

Equine-Assisted Therapies

of South Florida, Inc.

*Creating a Path to Unbridled Moments.
Witness the Magic.*

Winter 2017

Get Ready for a Fun Sunday Afternoon at the Race Track



All to Benefit Equine-Assisted Therapies of South Florida

On February 26, EATSF supporters will have a chance to be part of A Day at the Races, a fun-filled event at Gulfstream Park that will include lots of horse racing, great food and a chance to place bets, with Hall-of-Fame jockey Jerry Bailey sharing some wagering advice.

"Our A Day at the Races will be a chance for everyone to have fun, learn a little about horse racing from Jerry Bailey, meet new people and support a wonderful cause all at the same time," said Anne Vegso, board chair for Equine-Assisted Therapies.

The Sunday event will begin at 11:30 a.m., with guests being escorted to the Ten Palms Room on the second floor of the grandstands. The air-conditioned room features floor-to-ceiling glass windows and offers what Anne says is "an amazing view" of the track.

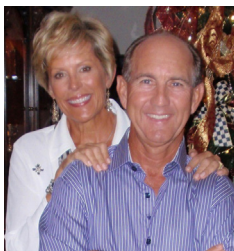
Guests will receive a complimentary glass of wine and access to a well-stocked

buffet that will be available throughout most of the afternoon.

"Gulfstream is known for its fabulous buffet," Anne said.

The event will also feature a drawing for VIP tickets to the Florida Derby on April 1 at Gulfstream Park. The race is considered an important leg on the road to the Triple Crown.

Jerry Bailey, who began a career as a broadcaster for ESPN and later NBC following his retirement from racing, will be available to help guests better understand the sport and handicap races, including a special Equine-Assisted Therapies of South Florida race.



Jerry and Suzee Bailey

Jerry and Suzee Bailey are long-time friends of Anne and Peter Vegso, with Jerry Bailey having been the jockey on several of the thoroughbred horses owned and raced by the Vegsos.

"Suzee and Jerry are both very special people," Anne Vegso said.

Molly Takes the Reins



Molly Murphy Returns as EATSF Executive Director

Few people know Equine-Assisted Therapies as well as Molly Murphy.

A former student who began riding when she was just seven years old, Molly also worked at the barn in a variety of staff positions before she headed back to college to get a master's degree in public administration with a non-profit management certificate from the University of South Florida.

When it came time for the board of directors to choose a new executive director, the decision to bring back Molly was an easy one.

"Molly's been doing an outstanding job since taking the reins late last year," said board chair Anne Vegso. "She brings with her a passion for working with the special-needs community as well as a thorough knowledge of our program. Her strong educational background and her understanding of larger issues facing those with special needs will help guide our program forward."

Diagnosed as a child with spastic cerebral palsy, Molly spent more than a decade as a student in the therapeutic riding program.

"I am aware of obstacles to individuals in the special-needs community," she said. "What my master's degree did was allow me to see strategies and solutions to those barriers."

With a focus right now on bringing stability to Equine-Assisted Therapies and filling open positions with applicants who will be the right match, Molly also has a strong long-term vision for the organization.

"I'm passionate about what we can do, not only for the organization but for the community at large," she said.

Tickets for A Day at the Races are \$125 per person and can be obtained by calling 954-974-2007 or by visiting www.Equineatsf.org

Welcoming Molly Murphy

Dear Friends,

Finding a new leader for any organization is never a simple process.

For all of us on the board of Equine-Assisted Therapies, finding the right person to take the reins was a decision we took seriously.



With the help of a search committee and an outside firm, we considered dozens of applicants over several months. One stood out above all the rest – Molly Murphy.

We are so pleased to have Molly back and especially pleased with the way she has hit the ground running.

Since returning to the EATSF family in late November, Molly has placed a focus on strengthening our program – and as always, ensuring the safety of our students as we move through a time of transition.

She is working hard as she continues to build stability within the program and is looking to fill a couple of vacant staff positions as she builds her team.

In the interim Molly has taken a few steps. They include:

- Bringing back Alison Plaza, a former program director here at EATSF and a master-level instructor certified by PATH, as a consultant to provide additional training and mentoring for the EATSF instructor team.
- Hiring qualified instructors to help teach classes and provide leadership within our program.
- Working on developing a program that can help us effectively measure student progress so that we can report those positive changes to you – parents and guardians.

