

EQUICENTER POST

2008

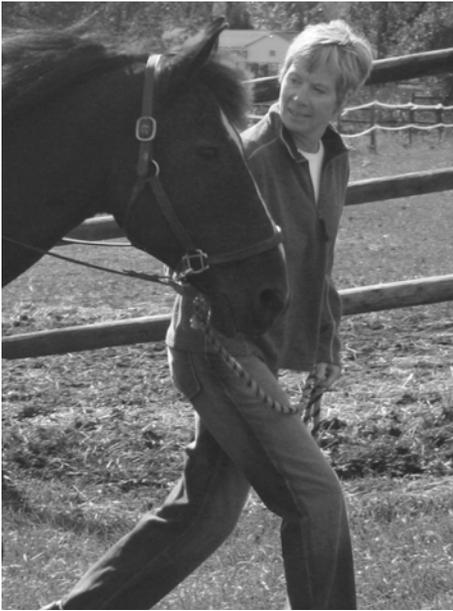
[www.equicenterny.org](http://www.equicenterny.org)

FOURTH  
ANNIVERSARY  
ISSUE

PEG JACOBSON  
1954-2008

POST

EQUICENTER



## FOUNDERS' COLUMN

In normal times, we would be writing to share with you the successes realized in our fourth year of programming, as well as our excitement for the future of the EquiCenter; however, these times are far from the norm. It is with great sadness that we mourn the loss of a founding board member, a most committed volunteer and dearest friend Maura "Peggy" Jacobson.

As a founding member of the Board of Directors, Peg shared the vision of the EquiCenter from the very beginning. Her positive energy, passion, selfless commitment to helping individuals in need, knowledge of horses, and willingness to take the risks associated with a new organization truly helped make the EquiCenter what it is today. While involved with necessary board governance and fundraising events, it was her time in blue jeans, a t-shirt and a baseball cap, immersed in both therapeutic riding and horsemanship lessons that Peg preferred the most. She was one of those rare individuals who truly "walked the walk."

While most lesson volunteers generously commit their valuable time to one shift per week, Peg could be found at the EquiCenter no less than three shifts in a given week. Furthermore, she was a regular substitute for other volunteers in need of someone to cover a lesson for them. And each time Peg arrived ready for action -- she lit up the barn with her positive attitude, commitment to the participants and horses, and passion for life. Participants, volunteers and horses alike responded to Peg in a very special way.

For those of you fortunate enough to have known Peg, such adulation would have been excruciating for her to accept. She did what she did for others and led a simple life because that is who she was. A truer "saint-like" friend cannot be found, and it is only fitting that she left us on All Saints' Day.

While we mourn the loss of Peg, we also cherish all the time we had with her. She changed the lives of everyone she met, and her devotion to the EquiCenter family will live on in our hearts forever. It is for all Peg gave and taught us that we dedicate not only this annual report, but the very future of the EquiCenter itself.

Stacy & Jonathan Friedlander

# WHAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT

The EquiCenter is a non-profit center that uses a wide range of equine therapeutic activities to foster the personal growth and individual achievement of people with disabilities and at-risk youth. Our current programs include Therapeutic Riding, Vaulting, Hippotherapy and Horsemanship (Equine-Facilitated Mental Health). Future plans include the addition of Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy, Carriage Driving, and Canine-Assisted Therapy.

Our expanding Hippotherapy Program utilizes the multidimensional movement of the horse to provide a unique and motivating physical therapy. These sessions are instructed by licensed therapists who are also certified by the American Hippotherapy Association. Riders in our Therapeutic Riding and Vaulting Programs participate in structured classes to acquire horsemanship skills while developing flexibility, motor skills, balance, muscle coordination, strength, and increased self-esteem and confidence. Participants in our Horsemanship Program learn experientially by working directly with horses. In this mostly non-riding program, participants develop personal responsibility, relationship and communication skills, an appreciation for teamwork, self-discipline, and trust. Through their activities, participants develop a sense of purpose as they help care for horses who are in turn caring for individuals with disabilities.

For more information about EquiCenter programming and ways to get involved, write to [info@equicenterny.org](mailto:info@equicenterny.org) or call 585.624.2836.



**EQUICENTER**  
PEOPLE & HORSES GROWING TOGETHER

# OFF THE SIDELINES AND READY TO SOAR

*"One can never consent to creep when one feels an impulse to soar." –Helen Keller*



Watching your child sitting on the sidelines in life is something no parent wants to do. But that's just where Anja Krause saw her daughter, Tiffany, four years ago. Physical activities we take for granted our children will be able to enjoy, from sports to simply running and playing in the backyard, were just not feasible for Tiffany, who is legally blind. "For Tiffany, it's not possible to say, 'Hey, I want to be part of the tennis team' or 'I want to play soccer' and do what quote-unquote 'normal' kids can do," says Anja. Not participating in such extra-curricular activities limited her opportunities for social interaction as well.

