



The mission of Naples Equestrian Challenge is to improve the lives of children and adults with special needs through therapeutic riding and other equine-related programs.

SUMMER 2013

SCENE & HERD

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SUPER HEROES 2013 HORSE SHOW

The 2013 "Super Heroes" Horse Show featured several notable super heroes such as Batman, Superman, and Green Lantern, but the real super heroes were the more than 130 NEC riders that demonstrated their excellent horseback-riding equitation for their friends, families, volunteers and donors at the two-day event held April 6 & 7.

The NEC arena was decorated with super hero artwork, painted and donated by Charlotte Gust, a renowned porcelain painter who volunteers her talent and time to NEC. The drawings were complemented with streamers lining the fence, plants and other super hero themed decorations. In addition, NEC's volunteer exercise riders contributed their time and creativity to paint the therapy horses with super hero figures and messages so they would be appropriately dressed for the occasion. NEC riders



Layne enjoys helping AJ up the ramp to mount his horse

were proud to demonstrate what they have learned in their lessons, and they did a spectacular job! It is a wonderful and rewarding sight to see the progress the NEC riders have made as well as the joyful expression on their faces as they showcase their skills for

their friends and loved ones. Volunteers, parents and donors presented trophies to the riders when they finished their performances throughout the weekend. A special "thank you" to the Collier County Veterinary Society for generously donating the trophies again this year!



John and Stacie are proud parents of their son Riley's accomplishments



Olympe having a fun ride on Banjo with Kim as her leader

A BBQ lunch, organized by NEC volunteer Cindy McDonald and a group of students from FGCU, was served both Saturday and Sunday, followed by a raffle. Raffle items included a girl's bike, children's books, Michael Stars sunglasses, girl's horse themed pajamas, a Wells Fargo

large stuffed pony and a \$25 gift certificate to Carrabba's Italian Grill.

All of us at NEC would like to thank our rider families for supporting their loved ones in achieving great strides in their therapeutic riding lessons. We look forward to this well-earned celebration of their accomplishments each year.



Sara is very excited to receive her trophy



The annual "Deb PT Scholarship" was awarded to Samantha Peter for her exemplary service to NEC as a youth volunteer. Sam is excited about attending Clemson University this fall to start her under-grad studies in veterinary medicine. She also plans to join the equestrian team. Good luck, Sam!

Connie Sharpe and Missy Saracino present Samantha Peter with the Deb PT Scholarship award

3RD ANNUAL KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY WAS A WINNER!



Best Hat contestants with the lovely winner, Sandra Mills in orange at the far right

More than 180 guests turned out to enjoy the Run for the Roses at NEC's 3rd Annual Kentucky Derby Party, held Saturday, May 4, 2013, at The Bay House restaurant.

The event committee, lead by co-chairs Pam Reed and Laura St. Clair, created beautiful centerpieces for the "Owners' Box" sponsor tables as well as colorful Derby banners that complemented the "Club Room" and the patio setting. But the spectacular hats and crazy pants made the winning statement!

Upon arrival, guests were greeted with a complimentary Mint Julep or a Naples Sunset Margarita, and Chef Andy Hunter of The Bay House created a delectable presentation of "Derby" hors d'oeuvres featuring Hot Brown sandwiches, pulled pork on corn cakes, traditional Kentucky cheese spread and little derby pies. The emcee and auctioneer extraordinaire Jon Foege kept the guests excited about the Barrel of Booze raffle, the Derby 50/50 raffle, Best Hat and Crazy Pant contests as well as leading a very successful live auction!



Fia Carter congratulating Mark for winning the crazy pants contest

"Churchill Downs" sponsors Jeanne Zagursky and Tom D'Alessandro were the Derby winners with their horse "Orb"! Jeanne and Tom were presented with the perpetual NEC Kentucky Derby trophy, a bouquet of two dozen red roses, a gift box of Norman Love chocolates, a bottle of Laurent Perrier Brut champagne and a box of Davidoff Classic cigars.



Brian Dickerson, the Crazy Pant runner-up

A big "thank you" to the "Run for the Roses" Sponsor Kitchens by Clay as well as the "Churchill Downs" Sponsors: Dr. Virginia Condello, Jeanne Zagursky and Tom D'Alessandro, Lucille Drackett, Jim Duff, First American's Wealth Management Group, Kristi McGuire, Pam Reed, Laura St. Clair, Todd Turrell and US Trust/Bank of America.

Due to the tremendous support from the event sponsors, live auction bidders and donors and all the guests that participated in the various raffles, the 3rd Annual Kentucky Derby Party was a winning success raising more than \$27,000 for the NEC therapeutic riding programs and its special riders! Please visit NEC's website at www.NaplesEquestrianChallenge.org to view the 3rd Annual Kentucky Derby Party photo gallery!



