

BOWLING FOR PONIES



DAY AT THE DERBY



GOLF TOURNAMENT



RIDE-A-THON



ARTISAN AUCTION & DINNER

SARI THERAPEUTIC RIDING 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



Magda and Kerry anxiously awaiting their turn in the ring at the Tri Country Carriage Association Driving Competition in Clinton, Ontario.

Mission

We provide opportunity for people with special needs to move towards greater independence and freedom through their connection with horses.

Vision

A community where individuals realize their potential.

Executive Director's Message

While every day spent at SARI is guaranteed to have uplifting moments, 2017 marked at least two significant accomplishments and many more reasons to celebrate.

We kicked off the year in January, celebrating a significant milestone; Farm Manager Kenny Charron's 30th Anniversary with SARI! Kenny and his wife Nancy were treated to a limo ride to lunch with SARI's founders Jeanne and Syd Greenberg and Kenny was presented with the annual Care and Commitment Award and trophy. We couldn't know at the time how special that formal luncheon date would be for Kenny and Syd.

Sadly, on March 29th, Syd passed away at the age of 95. How fortunate he was to live such a long and fulfilling life, watching SARI grow, prosper, and thrive for 39 years.

On April 19th SARI reached another significant milestone! After almost two years of negotiating the purchase of additional property, SARI became the proud new owner of an additional 8.2 acres, increasing the facility size to 13.2 acres. While several exciting possibilities have been discussed, the number one priority will be to provide much needed pasture for the 19 resident horses. We look forward to 2018 being a year of development of the new property.

Operationally, it was another great year for SARI. The five programs that are now staple offerings were at or close to capacity. Hippotherapy—therapy conducted by a licensed therapist using a horse as the treatment modality—was offered for a second summer, and SARI conducted its first Equine Assisted Therapy Study for Military Veterans with a diagnosis of PTSD. While we were challenged to recruit enough participants for the latter, the anecdotal outcomes were very compelling.

SARI's Riding Program continued to be of primary interest and the most subscribed to with 110 riders participating in 2017. As Deanna—Mother of 13 year old Trinity— explained, Besides the obvious physical benefits that offer weekly exercise, improved flexibility, balance and muscle strength development, there are the emotional and psychological rewards including friendships, commitment, respect, decision making, thinking, goal setting, communication and problem solving.

The SARI "village" continued to be awe inspiring throughout 2017, and deep caring was evident throughout the year. The Staff and Volunteers initiated and participated in getting riders to three competitions off-site; they organized the in-house Show Your Stuff so that all participants had an opportunity to shine; their creativity was in full-swing for Spooktacular and the Holiday Open House; they gave of their time to have Tinker & Belle once again in the Hyde Park Santa Claus Parade; they hosted more than a dozen tours and corporate work groups; they educated several co-op students on how horses provide the opportunity for people with special needs to achieve greater freedom and independence.

As SARI celebrates 40 years of Changing Lives Stride by Stride in 2018, I look forward to building on the many successes we experienced in 2017 and to the exciting possibilities that the expanded facility will bring.



Diane Blackall
Executive Director

SARI STAFF

Diane Blackall
Executive Director

Kenny Charron
Farm Manager

Janine Langley
Program Manager

Sarah Keays
Administrative Coordinator

Terry Power
Volunteer Coordinator

Frances Hickmott
Volunteer Coordinator

Kenzie Scott
Program Instructor

Kathryn Mathyssen
Program Instructor

Sue Browne
Program Instructor

Brittany Preston
Program Instructor

Brooke Wheatley
Barn Staff

Lesley Tichbourne
Barn Staff

Amanda Lynch
Barn Staff

Madison Poultnay
Barn Staff

Katie Westwood
Barn Staff

Sarah Walton
Little Britches Facilitator

Arleigh Shaw
Summer Camp Director

Tianna Evans
Summer Camp Counsellor

Erin Driscoll-Davies
Summer Camp Counsellor

Tryla Thorpe
Summer Camp Counsellor

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Sahand Izad
Consultant

Tracy Lawrence
Director, London Life

Helen McCluskey
IS Program Manager, London Life

Norm Verrinder
Parent Representative
Consultant, Sales & Marketing

President's Message

2017 has been another successful year for SARI Therapeutic Riding, thanks to the support of donors, dedicated staff and volunteers, and the families we serve. The following pages of this annual report will showcase the work we do and the community formed by all those who come together to make SARI a success!

