

# Muzzles



R•E•A•C•H Therapeutic Riding Center

Summer 2013



## It's Summertime!

We are thrilled to see all our riders for our Summer 2013 semester! Summer is a time to re-energize, enjoy the sunshine, and have new experiences. At REACH, we feel the energy in the air. The horses are ready to be ridden after a spring break of playing in the rain and mud.

Krystin Snodgrass is back! She has been diligently working on summer lesson plans. It has been a joy to have Krystin's baby, Jaxon, around the barn. He adds his own giggles and energy to our preparations. Kristin Volcik and Sue Fleshman are hard at work coordinating volunteers and I have been busy organizing the schedule and invoices.

Horses for Heroes continues to flourish under the leadership of Larry Barnett and Karen Fraser. The program averages four independent riders weekly, which is double the number from its humble beginnings of two participants, who had never been on horses. In all our programs, including Therapeutic Riding and Hippotherapy as well, we welcome returning riders and are eager to greet new riders!

My best to everyone,  
Kim Hernandez  
Operations Director

## Mark Your Calendar Summer 2013 Session Dates

June 11 - July 13

No Classes: Thursday, July 4

www.REACHtrc.org  
Ride@REACHtrc.org  
www.Facebook.com/REACHtrc  
254-848-7888



## Third Annual Horses for Healing Dinner – An Even Bigger Success than Last Year!

Held in April, our third annual *Horses for Healing Dinner* and fund-raiser exceeded our lofty goals – for the third year in a row! With more than 180 people in attendance, the highlights of the night were the live and reverse horse auctions, which auctioned off the care of our therapy horses, an extensive silent auction, and program by guest M.C. Kris Radcliffe of local TV station KCEN.

This year our horse care auction featured a costume contest among the staff to decorate their horses in the colors of Texas universities and colleges. Bly took high bid as a Baylor Bear!

Thank you to Volunteer Coordinator Kristin Volcik for spearheading



the entire event. Kudos to Diane McEachern and Candace Harrison for once again heading up the sponsorship committee. Thank you to staffer Regan Evans for manning the Pony Club membership booth. Auctioneers Mike and Ross Dennis kept the auctions lively. And a final huge thank you to all the volunteers who

helped set up, greet and check in guests, park the cars, give barn tours, collect the silent auction bids and clean up afterwards!

See everyone next year!



## New Semester Brings New Changes at the Barn

When you come to the barn this summer, you'll notice some changes. Barbara Epps has stepped down as Program Director to take a graphic design position in Fort Worth.

"It was a very difficult decision," says Barbara. "Although I will be working in graphic design now, REACH will always be my passion."

Barbara will travel to Fort Worth as needed for her job and volunteer her time to continue marketing and planning for REACH. She plans to improve her riding and teaching skills over the summer.

Volunteer Coordinator Kristin Volcik has also made the tough decision to leave REACH.

"Due to family health issues that have arisen," says Kristin, "I feel that I need to be more flexible and accessible to my family right now."

Kristin will stay involved with REACH through June and has promised to help with the 2014 fund-raiser dinner. She's done such a great job in the past it's terrific she'll be available next year.

Office Manager Sue Fleshman will be getting out of the office and into the barn as she steps into the Volunteer Coordinator position. Look for Sue to be sending out the weekly volunteer emails and scheduling.

Long time, local horse professional Shea Ruggles will be joining the REACH staff as Program Director. Shea is a top-level CHA instructor (Certified Horsemanship Association) who will be getting her PATH certification in order to step into teaching this fall. Shea will also be overseeing the equine staff.

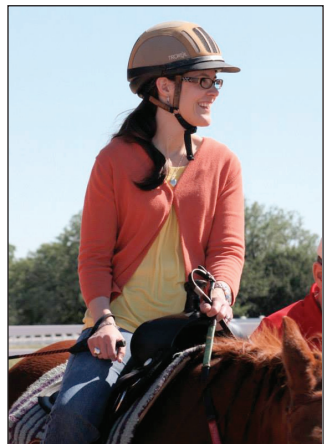
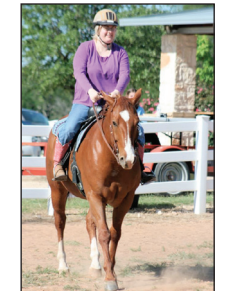
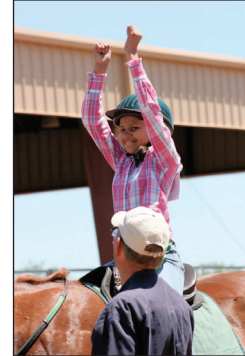
*The use of the riding facility is made possible through the generosity of Gary and Diane Heavin.*

# Spring Horse Show Brings Lots of Smiles

We had a special treat this year - The Rhinestone Cowgirls opened the show with a tribute to America. Horses for Heroes Coordinator Karen Fraser proudly displayed the American flag aboard her beautiful paint gelding.

Thank you to all the tireless volunteers who make our shows possible and to the families and friends who support our riders. Congratulations to everyone!

More pictures at  
[www.facebook.com/reachtrc](http://www.facebook.com/reachtrc)





*Honoring soldiers injured in service  
in partnership with the horse.*

## Accolades & Opportunities for REACH Horses for Heroes Program

The Equine Services for Heroes program is doing well and there are some interesting things going on.

REACH recently received a copy of Texas Resolution; H. R. No. 1952, signed by Charles "Doc" Anderson, State Representative District 56, Speaker of the House, Joe Straus, and Chief Clerk of the House, Robert Haney. A small segment from that resolution follows:

*"RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Legislature hereby congratulates all those involved with the Horses for Heroes program on winning first place float at the McLennan County Veterans' Day Parade and extends to them sincere best wishes for the future."*

A complete copy of this document will be kept at the REACH office. Please take a moment to look at it when you have time.

We have been coordinating with Dr. Beth Lanning of Baylor University to position REACH as one of three centers that will participate in an upcoming research study. The study involves the examination of the effects of equine-assisted activities on PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) symptoms. REACH will be participating with the Ride On Center for Kids of Georgetown, Texas, and Rainier Therapeutic Riding Center, located in Yelm, Washington. Dr. Lanning submitted the 127-page grant request last week. The study is set to begin in January of 2014.

Finally, REACH has another opportunity to assist veterans with PTSD coming up this fall. The Veterans Administration in Waco has offered us an opportunity to receive between four and eight veterans one afternoon a week. This program has previously been at Ropin' Hope Rehabilitation in Bremond, Texas. That facility is closing and we were highly recommended by their Executive Director, Becky Aaron. The patients are enrolled in a controlled eight-week program for treatment of PTSD. The VA will bring the veterans out for three hours one afternoon each week to enjoy being around horses and learning basic horsemanship. The VA will also bring therapists and other equine specialists.

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## Saddle Up! Summer Camp Raises Funds for Disabled Programs

It's not too late to sign up! Campers will get a hands-on learning experience in all aspects of horsemanship as they learn safety,

health, nutrition, grooming, saddling and, of course, riding. Contact Kim Hernandez, [operations@reachtrc.org](mailto:operations@reachtrc.org), for more information.



### Join the 2013 REACH Pony Club

It's also not too late to join the club and be the power behind our horses! Receive an *I Support REACH window sticker* for your car, a *REACH Your Potential coffee mug*, or the cool new *iReach "There's an app for that!" t-shirt* for 2013, designed just for Pony Club members.

Stop by the office or join online at [www.REACHtrc.org](http://www.REACHtrc.org).

*There's an app for that!*

REACH PONY CLUB • 2013