



# **IT'S ALMOST SPRING? NEWSLETTER 2022 #1**

## **2022 SPRING DATES**

### **VOLUNTEER TRAINING**

**TUESDAY 5, 6, AND 7 PM CLASSES**

**THURSDAY 5, 6, AND 7 PM CLASSES**

**APRIL 16**

**APRIL 19 AND 26; MAY 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**

**APRIL 21 AND 28; MAY 5, 12, 19, 26; JUNE 2**

### **POCONO VACATION RAFFLE DRAWING**

**JUNE 2 AT 7:30 PM**

## **THE PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN. SPAGHETTI IT IS.**

Thank you to everyone who gave us thoughtful feedback from our email about a possible change to our Silent Auction menu. Some indicated they liked the nostalgia of our spaghetti dinner. Some suggested alternative additions to accommodate younger attendees and/or give us some variety. Offering extra items would have to add to the cost of the dinner ticket. It was also suggested we could have a potluck type of situation but health department regulations would not allow us to provide food not prepared in commercial kitchens. We are walking the line now with our desserts.

It was unanimous that we did not want to raise the price of the ticket by too much, enough to bring in a caterer. So we will be keeping our menu the same. Our auction will be held Saturday, October 22. Due to increasing food costs and the fact that we now have to pay 4 times what we paid in previous years for hall rental, we will need to raise the cost of our tickets to prepurchase \$12, \$15 at the door, and \$5 for children 8 and under. We have explored options for other locations but there are no cost effective or convenient alternatives.

We also need to find someone to serve as our Chef. Mike will not be returning this year. Of course, we will need kitchen help that day also. Prep starts around noon. If you or someone you know can help out, please let us know. Our Chef does not need to find or gather food. They just need to supervise the kitchen and prepare the food that day.

Please save the date to join us for lots of fun, fellowship and great buys. Bring friends and family too.

## COVID GUIDELINES

PLEASE DO NOT COME

- If you have been out of the country
- If you have been in close proximity to someone known to have COVID symptoms
  - If you have COVID symptoms



If you have been in close proximity to someone known to have COVID symptoms or have COVID, you will need to quarantine for 7 days before returning to Therapeutic Riding.

The wearing of face masks will be optional. If you feel safer wearing one, by all means wear it. Hand sanitizer and the hand washing station will be available.

## VOLUNTEERS – WE NEED YOU

Thank you again to all of our wonderful TRP volunteers. You all did a fantastic job during the fall session. Without our family of volunteers, TRP could not fulfill our goal of providing a safe environment for our riders. Please share highlights from your volunteer experience with family and friends. Perhaps they might be interested in joining our TRP team. More volunteers means I won't have to work you all so hard!

We are also trying to connect with local businesses to help fill our volunteer needs. If you know of businesses wanting to be involved in community activities, please let me know. Thanks again for being the heart of our Program -- Vicki

## SILENT AUCTION REVIEW - ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SILENT AUCTION IS PUT AWAY FOR THE WINTER

BIG NEWS! We just had the most successful Silent Auction yet. After skipping our auction in 2020 due to COVID-19, we came back with a flourish. Putting on a party like ours is a huge undertaking. We sold approximately 244 dinner tickets. It is a testament to our resiliency as a family and community that we are able to pull together and enjoy this fun evening. It takes a lot of people working hard, generous donations from our community and our outside supporters, and YOU to make it happen. We appreciate everything that everyone did to help out. Patti Hawkins made calls to solicit donations; parents pulled their strings to secure donations from businesses they had pull with. So many people helped in many different ways. Thank you to all.

We have always rented a storage unit for the months leading up to the auction but for some reason this year they were scarce and very expensive. We stored the stuff in Kim and Dave's garage. On Silent Auction eve it was all moved to the hall by David and Eric Bell in a horse trailer. There waiting was our army of volunteers and in typical TRP fashion, teaming and ready

to solve the problem. This year we were faced with the daunting task of setting up in a very short time because we were on the clock hourly for the rental of the Fire hall. We managed to rearrange the tables and chairs, set up more tables, unpack the many items from tubs and boxes and place the bid cards. Melissa McLearn once again kept us organized with her layout plan. Stephanie Watkins demonstrated her computer skills to design and print our bid cards. The following people helped to set up the auction: Eric Bell, Stephanie Watkins, Vicki Fried, Holly Feather, Chyrl Ayotte, Mary Ellen Palko, Tammy Gillis, Judy Mellor, Jan Gaglione, Jan Boden, Missy Miller, Brandon Miller, Lee Sayrs, Melissa McLearn, Margie Allen, Pat Herbst and her friend Pam, Linda Gibbons, Rose Bartz and Dave and Kim Pheobus. Like an army of ants we accomplished it in 5 hours.