As outgoing President I want to take this opportunity to thank our 2017 Board Members for their caring dedication and generous support of SARI. In particular I would like to thank departing Board Members Susan Morel, Emily Assini and Mari Udarbi for their enthusiastic commitment to the organization. Susan played a key role in getting our PTSD program off the ground this past year. Emily has served as our Ride-A-Thon Chair for the past four years and also served as the Board Secretary in 2017. All three have spent countless hours serving on the board and event committees, which is indispensable to the success of the organization.

To that end, on behalf of the Board I would also like to thank all of SARI's volunteers. Our lesson volunteers and volunteer instructors, who help with the riding, driving and grooming programs are vital to SARI, not only do they become an important part of the experience for our participants, but they also make the unique programming offered at SARI financially feasible. Our lesson volunteers logged 13,197 hours in 2017, which would equate to over \$155,000 in wages. In addition, the success of SARI's fundraising events and many other aspects of SARI's governance and operations depend largely on the time, talent and treasure given by our volunteers. In short, we could not run such an exceptional organization without the commitment of our volunteers, week after week, month after month and in many cases, year after year.

Finally, on behalf of the Board, I would like to thank our kind and capable staff team for the passion they bring to work at SARI for the benefit of our participants. In particular I would like to thank our Executive Director, Diane Blackall, for her leadership and for all of the work she does; she is a true champion of SARI and we are very fortunate to have her to represent the organization in such a professional manner throughout the community.

2018 holds much promise for SARI. Our 40th Anniversary will be a chance to look back on Jeanne and Syd's original vision and celebrate what it has become. As we work to develop the additional property purchased in 2017, our aspirations for what SARI can be will begin to take shape. I look forward to continuing to work with such a fantastic group of people; both continuing and new board members, staff and volunteers, as Past President following the AGM in March 2018.

Sarah Kirshin-Neilans

Sarah Kirshin-Neilans
Board President



Our Riders Succeed!

Our participants range in age from four to sixty-eight years old, each with unique special needs. While there is a wide spectrum of special needs represented at SARI, the most common diagnoses are Cerebral Palsy and Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Registrations in 2017 were:

Therapeutic Riding/Driving/Grooming— 137

Summer Camp— 34

Little Britches —22

Total: 193 individuals served in one or more programs

Outcome Measurement for Riding Program

At the start of the riding year in September, 2016, guardians/participants were asked to identify goals on which to focus for the riding year of September to June. Areas of focus included Communication, Social Skills, Independence and Physical Activity. Riders were evaluated in September and then again in June. They were rated on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being 'Does Not Do' and 5 being 'Does Very Well'.

Pre and Post scores of 95 riders were compared and the following outcomes were noted:

87% of riders had increased their communication skills

81% of riders showed an increase in social skills

83% of riders increased their physical activity

79% of riders had increased independence



SARI participants and volunteers connecting, learning and growing through their interaction with horses.

2017 Parent Feedback

Our parents have shared some of the ways in which SARI has helped their children grow and develop in 2017.

- *Really strong relationships with male volunteers building. Does not have a lot of daily male relationships in his life so this is really nice to see.*
- *Learning new skills listening to direction.*
- *Improved posture, balance.*
- *Confidence with horse.*
- *I like the connection with other parents, volunteers etc. We do have a lot to talk about typically during the lesson in the waiting/observation area. My daughter loves SARI. She loves the volunteers and the instructors and the horses of course. She gains confidence by being at SARI. She does a lot of activity and has a high level of energy and is very verbal. Her confidence and social skills have improved here and her riding is good. I am happy will all of that.*
- *Increased confidence and stretching muscles.*



SARI has been a place of growth, comfort and independence for Holly in a world where the everyday nine year old tasks can be challenging. We have always wished she could bring her horse to school with her each day so the calming energy and confidence she exhibits while riding could transfer to the classroom!
—Holly's Parents

SARI Ambassadors



"Riding means the world to Olivia. It shows her that she gets the same opportunity as her brother to participate in sport. She feels independence and joy as she sees me from the sidelines cheering her on. She is PROUD of herself and for that we are grateful." —Parent

