



UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

- 27 - Buc di Beppo Fundraiser
- 30 - Special Needs Sports Fair



AUGUST

- 3 - World of Beer Fundraiser
- 8 - Fall Volunteer Orientation
- 9 - Fall Volunteer Intro Training
- 15-19 - Last Week of Summer Camp
- 23 - Fall Volunteer Orientation
- 25 - Fall Volunteer Intro Training

SEPTEMBER

- 1 - Volunteer Orientation
- 5 - Labor Day, Office Closed
- 6 - Volunteer Intro Training
- 7-8 - PATH Mentor Training
- 8 - Volunteer Intro Training
- 9-12 - PATH Instructor Workshop
- 15 - Fall Session Begins

OCTOBER

- 4 - Volunteer Orientation
- 10 - Columbus Day, Office Closed
- 15 - Horseshoe Hoedown

Rider Profile: Hope and Faith Moberg

Their first names say it all.

Twins Hope and Faith Moberg were born nine years ago several weeks earlier than expected and their futures were uncertain.

Doctors were anything but optimistic.

"It was all doom and gloom," says their mother Joyce.

But that's where hope and faith – the words, not the names – set in.

Not ones to give up, Joyce and Brian Moberg fought with insurance companies, battled red tape and searched out opportunities for their girls.

Through a friend, they discovered Equine-Assisted Therapies of South Florida and also learned about the financial assistance that would make it possible for not one, but two girls to participate in the therapeutic riding program.

At first the idea of putting her girls – who were six at the time – on a horse worried Joyce. "But when I saw how amazingly well the staff worked with the children and handled the horses, I relaxed," she said.

Now, after almost two years in the program they are as comfortable on their horses as you can get. In fact, the two traveled to the state Special Olympics in May where Faith came home with a silver medal and Hope brought home a bronze medal.

"We are so grateful to everyone who is involved with Equine-Assisted Therapies," Joyce says. "When we come here they are full of joy, so excited to do well. Without this beautiful place, I'm not sure if my girls' progress would be so substantial."



Hope and Faith Moberg with their mom Joyce and dad Brian at the ice cream social benefiting EATSF.

Great Volunteers

Congratulations to two outstanding volunteers recognized in May.

Teri Mendez was named volunteer of the month and Nicolas Quijada received the 5th Hoof Award.

Thanks to all the volunteers who make our program possible.

EATSF Wish List



Want to make a contribution that will help EATSF ensure it has all the equipment needed?

Here's our current wish list:

- New Leather Halter – \$60
- Fly Spray – \$15
- New Helmet for Riders – \$50

**To make a donation call
(954) 974-2007**



Summer 2016

Equine-Assisted Therapies

of South Florida, Inc.

Creating a path to unbridled moments. Witness the magic.

EATSF Riders Bring Home Six Medals from State Special Olympics

Eight student riders from Equine-Assisted Therapies of South Florida, including twin sisters and two of three triplets, qualified to compete in the Special Olympics State Equestrian Championships, which were held April 29 and 30 in Weirsdale, near Ocala.

"We're very proud of all of our athletes for the hard work and dedication they have put into developing their riding skills," said Lesson Coordinator Kasey Higgins, who coached the team. "All of our riders demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and class, and represented our team and organization well during the state games."

During the state games, riders representing the Equine-Assisted Therapies team returned with six medals, including one gold medal, three silver medals and two bronze medals.

The gold medal went to 21-year-old Alejandro Ponce-Viso of Pompano Beach, who took first place in the state competition in dressage. He also received a silver medal in the equitation category.

Eight-year-old twin sisters, Hope and Faith Moberg of Deerfield Beach, both brought home medals, with Faith winning a silver medal in the trail riding category and Hope receiving a bronze in equitation.



21-year-old Alejandro Ponce-Viso won both a gold and a silver medal.

Also receiving medals were Leah Fonseca, 10, of Boca Raton, who earned a silver medal in equitation and Asher Lerner, 11, of Hollywood, who won bronze in trail riding.

Other riders who earned the opportunity to compete in the state games were Hannah and Josie Crank of Coconut Creek, and Cassidy Giordanella, 21, of Parkland.

"We're very proud of all of our riders and we're grateful to Kasey, our Volunteer Coordinator Majeeda Panchoo and all the volunteers who worked with all our athletes," said Board Chair Anne Vegso.

DIAMOND SHINING



Diamond, a large pony, is the newest member of the herd

Well-Known Trainer Provides Daughter's Pony to EATSF

When former jockey and now well-known racehorse trainer Kathy Ritvo went looking for a new home for Diamond, a large pony that her daughter had ridden for more than a dozen years before going off to college, she wanted to find just the right place.

"Diamond is special to us because she took care of my daughter," Ritvo said. "She was really too special to sell."

Through a connection that EATSF board chair Anne Vegso had with Suzee Bailey, wife of famed jockey and now NBC announcer Jerry Bailey, Ritvo discovered that the program was looking for a new member of the herd.

After a trip to the EATSF barn, Ritvo knew right away that she had found the right place for Diamond.

"I just thought it was the perfect fit," Ritvo said. "Diamond is really good with kids."

The trainer, who has worked in barns around the world, said she was impressed with what she noticed when she visited EATSF and saw the work Diamond would be doing.

"I knew she would be well taken care of," she said.

Now after several months at EATSF as part of what is known as a "free lease," the 22-year-old paint and quarter horse mix, who had been bred for barrel racing, is continuing to thrive and fill important roles in the herd.

