

Equine-Assisted Therapies

of South Florida, Inc.

Creating a path to unbridled moments. Witness the magic.

Enjoy A Day at the Races — Event Set for February 25 —

Equine-Assisted Therapies is returning to Gulfstream Park for the Second Annual Day at the Races, set for Feb. 25.

Guests at “A Day at the Races,” which begins at 11:30 a.m., will join honorary chairs Anne and Peter Vegso in Gulfstream Park’s Ten Palms Room on the second floor of the grandstands. The air-conditioned room features floor-to-ceiling glass windows overlooking the track.

“The view is amazing,” Anne Vegso said.

Guests will each receive a complimentary glass of wine and access to the well-stocked buffet, which will be available most of the afternoon. In addition, guests will have an opportunity to place wagers on the races, including special Equine-Assisted Therapies of South Florida races.

“A Day at the Races is a great way to enjoy horse racing and some great food while meeting new people and supporting an amazing organization,” Anne Vegso said.

Longtime supporters of non-profit organizations in South Florida – especially those that serve children and families – Anne and Peter Vegso of Boca Raton have also been involved in racing for many years. Owners of the Vegso Racing Stable in Ocala, which trains and races thoroughbreds, the Vegos are well known throughout the racing community.

“We are very excited about serving as honorary chairs for this outstanding event,” said Anne Vegso, chair of the board of Equine-Assisted Therapies. “Last year was our organization’s first year hosting the event and it was a great success.”

Owners of Health Communications Inc. in Deerfield Beach, the Vegos have supported many South Florida organizations and are proud to combine their passions of horseracing and philanthropy to impact the mission of Equine-Assisted Therapies of South Florida.

“We are pleased to have Anne and Peter as our honorary chairs for A Day at the Races,” said Molly Murphy, executive director of Equine-Assisted Therapies of South Florida. “Together they have been instrumental in the success of our organization for many years.”

Tickets for A Day at the Races are \$125 per person with general admission and \$200 for premium seating.

EATSF Raises Close to \$100,000 During 9th Annual Horseshoe Hoedown



The family of long-time veterinarian Dr. Jerry H. Rudnick joins EATSF Executive Director Molly Murphy (fourth from right) during the naming of a training arena in his honor.

225 Attend Annual Fundraising Event

Great music, outstanding food, a therapeutic riding demonstration and even an impromptu marriage proposal highlighted Equine-Assisted Therapies of South Florida’s 9th Annual Horseshoe Hoedown.

The casual yet elegant event, held at the organization’s Vegso Family Arena in Tradewinds Park in Coconut Creek, raised close to \$100,000 that will be used to support programming.

“This year’s Hoedown was one of our most successful yet,” said Board Chair Anne Vegso. “Everyone had a great time as we continued to receive outstanding support from our sponsors and our guests.”

The more than 220 people attending this year’s Hoedown once again heard from the Andrew Morris Band and had a chance to dance to

the music. An outstanding buffet from A Passion for Catering featured herb-roasted chicken, barbecued pork and much more.

The evening included a riding demonstration by students with special needs in the Equine-Assisted Therapies program in addition to a silent auction, a champagne diamond drop and assorted fun and games.

Also, during the Hoedown, the organization unveiled the naming of its training arena, the Dr. Jerry H. Rudnick arena in memory of the organization’s late long-time veterinarian and supporter.

“This event would not have been as successful without the work of our outstanding committee,” said Executive Director Molly Murphy. “Everyone really put in a lot of effort and it showed.” **continued on page 3**

Getting Stronger Everyday

A Note from Our Board Chair

Dear Friends,

2017 is in the record books and it was a good year for Equine-Assisted Therapies, as we developed a new leadership team and worked to build our already strong programming.

As we look ahead, we're very optimistic about the future of our organization and about what can be done in 2018 because Equine-Assisted Therapies of South Florida is getting stronger every day.

Our growth and our progress is coming on many fronts, from stabilizing our programming to strengthening our staff and from building our team of volunteers and from creating financial stability through outstanding special events and outreach efforts.

All of us on the board cannot say enough about our dedicated staff, which added a few new faces last year and has now gelled as a cohesive group under the leadership of our Executive Director Molly Murphy.

Our new program coordinator Kimberly Sauer has been doing a great job keeping our program strong and helping to make events such as our December horse show and the Special Olympics a success. This year we're hoping to send a few athletes to next month's state games.

Our group of volunteers is now 190 members strong and we're working to improve our training processes so everyone can continue to grow and learn.

Through Carrots and Coffee, we're continuing to build a base of community advocates and we're making many new friends through our Days of Service. Our thanks goes out to Jet Blue, SBA Communications and Home Depot for their help.

We're also making friends through our special events, including the annual Horseshoe Hoedown, which this year was a financial success, generating a record amount of funds for the organization.

This month, we're hosting our second annual A Day at the Races, an event at Gulfstream Park that features a gourmet buffet, live and silent auctions and a special Equine-Assisted Therapies race. My husband Peter and I are pleased to be the event's honorary chairs and we look forward to seeing many of you there.