Olivia McIntosh
SARI Ambassador 2017



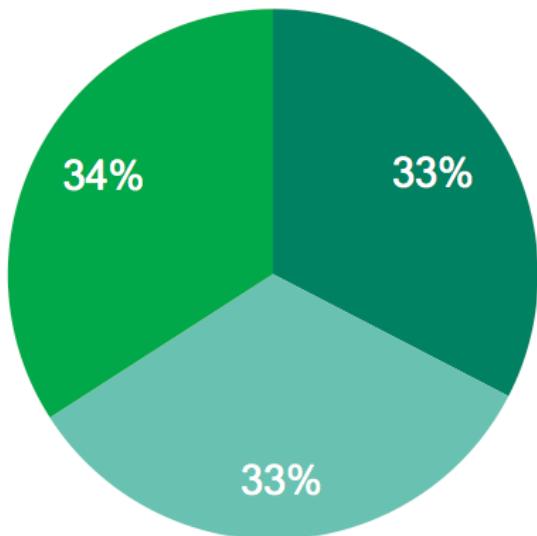
"I have been naming every one of my stuffies Vixen; that's how much I love Vixen!" —Morgan

"I like my instructors because they like me and help me to get off the horse." —Liam

Liam and Morgan Phillips
SARI Ambassadors 2018

Finances

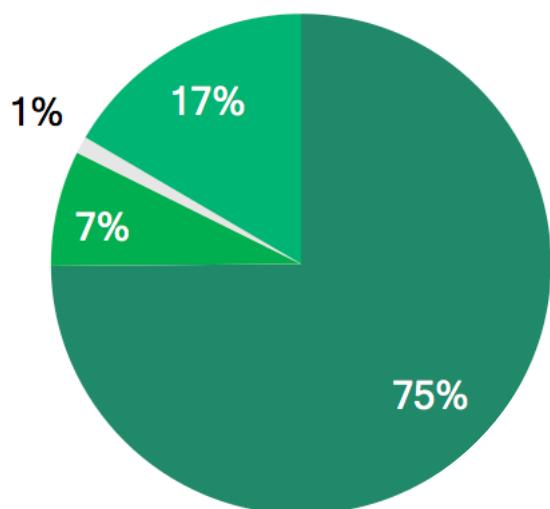
Revenue



■ Donations & Grants ■ Fundraising Receipts ■ Fees for Services

Total Revenue: \$454,565

Expense



■ Payroll ■ Administration ■ Operating ■ Stable

Total Expense: \$422,360

2017 Fundraising Results

Adopt-A-Pony \$18,033.27
 Artisan Auction & Dinner \$8,929.21
 Bowling For Ponies \$21,677.48
 Car Parking \$7380.88
 Golf Tournament \$49,608.90
 Day at the Derby \$25,791.47
 Ride-A-Thon \$15,807.67

Save the Date 2018

Bowling for Ponies March 4
 Day at the Derby May 5
 Golf Tournament June 18
 Ride-A-Thon September 23
 Artisan Auction & Dinner November 15

SARI Therapeutic Riding is a Registered Charity; Charitable Business Number 119159283 RR0001
 SARI receives approximately 11% of its annual operating budget from United Way

SARI Horses

In 2017 SARI had a consistent herd of 19 therapy horses varying in size and ability.

Once a horse is brought into our program they go through a month long trial period. This consists of ground work, desensitization to external factors including their new surroundings, loud noises, sudden movement, unbalanced riders and participant behaviours.

A therapy horse must be kind, gentle and patient. SARI horses play the role of friend, teacher, therapist and confidante. Each horse comes with their own special qualities.

Included in our heard are two miniature horses Tinker and Belle. They are often referred to as "the girls" or "the minis" and are indispensable members of our herd. They are used for unmounted activities including life/vocational skills, grooming program, special community events as well as the backbone to the driving program.

In 2017 SARI retired horses, Lucy and Marshmallow. They provided countless program hours and now enjoy vast green pastures with their retirement families.

Willow, Fable and Topaz were welcomed to the herd in 2017, with Willow returning to her owner the same year.

ABOUT ADOPT-A-PONY

The Adopt-A-Pony program gives corporations, groups, and individuals an opportunity to support the "backbone" of SARI's therapeutic programs—the horses. In their roles, the SARI horses provide hundreds of individuals with special needs an exciting and much needed therapeutic, recreational, social, emotional and FUN experience!

Your \$3,000 contribution will help care for a horse in the following ways: feed, bedding, farrier and veterinary care, replacing special tack, maintaining and repairing stabling and pasture.

SARI is grateful for the following 2017 Adopt-A-Pony Sponsors:

Sue Allan (Milo)
AON (Anea)
C & V Income Tax (Tinker and Belle)
Susan & Allan Edwards Family Fund (Allegro)
London & Middlesex Civitan Club (Vixen)
Lucan & District Lions Club (Doc)
Milton & Jean Broderick Charitable Fund (Glory)
Susan Carrothers (Luna)

Horses up for Adoption in 2018:

Dickens	Wyatt
Lewis	Toy
Toby	Fable
Camanche	Topaz
Ben	

