



HOOFPRINTS

A publication of the THERAPEUTIC & RECREATIONAL RIDING CENTER, INC.

www.trrcmd.org

410-489-5100

trrc01@aol.com

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EDITOR IN CHIEF - DR. HELEN TUEL
WRITER/EDITOR - KATIE ROE

Hoof Prints Returns - a new season upon us!

In August, our most seasoned riding instructor, Debbie French, retired from her position as lead instructor. She will be greatly missed and her contribution has been invaluable to the life of the center. Thank you, Debbie! Thanks to all who came out to celebrate Debbie and especially Cindy Smith for putting together such a fun gathering (see page 2 for photos).

We would like to express our gratitude to all of our donors and volunteers who have continued to support us during these challenging times. Your generosity and dedication have allowed us to keep our programs running and the center's doors open.

We are also excited to announce that we have added a new staff member to our team for riding instruction and assistance in the barn.

Finally, we want to remind everyone that TRRC relies on the kindness and support of our community. If you are able to donate your time or resources, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Together, we can make a real difference in the lives of those who need it most. Thank you for your continued support!

Enjoy this month's newsletter!



In this newsletter:

Center Updates

Community News

Welcome New Staff

Check your helmets!!

Children Matter - Therapy 4 Kids Hiring!

Donate Today

A HEART-FELT *Thank you.*



Community News

Golf Tournament Fundraiser

The 34th Annual TRRC Golf Classic was held this month on Tuesday, September 10th at Queenstown Harbor. Funds raised will largely serve to fortify the center's 2025 budget for equine and program expenses. Occupational therapist, April Odendahl, of Children Matter – Therapy 4 Kids shared a video presentation and spoke about the healing nature of horses in equine-assisted therapy services.

Maryland Horse Industry Board Meeting at TRRC.

The Maryland horse industry board met for their monthly meeting in the bank barn on Thursday, September 12. The purpose of the Maryland Horse Industry Board (MHIB) is "to promote equestrian activities and the use of horses for recreation through promotional activities that create awareness and visibility for the equine industry, educational and research projects to benefit the equine industry, and developmental efforts, such as job training programs, facilities planning and export marketing to stimulate the growth of the local horse economy" (Maryland Dept. of Agriculture, 2024). The monthly meetings are open to the public and TRRC had an opportunity to share the uniqueness of the center with the local horse community.

New Arena – A Dream to Serve.

In 2018, TRRC started the process of building a new arena that was slightly removed from the original indoor space to provide services to children and adults that needed a more secluded and quiet setting to do their equine assisted therapy visits.

This arena is almost ready to be used and we'd love to see the space fully realized for all of its potential! This space could be a treatment space for veterans receiving therapy or children with sensory needs. We are looking for funding opportunities and generous donors to help us finish this project!

Children Matter - Therapy 4 Kids Hiring!

Owner and operator, April Odendahl is looking to add qualified therapy professionals to the team! Children Matter – Therapy 4 Kids is looking for physical therapists, occupational therapists and speech therapists looking to add farm-based services to their resume! Are you trained in providing hippotherapy? Interested in adding farm-based services to your skill set? If you're passionate about making a difference for children and some adults in your community, we want to hear from you! Apply today, call 443-618-0208 and ask for April or visit our website at <https://www.childrenmatter-therapy4kids.org/>.

Howard County Master Gardeners Program

We hope to welcome the Master Gardeners Program of Howard County to our center where they will be able to offer accessible accommodations to aspiring master gardeners with special needs. **Congratulations** to longtime patron, Sharron Snapp, who just received a large grant to enhance the accessible gardening space at TRRC. Aspiring gardeners young and old will be able to enjoy the fruits of this opportunity through upcoming programs the center is excited to offer in collaboration with the Howard County Master Gardeners Program and Sharron.

The Perfect Backdrop

TRRC's rustic and unique feel provides a desired effect for a variety of shoots for historical documentaries and photography endeavors. Several Baltimore based documentaries have used the scenery of the farm as part of their creations.

Know a local photographer looking for a farm setting? Send them our way!

"The road to success is always
under construction."

~ Lily Tomlin



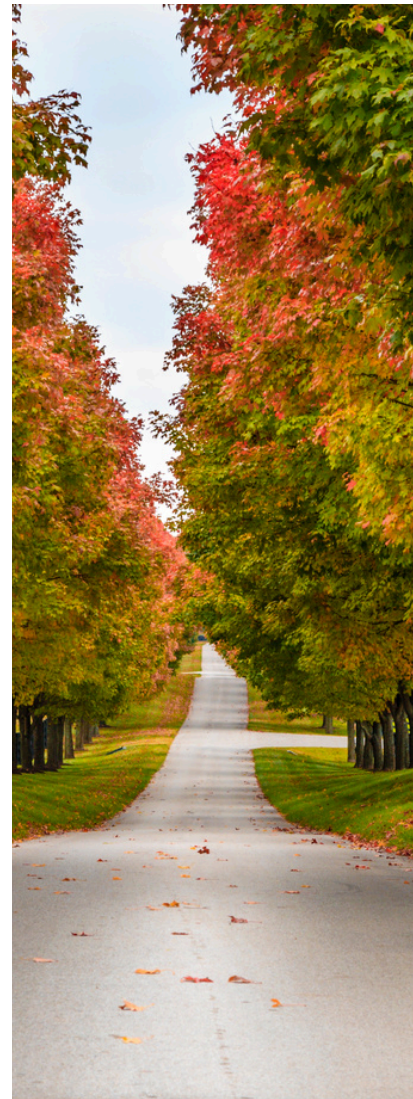
Welcome to our new PATH certified Riding Instructor!



