

# HORSEPOWER December 2023

#### **Happy Holidays!**

"December, being the last month of the year, cannot help but make us think of what is to come." — Fennel Hudson

#### 'Tis the Season for Giving Back!

As 2023 is coming to a close, we wanted to take a moment to **THANK** all of you who have supported LTR! Whether you gave of you time and talents, your monetary donations or providing much needed supplies, all gestures help support our herd and programs.

With a few weeks left in 2023, we are preparing for our milestone in 2024; LTR's 50th year serving our community.

We ask that you keep LTR among the wonderful and deserving organizations that you support during the end of year giving season. Your donations will support students in their journeys to build connections, learn horsemanship skills, and find joy through the healing power of the horse.

This year, we are so fortunate to have Garrett and Susie Pierce and some other generous friends of LTR willing to match your gift up to \$50,000, as long as it is made before January 1, 2024! That means that when you give to LTR before the end of December, you double your impact in your community. Currently, we are a little over halfway to our total goal, and we need your help to get the match!







LTR 2024 Calendars

## Now Available for Order!

Order yours today!



| Sees the date for our Polymary Medic Night!

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of Loudoun Therapeutic Riding by ordering our 2024 calendar today!

Makes a great holiday gift!

#### A Good Time was had by all at the Middleburg Parade!

We kicked off the holiday season with a walk in the <u>Christmas in Middleburg Parade!</u> The weather couldn't have been better and our newest herd-mate "Big Mama" handled the crowd like a champ!

Thank you so much to our volunteers and guests who helped make it such a fun day! Photo Credit to CZ Photos for such a great photo!





### IN STRIDE SOCIETY

#### Are you In Stride with LTR?

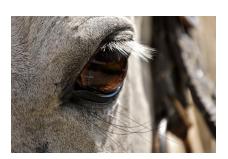
Join us *In Stride* by pledging a monthly recurring donation, and we take it from there! No matter the size of your contribution, it makes a difference in the lives of our participants.

We greatly appreciate the generous support of everyone in our community that gives what they can and keeps LTR flourishing.

We are up to 19 monthly contributors! From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to Ken & Kathy Blaine, Roberta Saborsky, Michael and Christine Cummings, Susi Friedrich, Nancy Russell, R Scott Pollard, Ray & Gayle Pollard, Kathleen Giusti, Keegan Stone, Karen Rarick, James Rarick, Rosemarie Hamm, Carolyn Brandon, Chris Walton, Sheila Stevens, Scott Fuller, Laura Smith, Allan Leach, Alison Howard

Join the In Stride Society today

#### **Program Spotlight**



At LTR, we have known for a long time about the special connection between horses and people and how horses can help us in so many ways.

One does not have to ride a horse to be blessed by their presence. Horses always model appropriate social behavior and force us to selfregulate to connect with them. Several of our staff have a new PATH certification called "Equine-

Specialist in Mental Health and Learning". Kathy Blaine, Sue Mitchell, and Elena Mussari-Fugate have attained this credential to work with people with emotional, cognitive or physical challenges in unmounted lessons.

We are committed to meeting the needs of our community and have services to

meet those needs. Our **Horsepower Social Hour Series** this fall received an outstanding response from parents/families. Lessons included learning about horses, connecting with the horse through grooming or leading and developing coping and life skills that improve one's quality of life.

The unplugged/device free environment of the barn helps students to engage with the horses and each other. One parent shared that the unmounted experience helped their child to gain confidence and self-esteem after having boughts of severe anxiety and depression, this middle-schooler mustered the courage and self-confidence to try out and get a part in the school play.

Stables are the magical places we think about at Christmastime. As we look ahead, we will be adding more opportunities to connect with and learn from horses on the ground.

Winter Session Signups

#### **Volunteer Spotlight**

Volunteers, we cannot **THANK YOU** enough for all of the support this past year. In looking ahead to '24, keep an eye on the calendar!





Interested in volunteering? Students needing service hours? Special Events your thing? We can always use some extra hands! Please reach out via the buttons below!

LTR Volunteer Program

LTR Volunteer Application

#### **Upcoming Events/Save the Dates**

Friday, December 22 - Wednesday, January 3: Holiday Break - No Lessons

**Sunday, December 31:** Deadline to give to the annual appeal for the challenge gift

Thursday, January 4: Winter session begin

**Saturday, February 17:** "National Velvet" Movie Night at Middleburg Community Center

Donate here

Thank you to our generous sponsors!





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