All of these changes – and the many yet to come – are reassuring to those of us on the board and we hope, reassuring to you.

We're confident that our program will only keep getting better under Molly's watch. Thank you all for your support of EATSF.

Best regards,

Anne Vegso, Board Chair

EATSF Receives \$2,000 Morgan Stanley Foundation Grant

Howard Lerner knows first hand how good a company like Morgan Stanley is to have in a community.

A senior vice president and wealth advisor a member of the Morgan Stanley team for more than 20 years, Howard has also been a strong supporter of Equine-Assisted Therapies for more than seven years after his son Asher became a student.

As it does with some of its more than 40,000 employees, Morgan Stanley, through its Morgan Stanley Foundation, has matched Howard's donations to EATSF.

Recently, however, the foundation went one step further, donating an additional \$2,000 to Equine-Assisted Therapies, matching the value of Howard's volunteer time to the organization.

"It's nice to see that my company is willing to take my time and turn it into money for EATSF," said Howard, a member of the organization's board of directors since 2014.

And its not just money the foundation is providing to EATSF. It's also recognition.

In January, a film crew hired by the foundation was in South Florida to produce a video about Howard's involvement with the organization.

That video, featuring Howard as one



Howard Lerner and his son Asher are filmed by a crew from the Morgan Stanley Foundation.

of the company's VIP Grant recipients, will be posted on the company's website and sent to all of the members of the Morgan Stanley family worldwide.

The grant and the matching funds provided to non-profit organizations – especially those helping children – are just a few of the ways Morgan Stanley supports communities where its team members live and work.

The company also hosts Global Volunteer Month in June where employees help non-profit organizations. Last year, more than 300,000 volunteer hours were donated in cities around the world, including locations in South Florida.

EATSF Rider Holiday Party



Riders and their families gathered with staff and volunteers for the annual Rider Holiday Party. With everything from arts and crafts to dancing and, of course, outstanding desserts, the party was a great success. Special thanks to Chris and Joyce Davell, who helped make the event so much fun.

HOLLY JOLLY HORSE SHOW

Congratulations to all of the students participating in our Holly Jolly Horseshow at the end of the winter session. All of our riders did an excellent job, showing off their riding ability and showing us their special skills. Thanks goes to all our supportive family members who helped make it a day to remember and, of course, to our wonderful volunteers who are always invaluable.

—Photos by Lynn DeStefano and Chris Davell



Calendar

March

- 7 Volunteer Orientation
- 14 Volunteer Info Training
- 18 Last Day
of Winter Session
- 20 – April 8 No Classes
- 25 Brad Vestal
Golf Tournament

April

- 10 Spring Session Begins

May

- 7 JET Benefit Concert

Special Thanks Outstanding Volunteer Andrew Powell

When the team at EATSF needs a little muscle to get job done, they turn to Andrew Powell. A volunteer who received the organization's 5th Hoof Award as the outstanding volunteer during the fall session, Andrew is the "go-to" guy for the EATSF team, doing everything from pulling weeds to being a side walker for students such as Ari Manevitch and Hope Moberg.

When it appeared a hurricane might be coming our way, Andrew was called up to put up storm shutters. He was also there to put up holiday lights.

"Anytime they need a little muscle, I'm more than happy to get down and dirty," he said.

Not only does Andrew help around the barn, he also helped raise money for EATSF, producing a kickball tournament on Dec. 18 that had close to a dozen teams.

A volunteer head referee for the competitive division in a local kickball league, Andrew arranged for teams – both competitive and recreational – to play in the tournament and also brought in a few sponsors who helped supply food and beverages.

Andrew's introduction to Equine-Assisted Therapies came from a friend who knew of the organization and thought he could help.

The owner of a company that consolidates student loans, Andrew, 38, says he has the flexibility to help out at the barn.

"I really wasn't looking to volunteer," he said, adding that when he first came to the barn, he knew he could make a difference. "I saw they needed a lot of manual work."

Soon after he started helping out, he says, he was sure he would be coming back again and again.

"Once I started working with the kids and the horses I was hooked, he said. "When I came here, I just fell in love with the place. You walk in and you can just feel the love."



Special Olympics



Cassidy Giordanella and Mariah Harris show off their ribbons after riding in the Broward County Special Olympic games hosted by EATSF. Congratulations to both and to all of the other EATSF student athletes who took part in the event.