Becca Buffet-Staggs



Becca has been teaching and working with children for about 20 years and has over 10 years of experience teaching people with special needs. Having multiple special needs herself, Becca has a passion for normalizing conversations about special needs and making work, hobbies, and education inclusive and individualized. Becca's background includes riding since 2016, barn managing since 2019, and an intensive therapeutic riding internship. She is a Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor via PATH, Intl. since 2022. Outside of lesson time, Becca enjoys helping rehabilitate animals and caring for any special needs our horses may have. Becca says, "I love that I have found a way to combine my two passions: teaching and animals. I look forward to riding with you!"



VOLUNTEER CLASSES with Becca

Becca will be teaching the following volunteer classes. If you're available to attend, we highly recommend!!

- **PATH Safety Training - Sunday, September 29 @ 5pm and Tuesday, October 1 @ 4pm**

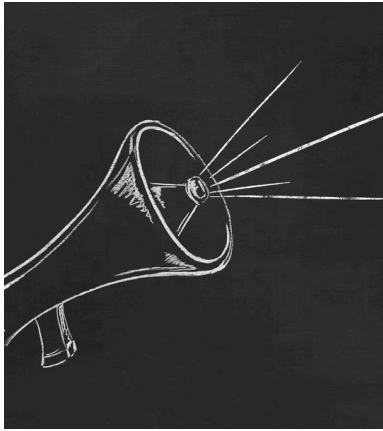
Great for volunteers who like to sidewalk. We will be covering: Assisted mounting, helmet fit, emergency dismount, side walking, and tack checks.

- **Ground Training - Sunday, October 6 @ 5pm and Tuesday, October 8 @ 4pm**

Great for volunteers who like to help take care of the horses in the barn. We will be covering: saddle placement, English v. Western tack, Halter v. Bridle, and teaching Ground Manners to your horse.

- **The Focused Stand - Sunday, October 13 @ 5pm and Tuesday, October 15 @ 4pm**

Great for volunteers who like to lead. We will be covering: lead line safety, Word first ground manners, focused stand training, and lesson expectations.



Announcements!

Check your helmets!!

Did you know your riding helmet has an expiration date? Helmets need to be replaced every 5 years due to safety precautions as materials and normal wear can degrade the protective qualities of the helmet over time. To check your expiration date, look on the inside of your helmet under the padding. There typically is a sticker on the inside that will have the expiration date printed on it. If your helmet is expired, you will need to replace your helmet before your next riding lesson.

We need your help!

Want to know how you can support?

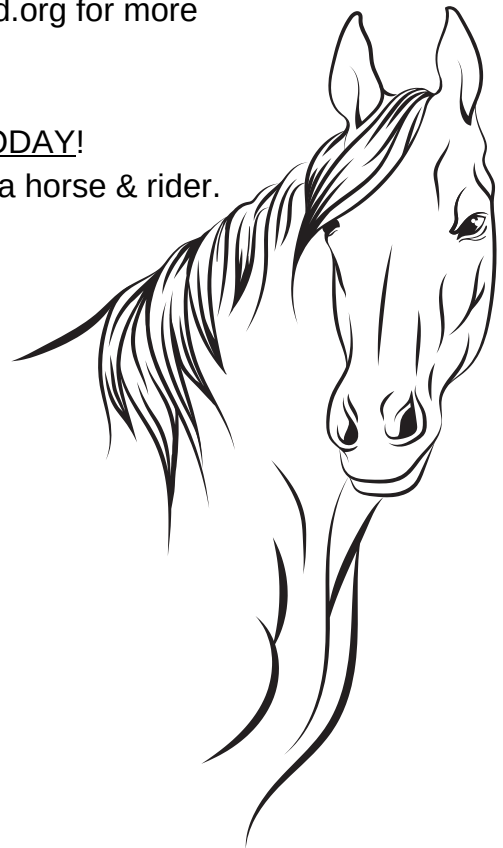
We depend on volunteers to help our programs run. Would you consider volunteering some time with us to help with barn duties or support riding lessons? We will train you. Fill out a volunteer application on our [website](#) or email volunteers@trrcmd.org for more information.

If you don't have volunteer time, you can **DONATE TODAY!**

Financially support our program initiatives or sponsor a horse & rider.

You can donate to the center by using this link:

<https://www.trrcmd.org/make-a-donation>





WE'RE SEEKING A PART
TIME EXPERIENCED

OCCUPATIONAL, PHYSICAL, OR SPEECH THERAPIST

trained in providing hippotherapy services
to children and some adults

If you're passionate about making a difference,
we'd love to hear from you.
Please call 443-618-0208 and ask for April to apply

www.childrenmatter-therapy4kids.org

Thank you for reading!

TRRC, INC.	410-489-5100
www.trrcmd.org	3750 Shady Lane Glenwood, MD