



TEC Connections

The Therapeutic Equestrian Center engages the power of horses to challenge people with special needs to build stronger bodies, minds, and spirits.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 10 & 11: Volunteer Training
- June 24 - Aug. 25: Summer Riding Session
- July 27: 2nd Annual Once Upon a Time 5K (Baroda)
- Aug. 26 & 27: Volunteer Training

www.tecfarm.org

Contact TEC at
(269) 429-0671 or
info@tecfarm.org.



All TEC instructors are certified by and TEC is a member center of:



Kylie Leonard: Brave Enough



Kylie practices her balance as Nellie steps over a ground pole.

When Pat Leonard realized one recent afternoon that it was almost time for her daughter, Kylie's, 5:30 p.m. TEC lesson, she went to Kylie's room to tell her to hurry up and get ready. Kylie, however, was way ahead of her; she was all dressed, right down to her riding boots, and ready to go.

Pat learned about TEC at Blossomland Learning Center, where Kylie is a student. When Pat first asked if she wanted to try riding at TEC, Kylie surprised her by saying YES. Her daughter is not much of a joiner but is, in Pat's words, **"brave enough to do something she wants to do."** Pat is

impressed with what a great program TEC is, and how instructors individualize the lessons for each rider.

Kylie's progress illustrates perfectly how TEC supporters help people with special needs. She currently rides Nellie and does most of her own grooming and saddling.

Her instructor, Margie Hojara-Hadsell, says **"Kylie is excelling in her lessons, and loves trotting. She works hard and has learned new skills and habits that will also serve her away from the barn: focusing, listening, and working hard."**



Kylie readies Nellie for a ride.

Kylie is proud of her accomplishments, and **her confidence has grown to the point where she is a role model for her class.** One of Kylie's goals is to become a volunteer at TEC. We have no doubt she will reach that goal!



This edition of the TEC Connections is sponsored by Larry Sehy in honor of his dear friend, Emily Egan, who is celebrating a very special birthday. Emily has been a horse lover, rider, caretaker, and supporter of TEC since it began.

Thank You Larry and Happy Birthday Emily!



A Family Affair

One of Margie Hojara-Hadsell's favorite things about teaching at TEC is that priceless look on a rider's face the first time they get to trot on their horse. The TEC community is like family to her, and she feels fortunate to be able to give back to it. **She also feels fortunate to be able to log thousands of steps on her fitness tracker while doing something she loves!**

Margie has been a PATH-certified instructor since 1991, and has been a part of TEC since its beginning. She and her husband, Ron, team-taught for many years. For her stepdad, Robert Egan, who was a professional horse trainer and **a firm believer in the power of horses to change lives**, it became the highlight of his last years. Emily, Margie's mom, is still involved in TEC.

During every lesson, TEC instructors have to think about how they're going to help each rider achieve their individual goals, and at the same time consider the well-being of each horse.



Margie poses with Kylie and Nellie before starting a lesson.

The instructors also have day jobs, including an occupational therapist, a substance abuse counselor, a speech pathologist, a social worker, and Margie's job as a Limited Licensed Psychologist. Although Margie chooses to volunteer her time, **most of the TEC instructors are paid, partially through your donations**, in order to maintain the high standards of the program.

Margie has many wishes for TEC. She wishes more people knew about it, and how fantastic it is. She wishes people would come for a visit and decide to volunteer. She wishes she would win the lottery, so she could donate the money to TEC. **And she wishes people understood how good volunteering at the barn makes a person feel, and how at the end of a lesson, she always walks away happy.**

TEC Named Make A Mark Recipient

The Make A Mark campaign was launched in 2018 by Holt Bosse, a full-service marketing agency in St. Joe, as a company-wide initiative that allows the entire team to review applicants and vote on the recipient. The winning nonprofit receives the equivalent of up to \$50,000 of marketing talent and time from the agency's team. Any outside marketing expenses; such as, print cost, ad space, or air time is at the expense of the recipient.



"We are beyond thrilled, this is an incredible opportunity for us," shared Autumn Zick, TEC Board President and Instructor. "Like most volunteer-run organizations, we struggle to find marketing resources to help us spread the word about our organization and this is definitely going to help us make a mark!"

Items being considered for the project include the creation of marketing templates for flyers and communications, audience-specific brochures, print ads, and radio spots. The agency will present an overview of the projects with estimated costs. If costs exceed \$50,000, TEC will prioritize the projects to work within the allotted budget. Watch for updates to come as the project progresses.

Donors Make “I Did It!” Moments Happen



TEC extends a heartfelt thanks to the **St. Joseph Congregational Church UCC** for their generous donation of \$2,000 for hay to feed our hungry herd. The cost of taking care of horses has gone up, and this will take a good-size bite out of our yearly hay expenses!

Riders like Johnny Valantieus will reap the rewards of a \$3,500 grant to TEC from **Heart of Cook**. This money is designated for our Tuition Assistance Program (TAP). TAP is offered to those families who can't afford to pay the full cost of therapeutic riding lessons. The participant fee charged for a group lesson is \$30 (although our cost to provide that lesson is \$45 per person), and our TAP fund was nearly empty. Thank you, Heart of Cook, for making it possible for these riders to participate at TEC!



Thanks to the **Berrien Community Foundation Youth Advisory Committee**, TEC now has \$6,000 in our horse-purchasing budget. They must have realized the importance of these team members, because they gave us their "For Good" grant in the entire amount we requested. This is so greatly appreciated!



We also appreciate the contributions made to TEC by ...



Carrie Bentham
Sally Bogert
Kevin & Kendall Casey
Diane Conover
Beth & Darrin Drollinger
Emily Egan
Richard Freridge
Robert & Keli Gambrill, III
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James & Rachel Whitcomb
Clover Lee Wolford
Autumn & Russ Zick



You Can Make Moments Happen, Too!

Yes! I want to support more “I DID IT!” moments at TEC with this *tax-deductible* donation.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____

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SUMMER 2019

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Mail your donation to: Therapeutic Equestrian Center, PO Box 1250, Niles, MI 49120

Save a stamp! Make your donation online using your debit/credit card or PayPal at www.tecfarm.org/donate.

Therapeutic Equestrian Center

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E-mail: info@tecfarm.org

Website: www.tecfarm.org



**Help
Change
Lives ...
Come
Join
the Fun!**



Horses Change Lives Through TEC

Saturday, July 27 at 8:30 am
Village of Baroda
runsignup.com/onceuponatime5k
Proceeds benefit:

**CHIP TIMED
FAMILY FRIENDLY
FLAT COURSE!**

Therapeutic Equestrian Center
Together ... People & Horses
Challenge • Strengthen • Inspire

After the 5K, enjoy a pancake breakfast to benefit TEC. Check out all that Baroda has to offer including wineries, breweries and distilleries. Then finish off the day with food, music and spirits at the 6th Annual Party on the Pavers!

2nd Annual Once upon a time 5k 07.27.19

Questions? Email racers@swmiracers.org

Scan to get details and register online

