

The Whinny

Lothlorien TRC

Lothlorien Therapeutic Riding Center Newsletter

716-655-1335 • lothlorientrc.org • 15 Reiter Road, East Aurora, NY 14052



Julia's Legacy Lives on at LTRC!

In October 2021 we lost Julia, our wise mare with a beautiful soul. Julia had a profound affect on everyone at Lothlorien. She was the Lead Mare and mares that lead the herd always leave a Legacy.

Julia healed people - veterans with post traumatic stress, riders with anxiety, amputees who thought they could never ride - everyone who spent time with Julia was changed. With Julia, the chatter and rush of the world faded away. The stress was gone, love and acceptance took over and it was just you and her. You left the barn grateful for the moments you both shared space.

After her passing, the community helped to continue Julia's Legacy of love, acceptance and healing. With the support and generosity of our community and donors, our barn was repaired (pictured below) so we can continue to keep our amazing horses safe and happy. And we received support for so much more, all honoring Julia and her legacy!

Look inside to see how Julia's Legacy lives on at Lothlorien TRC!



Lothlorien
Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc.
an affiliate of People Inc.

Julia's Legacy continues...

Collaborations and donations in Julia's honor assist with facility & program improvements

Generous donors warm up Angel Arena!



LTRC received a generous donation to fully insulate and heat the Angel Arena! This incredible gesture keeps the indoor arena at a comfortable temperature, enabling us to expand services. We are now able to host more lessons, workshops, field trips, group events, meetings and conferences in

comfort during the colder months. Also year-round staff, volunteer and horse training can take place. A HUGE thank you to Hap Keller who brought in local supporters and industry professionals that worked together to make our dream of a fully heated indoor arena come true!

Anastasi Paving & Benzee Family



LTRC needed sand to create a base in the indoor and outdoor riding arenas. LTRC rider Meg Benzee's family and Anastasi Paving came through! Mom Missy Benzee said it best: "I woke up thinking it was just a regular day, but then the blessings started! LTRC is so important to Megan physically and emotionally!

I found out they needed sand for their arena. I reached out to Anastasi Paving where my dad worked for over 50 years. They delivered two dump truck loads of sand to LTRC at no charge! What an amazing tribute to my dad!" Thank you Anastasi Paving for your generous donation to LTRC!

Arena Footing donated by Deeridge Farms



A final step in creating the best footing in the Angel Arena was the donation of several loads of beautiful arena sand from Deeridge Farms. This amazing white sand layer was put on top of the base layer and creates a comfortable cushion footing for horses and humans alike! Thank you Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy Jacobs and Dale Reeves for this incredible donation!

Donor-funded driveway repaving



Thank you Kathleen Miller who made a donation on behalf of her sister in law's trust - the Lisa Miller Cutten Trust - to repave the entire driveway at LTRC. This was no small feat! Robinson Paving spent the day repaving our VERY long driveway and it has made a HUGE difference!

East Aurora MusicFest donation



LTRC was honored to receive a donation of \$5000 from the East Aurora MusicFest. At left, MusicFest President John Venezia presents LTRC Program Director Maggie McCooley Keller with the donation. Thank you East Aurora MusicFest and everyone who attended to support this always incredible local event!

1st Annual Croquet Tournament



The 1st annual Rotary Club of East Aurora vs. East Aurora Kiwanis Croquet Tournament to benefit LTRC was held on August 17, 2022. The tournament took place at the Roycroft Campus lawn outside the Roycroft Inn and raised over \$4900 for LTRC! Event organizer Jack Thiesen (left) presented the trophy to this year's winners - the Rotary Club! Join us next year to see who will take home the trophy!

EA Country Club Women's Board golf outing



LTRC is very grateful to the East Aurora Country Club Woman's Board for selecting LTRC to receive the proceeds from their annual golf tournament held on August 27, 2022. It was a great day for golf and everyone had fun! Thank you East Aurora Country Club Women's Board, East Aurora Country Club and all who participated for your kindness and generosity!

Maggie McCooley Keller honored



LTRC Program Director Maggie McCooley Keller was honored as a recipient of an award from the WNY Muslim Association for "Her deep commitment to the welfare of children, veterans and amputees." Congratulations Maggie!

RIDERS' CORNER

Michael & Henry



Say hello to riders
Michael & Henry Greiner!

Brothers Michael and Henry were featured on WGRZ Channel 2 News.

A segment as reported by WGRZ reporter Alexandra Rios is below.

Visit WGRZ.com and search "Lothlorien" to watch the full video:

The second Michael Greiner gets on a horse, he feels a sense of peace. Being around these animals has changed his life, as explained by his mom Rebecca:

"This has been such a great addition to Michael's therapy, strength and confidence. He walks into the arena and he knows everyone and he feels like this is his family. He looks forward to seeing the horses and his friends every week. It's been such a welcoming environment for Michael and as a mother of a son with special needs it's very comforting to have people you feel comfortable with taking care of your son, helping your child thrive, grow and strengthen all his skills. It's also beautiful to have the inclusivity for a child with special needs, like Michael, and a typical child like his brother, Henry, to be able to share an activity together in an environment that supports both."



Michael



Henry

A Moving Canvas for Veterans

Groups of veterans from Project Odyssey, a program offered by Wounded Warrior Project, continue to visit LTRC. Veterans from across the United States and their loved ones participate in equine experience workshops, designed to rebuild trust, acceptance and boundaries, helping to repair relationships affected by combat experiences.

