined us each week during Session 4 to participate in a variety of activities. Some rode horses, others groomed horses and learned about equine behaviors, and a few worked on riding the equicizer – a machine that mimics the movements of a horse. Each week the JHTR staff looked forward to our time with the Sage Residents, they acted as a wonderful reminder that once again, age is just a number. We saw some overcome fears, others try things for the first time, and one who was able to enjoy a beloved hobby that they previously believed was long in their past. They exuded confidence and joy each week as they accomplished both riding and therapy goals.

As our 2022 Season came to an end, the thought of the benefits of the equicizer for these residents came to mind. We had a portable option to continue providing programming and supplementing their therapies, so it was decided that for 3 months during the winter, I would visit the residents weekly to



continue working on their therapy and social goals, while also preparing them for the following JHTR riding season.

During these past few months, there has been no shortage of incredible moments. I have had the pleasure of witnessing a resident who used to ride, and while their mind has trouble remembering various life moments due to dementia, each week we see their body return to perfect riding form. Other residents, who have many bad days, offer the sentiment of feeling relaxed and happy for the first time that day after finishing their session. Some residents find motivations for their therapies that often otherwise feel monotonous to them. And all residents have seen improvements in their strength and flexibility – which will help reduce their risk of falling during their daily life.

In addition to all of the inspiring and resilient participants who are a part of the JHTR family, I can personally say that working with the residents of Sage Living has given me a refreshed outlook on learning new skills, facing fears and living each day to its fullest.

ADRIENE HENDERSON
Program Director