"Diamond is the perfect size to work with small children," said Lesson Coordinator Kasey Higgins. "She's helping them learn to ride independently."

A Time of Change at EATSF

Dear Friends:

We at Equine-Assisted Therapies of South Florida have been fortunate to have outstanding and dedicated staff members working with our students and families for more than 30 years.



Changes are inevitable, however, and as many of you know, we recently said goodbye to Mandy DeBord, our long-time executive director, who resigned in June at the conclusion of our last fiscal year.

For more than a year now, Mandy has been spending as much time as possible with family matters and this change will allow her to be more available to those she holds dear.

All of us at EATSF are proud of the accomplishments that have improved our program and our facility over the years and that have made it possible for so many more to take part in the wonderful therapies we have offered during Mandy's time with us.

We've created a bigger hoof print in our community as a result of these changes and we are committed to continuing this trajectory.

Rest assured that the organization will continue to provide the quality programs that you – our clients, our donors, our volunteers and our friends – have grown to expect and appreciate.

We, as an organization, are fortunate to have a strong staff, a committed board and an overall outstanding program on which to build upon during the transition.

All of us on the board have tremendous confidence in the staff to keep focused on the program and on our top priority, which is to provide the highest quality service to our riders and our families.

We have established a team which will serve as a resource for our staff over the next few months, while we search for a new director. Know that our committee will be working diligently to find the ideal candidate to lead our organization.

On behalf of the board, please join me in wishing Mandy the best!

Best Wishes,

Anne Vegso
Board Chair

Local Businesses Step Up to Help Support Equine-Assisted Therapies

Friends and family members, board members and volunteers as well as students and former students helped EATSF raise money for our program during two events made possible by generous businesses in our community.

In May, many supporters of the organization came to the Cold Stone Creamery at the Promenade in Coconut Creek for a fun time. Then in June, the Kendra Scott store in Boca Raton hosted a "Kendra Gives Back" party and donated 20 percent of all sales that evening back to EATSF.



Chris Davell, Justine Morgan, Anne Vegso and Majeeda Panchoo with Stephanie Constantine (seated) at the Kendra Scott Store in Boca Raton.

The two events together raised several hundred dollars for the organization but more importantly, they helped raise awareness of the program.

"These events were a way for us to make more friends," said Manager of Donor Relations Justine Morgan. "It also helped us spread the word about the great services we provide to the community."

A special thanks goes out to the staffs at both Cold Stone Creamery and Kendra Scott for their support.



Justine Morgan, Laura Moore, Peyton Utset and Kasey Higgins.



Rider Christiane Boni with her mom and little brother.



Cliffette Nicholls and Majeeda Panchoo.

Mark Your Calendars for Hoedown, Special Needs Sports Fair and Fundraisers

A lot will be going on at EATSF in the next few months, so now might be a good time to pull out your calendars and mark down a few dates.

On Saturday July 30, Equine-Assisted Therapies will be bringing together organizations from Broward and Palm Beach counties that provide sports programs to children and adults with special-needs for the first of its kind Special Needs Sports Fair.

Hosted and created by EATSF, the event from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. will include representatives from more than a dozen organizations. There's no charge after the \$1.50 per person park admission.

Two local businesses will be helping EATSF raise money in the next few weeks by hosting fundraisers.

On Wednesday, July 27, Buca di Beppo in Coral Springs will donate 15 percent of your total check back to EATSF on all meals between 11 a.m. and 10 p.m. Then on Aug. 3, World of Beer at the Promenade in Coconut Creek will be hosting a fundraiser from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. with a percentage of profits being donated to EATSF.

And make sure to plan on heading out to the Annual Horseshoe Hoedown, set for Saturday night, Oct. 15.



Riders Show Off Their Skill During Summer Horse Show

Riders, families, volunteers, donors, board members and staff all came together for the End of Year Horse Show held in late June. More than three dozen riders were on hand to show off their riding ability and their special skill.

In the audience this year were representatives of several organizations and groups that have been strong supporters of Equine-Assisted Therapies, including some that had never been to the arena.

Among those attending were Jon Batchelor of the Batchelor Foundation as well as representatives from Jarden Consumer Solutions. Also on hand were Coconut Creek Commissioners Becky Tooley and Sandra Welch, along with ladies from the Children's Aid Club as well as members of the Romanelli and Vestal families, long-time strong supporters of the organization.

EATSF volunteers did an outstanding job of welcoming guests and helping with a variety of fun activities. Hats off to all the volunteers and to our staff – Kasey Higgins, Justine Morgan, Cliffette Nicholls and Majeeda Panchoo – for making the show a great success. Special thanks to our board members - Anne Vegso, Chris Davell, Keith Marchesani and Stan Zeitchick – who helped make our guests feel welcome. Thanks also to photographers Lynn De Stefano and Dave Robshaw.



Anthony McLelland with Jackie Gable and Dawn Dosche and Ronelle Kruger.



Nina Romanelli with Maximus and Justine Morgan.



Coconut Creek Commissioner Becky Tooley, Anne Vegso and Commissioner Sandra Welch.



Rider Matthew Ramsaran with yellow ribbon.



Volunteers helped with a variety of activities including a sack race.



Jon Batchelor of the Batchelor Foundation with Justine Morgan.



Volunteer Tatiana Solis helps a young visitor with arts and crafts.



Justine Morgan with representatives of the Children's Aid Club.



Rider Maya Vasquez gets a ribbon from visitors.