With a name taken from Homer's epic poem about overcoming adversity and finding the way home, Project Odyssey helps veterans overcome combat stress through outdoor rehabilitative retreats that encourage a connection with nature. Veterans experience the human-horse connection and witness firsthand what can be learned from a horse when you take the time to listen. The groups enjoy a great day in a beautiful setting, surrounded by unconditional support and acceptance.

The Moving Canvas is a meaningful activity where veterans paint what they feel on their horse "canvas". They use non-toxic paint to create pictures on the horses, leaving a part of themselves at the barn. Bandit and Stoney are pictured below with some beautiful artwork.



Call 716-655-1335 or visit lothlorientrc.org for more information about the LTRC Veterans' Program.

Trot on Over Field Trips

It's been so much fun hosting the Trot on Over Field Trips! Friends come to visit the horses, make crafts, have some snacks and enjoy the beautiful surroundings. Activities include nature walks, parades, dance parties, musical stalls and spending time with the horses! Check out the pool noodle horse parade below!



Thank You YALT helpers!

Each week the great helpers from the Young Adult Life Transition (YALT) group come to LTRC to help with barn chores. The YALT group from People Inc. is a community based pre-vocational program that offers people with developmental disabilities an opportunity to develop the skills needed for competitive employment in a community-based setting.



Thank You Supporters!

Anna Korus
Anne Floyd
Barb Huber
Barb Wilsman
Barbara Chur, Strawberry Banks
Becky Popiel
Betsy & Tom Kubiak, Sugar Hill Farm
Blackstone Construction
Carol Heckman & Steve Nelson, Fox Run Equestrian
Carolyn Warren
Cathy Dzierzanowski, in honor of rider Bonnie Sawyer
Cathy & Geoff Fenn
Children's Foundation of Erie County
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Daniel Missert & Sally Logan
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Susan Mikula
Tom & Maryann Ernst
VFW Post 205
VFW Post 5861
Warren Krutchick
West Seneca AmVets Auxiliary Post 8113
Women of the Moose
Wyoming Correctional Facility



Donations are a wonderful way to show your support for our riders, horses and facility. Any amount helps! Call 716-655-1335 to donate today!

While care has been taken at the time of printing to ensure that information is accurate and complete, we apologize for any exclusions, omissions or inaccuracies, as we greatly appreciate your support.

Thank you 2022 horse sponsors!

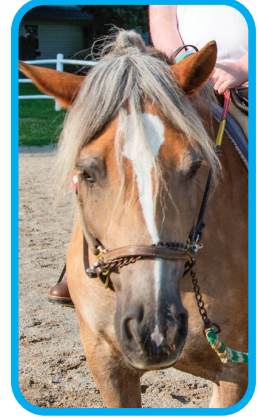
LTRC horses are the heart of the program and their sponsors are greatly appreciated!

BANDIT & TRIGGER



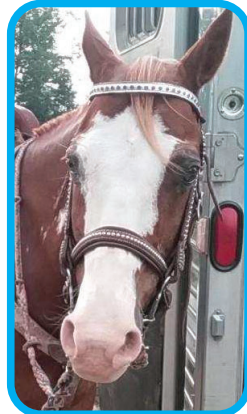
**Clement & Karen Arrison
Family Foundation**

MAC & STONEY



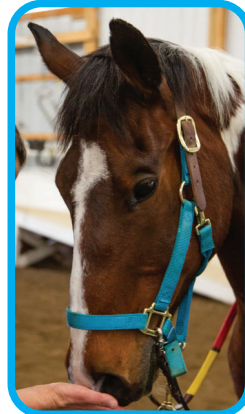
**Betsy & Tom Kubiak, Sugar Hill Farm
Benzee Family, Lifetime sponsor for Mac**

MR. PEABODY & YAEGER



Hooper Legacy Foundation

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Barbara Chur, Strawberry Banks

DOC & GIMLI



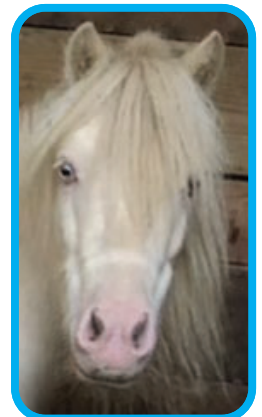
Ardis & Mike Kazinski

LUCERO



**East Aurora Kiwanis
Aktion Club**

TOFFEE & TUCKER



Russo Family Charitable Foundation

SPONSOR A LTRC PROGRAM HORSE: 716-655-1335

Our volunteers help one hoofbeat at a time!

We have the GREATEST volunteers in the world! Volunteers keep us ticking and we can't do what we do without them. Thank you to our amazing volunteers for taking time out of your busy day to help change lives and make a difference!

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!
We are always looking for volunteers!

Call 716-655-1335 today to schedule an orientation.

Minimum age 14. No experience necessary. Training provided.

Volunteer & Pay It Forward!

- meet new people
- work with horses
- learn new skills
- get outside, stay active
- reduce stress & anxiety
- complete service hours
 - network
 - resume builder

Volunteering helps you as much as it helps others!



Need Program Info?

- ★ riding lessons
- ★ programs for veterans
- ★ reading program
- ★ field trips, tours, workshops & more!

716-655-1335 • lothlorientrc.org



DONATE TO LTRC!

As a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, LTRC welcomes and appreciates any and all support and donations. Every donation helps! Donate today at lothlorientrc.org or call 716-655-1335!