Once again we enlisted the help of local grocery stores, Walmart and Costco for donations of our food. Sandra at the Firehouse Subs on Kingfisher Drive answered the call providing our bread. Mike Halper led the charge in the kitchen again this year, serving as our 10 star Chef. Vicki Fried and Andrew Glazier were his sous chefs. They provided a tasty meal for all to enjoy. McCutcheon's very generously provided our spaghetti sauce again this year. Krista Liller, Nanette Tummers, Bobbie Denn and Jordan Warner served it up with smiles under their masks. Rose Bartz provided the beer and wine. E.J. Jenkins was our Certified Alcohol Awareness bartender. Kim provided the lemonade and iced tea. Franni Wachter wrangled the dish washing. Janice Staley, Diane Waggy and Sandy Ruckosky served the very important desserts that our families provided. Georgina Engler and Susan Darling managed the \$2 table and Alia Nissley sold 50/50 tickets throughout the evening.

Sally Smith served as our Mistress of Ceremonies doing a great job. Patti Hawkins had surgery and Sally stepped in at a moment's notice and did a wonderful job. Our dinner hour music was provided by Uncle Charlie again this year. We always enjoy seeing him. New this year was the addition of background music. Andrew Darling provided and designed our audio equipment along with curating a great track of background music to enjoy. Brookfield Pumpkins donated pumpkins for decorations and gifts. Rose Bartz printed our programs.

Over the years we have really tried to streamline the auction check out process. Behind the scenes we have people who manage the tabulations, cashier and table monitor tasks. They work frantically to check our bidders out as quickly and efficiently as possible. The following souls survived that detail: Debbie Endlich, Val Pearce, Chyrl Ayotte, Bev Grubbs, Holly Feather, Melissa McLearn, Lori Forcino, Lee Sayrs, Mary Ellen Palko, Rose Bartz, Claire Heasman, Stephanie Watkins, Sally Smith, Ana and Cory Endlich, Lindsey Trout, Joan Shobe, Missy Miller, Georgina Engler, Brandon Miller, Judy Mellor, Mary Kay and Sean Sweeney, Amanda Lipan, Amy and Bradley Robinette, Tammy Gillis, Terry Peters

Special thanks go out to our Auctioneer, Dana Dudley of Double D Auctions. She provided an exciting and enjoyable Live Auction experience. Sarah Steelman was responsible for our good fortune of having a professional present our Live Auction items. Kim Pheobus was the Live Auction secretary and Jacob Jenkins the runner.

Last but not least, thanks go out to all of those TRP warriors who stayed to help us clean up and put the hall back the way it started.

So as they say in show biz, it's a wrap for another year. Incidentally, we made \$18,000 this year; the best ever! Thank you to everyone who had anything to do with this fundraiser. It is our largest fundraiser of the year and we depend on the funds collected to keep our Program running and our horses provided for. COVID-19 has changed and challenged us in every aspect of our lives. Our Program's strength depends on the support, generosity and love we receive from our family and community. Hope to see you next year. Thanks everyone.

**NEW VACATION SPRING RAFFLE – July 24, 2022 thru July 31, 2022  
WESTWOOD AT SPLIT ROCK, LAKE HARMONY PENNSYLVANIA  
THE POCONO MOUNTAINS - DRAWING JUNE 2 AT 7:30**

Susan and Richard Blickenstaff, parents of Derek Murray, who have moved to Cumberland, have generously donated a week in the Pocono Mountains at Westwood at Split Rock. The unit is a wheelchair accessible, 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo. Westwood at Split Rock is nestled amid acres of forest greenery, in the Pocono Mountains. Each villa is a bi-level unit with a full kitchen, living room, two bedrooms (queen-size sofa bed in each), two and a half bathrooms, sauna, hot tub and private balcony, and features vitae casual décor. A 53,326 square foot indoor water park and a 27hole championship golf course are within walking distance.



**OLIVER** came to our program in the spring of 2013, bringing along his owner and donor, John Madison. John decided to join our TRP family, as he deeply cared about assisting disabled individuals, especially the hearing impaired. John was very active in the deaf community. Before therapeutic riding, John and Oliver enjoyed many miles and hours of trail riding.

Oliver settled into therapeutic riding life very easily, adapting to the ramp and lift system and all of our games and toys. His kindness allows our riders whose life involves wheelchairs or walkers to have fun and learn. Oliver is a Belgian-Morgan cross gelding, now 26 years young. In 2019 Oliver developed Fibrotic Myopathy in his right hind leg. Many of you may have notice that he walks funny, a “slappy hind foot”. But he’s ok. The program veterinarian reported that there would be no problem with him working in the program.



Although Oliver enjoys working and spending time with his people, for relaxation, he spends his time with his best friend, Noah, our blind pony. They share a barn and fields and getting dirty together. Oh, yes - Oliver loves treats.



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## 2021 HAPPENINGS