Event Co-chairs Laura St. Clair and Pam Reed

14TH ANNUAL NEC SUMMER HORSEMANSHIP CAMP



Leab Stolz and Stela Basile work on crafts during summer camp

NEC kicked off its 14th Annual Summer Horsemanship Camp on June 10. Throughout the summer more than 70 campers experience horseback riding, vaulting, hands-on horse care and grooming as well as arts, crafts and games. A special "thank you" to the Special Needs Children's Fund for funding summer camp scholarships to many of our special campers – it truly made their summers!

Summer Horsemanship Camp is an excellent way for all children, with or without disabilities, to get to know each other and horses. After a week of learning to ride, groom and handle horses, campers get to showcase their skills for family and friends on Friday of each camp week in the "Camp Horse Show." NEC Summer Horsemanship Camp is all about building teamwork, camaraderie and friendships.

Available for ages 4-16, NEC's Summer Horsemanship Camp is held weekly Monday through Friday for seven weeks scheduled throughout the summer.

Camp activities are supervised by an NEC PATH certified therapeutic riding instructor with help from a team of camp counselors, creating a counselor-to-camper ratio of 1:2.

For experienced riders who participate in the NEC program year-round and who want to fine tune their riding abilities, NEC offers an Advanced Horsemanship Camp on Wednesday afternoons, which provides individuals with additional attention that helps them progress and be better prepared to return to weekly therapeutic riding lessons in the fall.

Volunteers are always needed to help make summer camp and lessons a success. If you would like to lend a hand over the summer, please contact Missy at 239-596-2988 or missysaracino@naplesequestrianchallenge.org.



Maddison Walker stands on Snickers to demonstrate her vaulting techniques with the help of her PATH-Certified Instructor Lea Haven and her camp counselor Emily Buersmeyer at her side and Katie Lile leading

DONATE YOUR OLD CAR TO NEC!

Naples Auto Donation Center (NADC) is helping NEC with all car donations! If you have a car that you've been thinking about trading in or just don't need any longer, please consider donating it to NEC. NADC will handle all the paperwork, pick up the car and provide NEC with any proceeds from the auction sale of the auto. To learn more about NADC, please visit their website www.NADCKids.com, or call NEC at 239-596-2988.



RIDER SPOTLIGHT

Myles Nahs-Chandler



Myles was diagnosed with high functioning autism in 2009 at the age of 6. A good family friend, Linda Rosenberg, recommended NEC as an excellent source of therapy. Linda's son has had great results while riding at NEC, so she encouraged Myles' parents to get him involved. Myles started riding at NEC in October 2012 and looks forward to riding every week. Riding comes naturally to Myles. It truly is a joy to watch him excel with ease. Therapeutic riding has helped

Myles become more verbal, increase his core strength, and improve his small motor skills. In addition, his riding has helped build his self esteem – he feels great and in control! Myles has had the pleasure of becoming a versatile rider. Whether it is Dynamite, Jäger, or Pick a Spot in the lineup, Myles is always eager to saddle up!

The 2013 horse show was a highlight of Myles' NEC experience, but it is a close second to Myles' week at NEC's Summer Horsemanship Camp. At summer camp, Myles was encouraged to be more independent and responsible in a safe nurturing environment. He enjoyed riding and learned basic care of the horses that have become so important in his life and in his therapy.

RIDER OF THE MONTH

JANUARY Emily Maresca	APRIL Kate Fisher
FEBRUARY Vanessa Kane	MAY Myles Nahs-Chandler
MARCH AJ Hernandez	

DEB STAFFORD-ANTONELLI "RETIRES" FROM NEC



Deb knows how to have fun with summer campers

Deb Stafford-Antonelli, a member of the NEC Founders' Group, helped establish NEC in 1995 along with Karen Conley and Mindy Cowen. Without their efforts, NEC would not be the successful, PATH Premier Center it

is today. Deb has dedicated her heart, soul and an enormous amount of time and energy to NEC over these past 18 years. In addition to the many remarkable things Deb has done to evolve NEC, from developing new programs and volunteer trainings to helping with summer camp, EFLs and EFPs, she was highly instrumental in guiding NEC through the arduous process of achieving its PATH Premier Center status. Most recently, Deb designed and led the development and implementation of NEC's new Participant Evaluation and Progress Program. Deb became a PATH-Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor in 2000 and has touched on hundreds of NEC special riders' lives and their families' over the years.

Deb's absence will be felt within every fiber of this organization. All of us at NEC hope to keep Deb involved at some level as she is a tremendously valuable resource. However, we certainly understand and respect Deb's desire to spend more time with her family and her teaching career.