Above all else, our organization continues to grow stronger because of those of you who continue to lend your support and we are forever grateful.



With Gratitude,
Anne Vegso,
Board Chair

Celebrating Our Riders

EATSF is proud of all our students with everyone continuing to grow through our therapeutic riding program. Over the course of the last few months, our students had a chance to show off their skills during the Stu-

dent Horse Show at the end of the year and the Broward County Special Olympics Equestrian Games. Our students also had a chance to enjoy themselves during the annual rider holiday party.



Photos by Chris Davell, Lynn DeStefano, Anthony McLelland, Dan Medeiros and Majeeda Panchoo

9th Annual Horseshoe Hoedown

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Members of the Horseshoe Hoedown Committee were: Linda Castello, Chris Davell, Adria Coleman-Thomas, Monique Keitz, Keith Marchesani, Athenee Mastrangelo, Laura Moore, Mara Murphy and Stacy Win.

Sponsors for the 9th Annual Horseshoe Hoedown were: Ladenburg Thalmann; Vector Group; Calvin, Giordano & Associates; Vegso Family Foundation; Publix Super Markets Charities; Kiwanis Club of Deerfield Beach; Health Communications, Inc.; The Spectrum Group at Morgan Stanley; 3Deers.com; Hillsboro Club; Thomas Produce Company; The Seed Coffee & Juice; Lagunitas Brewing Company, Bedner Growers and Tito's Handmade Vodka.

"We are grateful to all our sponsors whose support helped make this year's Hoedown a great success," said Development Director David Plath.

(right) Laura Moore and Star demonstrate how the action of a horse helps riders.



Photos by Dan Medeiros



Chloe DiLaura, Nicole DiLaura, Stacy Win, Krista Kennedy, Elaine Wheatley



Carole Putman, Anne Vegso and Marina Morbeck



Dale and Monique Keitz



Justine Morgan and Stephanie Scheinman



Joyce and Chris Davell



Andrew Morris and the Andrew Morris Band provided outstanding music



Gail and Brian Handleman



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

11:30am – 6:30pm

In The

TEN PALMS ROOM

At



CALENDAR

Feb. 17 – Special Olympics Area 10 Equestrian Game, 9 a.m., Van Kampen Arena, Wellington

Feb. 22 – Office Closed for Presidents' Day

Feb. 25 – A Day at the Races, Gulfstream Park, 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

March 1 – Volunteer Orientation, 5 p.m.

March 5 – Introduction to Sidewalking, 5 p.m.

March 17 – Winter Riding Session Ends

March 24 – Special Olympics State Games Weirsdale, FL

April 5 – Volunteer Orientation, 5 p.m.

April 9 – Introduction to Sidewalking, 5 p.m.

April 9 – Spring Riding Session Begins

April 12 – Carrots & Coffee, 9 a.m.

May 3 – Volunteer Orientation 5 p.m.

May 7 – Introduction to Sidewalking, 5 p.m.

May 28 – Office Closed for Memorial Day

May 31 – Summer Camp Volunteer Orientation 5 p.m.

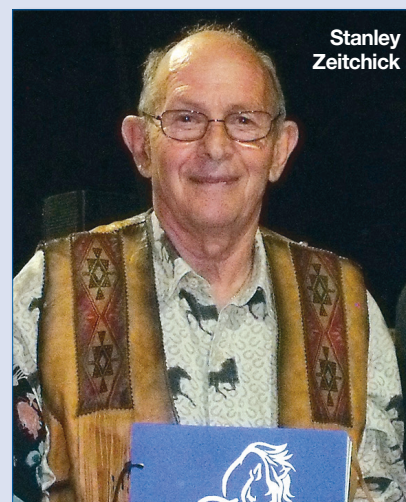
Equine-Assisted Therapies Announces the Stanley & Carol Zeitchick Scholarship Fund

Equine-Assisted Therapies of South Florida, Inc. is please to honor longtime supporters Stanley and Carol Zeitchick of Boca Raton through the formation of a named scholarship fund to provide access to the unique healing experience of connecting with and riding horses for children and adults with special needs.

The Zeitchicks have been active with the organization since its inception in 1982. Stanley has served on the Board of Directors since 1991, while Carol helped on numerous event planning committees until her passing in 2016.

The Zeitchicks were instrumental in the development of the Equine-Assisted Therapies programs and campus. Their dedication helped to spearhead the growth of the organization from 6 riders on a Saturday to 90 students riding 6 days a week.

Once the organization found a permanent home, the Zeitchicks were instrumental in expanding services and building a covered arena and learning center. Today, Stanley looks forward to



the future of the organization.

The Stanley & Carol Zeitchick Scholarship Fund will provide financial assistance for children and adults with special needs whose families would not be able to afford this valuable alternative therapy. Donations to the fund may be made by contacting David Plath at (954) 974-2007.