Please join us in sending our best wishes to Deb.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT Sara Alessi



Sara recently graduated from Pine Ridge Middle School where she has been involved in baton twirling and softball since a young age.

Sara loves animals and has a yellow Labrador named "Lacy" and a brown tabby cat named "Hope." She is involved with and volunteers her time at Friends of Gummi pet shelter. Sara also volunteers with camps offered by the United Methodist Church.

Living in the Pine Ridge neighborhood her entire life, Sara would ride by the NEC barn and be curious about the program. She has always had a love for horses and a desire to make a difference, so the program at NEC was a perfect fit for her. She has been volunteering on Saturdays for the past year and has helped tremendously with tasks in the barn. One of her favorite memories while volunteering at NEC was being the "volunteer" rider on Jäger, a new horse at the time, during his trial period. She loves being greeted by the other volunteers and staff when she gets to the barn on Saturdays (especially laughing with Emily each week). It has been such a joy for her to see how happy the riders are during their lessons.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

JANUARY Renee Smith	APRIL Tim O'Neil
FEBRUARY Randi Baker	MAY Sara Alessi
MARCH Curt Stephens	

DYNAMITE RETIRES TO CAMP RUSK

NEC's much loved Dynamite, a 31-year-old bay Mustang gelding, was retired from his job as a therapy horse on June 7, 2013. Although all of



Dyno arrives at Camp Rusk

us at NEC will miss this noble gentleman, it was truly a day to celebrate. "Dyno," a very kind and gentle (and very smart too!) horse, performed his job well for the past seven years at NEC, providing equine therapy to hundreds of therapeutic riding participants as well as equine-assisted learning and psychotherapy session participants. Dyno was donated to NEC by Mrs. Mona Raux on April 9, 2006. He is a true Mustang and was found out West on the range. Prior to joining the NEC herd, he trained in Dressage and was quite a handsome horse under saddle. Enjoying the lush grassy acres of pasture at Camp Rusk, located in Franklin, Texas, Dyno now has joined Kokomo Joe and Sis, two other retired NEC therapy horses.



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Thanks to our many generous sponsors, donors, volunteers and guests, the Bootstrap Boogie Barn Dance has been a major fundraiser for NEC for the past seven years. This year's "Wild West" event will be spectacular! The event planning committee is co-chaired by Wilma and Dick Proctor, and the committee is promising a few surprises along with the dancing, country western band, entertainment, hot and juicy rib-eye steaks off the grill, bull riding, Pony Pie Bingo as well as silent and live auctions. The event's VIP guests will enjoy a VIP reception, lounge, and special entertainment.

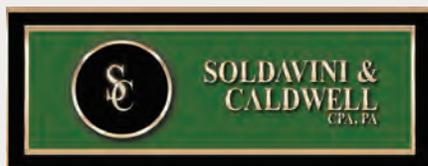
Event proceeds will be used to support NEC equine assisted activities and therapy programs for children and adults with disabilities and mental illness as well as at-risk youth in Collier County.

Sponsorship packages are available from \$30,000 to \$6,000, each including benefits such as a table for 10 guests, program advertising, a banner on the NEC barn and acknowledgements

in NEC's newsletter, website and more! In addition, VIP tables for 10 guests are available for \$3,500 each. Please call Kim Minarich at 239-596-2988 or email her at kminarich@NaplesEquestrianChallenge.org to learn more about the benefit-packed sponsorship opportunities.

Buy your tickets on-line at www.NaplesEquestrianChallenge.org or call 239-596-2988 NOW! With a limit of 430 guests, the Barn Dance has been sold out for the past three years. Make sure you've got a chair to rest your boots on – call today!

THANK YOU TO OUR 2013 BARN DANCE SPONSORS!



MURAL IN HOSPITALITY SHED



A group of students from Florida Gulf Coast University painted a beautiful, horse-themed ceiling mural in the Hospitality Shed as their "Legacy Project."

This project was a result of their "Senior Seminar" class, which is required for Interdisciplinary Studies minor. Interdisciplinary Studies courses provide students with cultural, social, historical, philosophical, moral, scientific and humanistic concepts to better prepare them to be

effective citizens and leaders. Courses are structured to encourage problem based learning. Many assignments reach out to the community for actual issues and problems which community members are faced with on a day to day basis.

This particular "Legacy Project" was a chance for students to interact with local non-profit organizations, learning about their needs and then providing the organizations with something that has a lasting impact for the organization beyond the confines of the semester.

All of us at NEC wish to express our gratitude and appreciation to the NEC Legacy Project students: Shayla Kinsey, John Brown, Zach Strachman, and Kim Willis.