Now 17, Tiffany has had problems with her eyes since birth. After much searching by her parents and many visits to specialists, she was finally diagnosed about five years ago with Leber's Congenital Amaurosis, or LCA. LCA is a rare hereditary disorder that leads to retinal dysfunction and visual impairment at an early age. Today, Tiffany's vision is about 20/400. Because LCA is incurable, the hope is that her vision will not deteriorate further.

So while her younger brother, Lukas, was living an active life and playing soccer, Tiffany more often than not went to her room after school to listen to audio books. Conscious of the importance of physical fitness, Anja and her husband, Ken, were always on the lookout for anything of a physical nature that Tiffany might be able to take part in. She had tried a few activities, but for one reason or another, nothing clicked. When folks at the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired called to tell them about the EquiCenter's pilot program, Anja jumped at the opportunity. "When the EquiCenter came along, it was definitely a chance for her to have regular physical activity," says Anja. "And for her to do something that she could call her own." Co-founder

Jonathan Friedlander recalls Tiffany arriving at the EquiCenter for the first time, tentatively feeling her way through the doorway and into the riding arena using a cane.

"It was kind of scary," Tiffany recalls, "because I didn't know how far the horse was above the ground and I thought I was going to fall off. Stacy [co-founder Stacy Friedlander] gave me my first leg up," she continues with an infectious giggle, "and I almost went over the other side!" But she didn't. She got on and stayed on, beginning her love affair with horseback riding right then and there.

Progressing at her own pace, Tiffany went from slow rides around the ring, with people on either side to support her, to the inspiring gymnastics on horseback, known as "vaulting," she now performs. Just thinking about the confidence, poise and strength it takes to kneel or stand on a moving horse—often with "no hands"—is enough to give pause, but adding to that the fact that Tiffany is legally blind is nothing short of amazing. Tiffany likens it to the excitement and exhilaration, tinged with a bit of fear, that you might experience on a roller coaster ride, except, she says, "I don't scream and cry! Now I'm getting up there saying, 'I want to do this, I love this!'"

The individualized programming offered at the EquiCenter is something Anja sees as a real plus for Tiffany, as well as for the many other children and adults participating in the program. "The instructors and volunteers go along with the rider and see how comfortable they are and watch their progress," Anja says, adapting to the rider's abilities and readiness rather than dictating a particular curriculum or agenda. And as Tiffany says, "The people are so nice, Stacy, Sara, Marlowe, everyone."

Anja has been thrilled with the changes she's seen in Tiffany, both physically and emotionally. "The EquiCenter has not only helped her body—her balance, the muscles that you use to ride a horse, the stability to maneuver—but it's also done so much for her self-esteem. Now she can say, 'Hey, wait a minute, maybe I thought I wasn't going to be good at this, but now I know I can do it. So what else can I try?' If there's something out there that she wants, she can go for it."

Tiffany's physical therapist, Ann Hurlimann, who has worked with her through the Hilton Central Schools, agrees that therapeutic riding—defined as "a structured program to acquire horsemanship skills while achieving individual therapeutic goals"—has yielded important benefits for Tiffany. After her first summer riding at the EquiCenter, Hurlimann reported that Tiffany's core muscular strength and dynamic balance had improved. In the therapy room, she had no hesitation when approaching balance equipment and had gained newfound "confidence in her own body's ability."

While Hurlimann attributes these gains to the innovative nature of therapeutic riding and the similarities between a horse's movement patterns and those of the human body, Anja takes it a step further. "The horses are like therapists on four legs," she says. "There's a connection these kids are making with a living animal that's absolutely amazing."

From learning to understand and adapt to each individual horse's personality and temperament, to offering an apple or a soothing brushing, to stroking

an incredibly silky nose, it's all about connecting, acceptance and love that goes both ways—something no balance beam can ever offer.

Anja cites one day a couple of summers ago, when Tiffany represented the EquiCenter at Pittsford's Walnut Hill Carriage Driving Competition, as a high point for the whole family. "Tiffany was able to showcase what she's learned in front of an audience," Anja says with pride. "It was a chance for her to say, 'I'm part of this.' She acted almost as an ambassador for the EquiCenter, demonstrating what it is possible to achieve. That was a great day for all of us."

In spite of "holding her breath" once in a while as Tiffany has continued to challenge herself, Anja highly recommends the EquiCenter to other parents considering it for their children. "Absolutely go for it! The staff, the support that you have at the EquiCenter—it's so positive and so beneficial to the kids. I can't speak highly enough of it," she says enthusiastically. "We're definitely going to hold onto the EquiCenter for as long as they want us here."

And what would Tiffany tell other kids? "Not to be afraid. Just go in. I was shy at first," she recalls. "It's okay to be shy, but once you're up there, the more you do it, the more confident you'll get, the less afraid you'll be!" And unafraid is how Tiffany is living her life today.

This engaging high school junior is charming, bubbly and intelligent with a lightning-quick wit. According to

Stacy, Tiffany's a magnet for all the volunteers whenever she's on site at the EquiCenter. Her plans for the future include taking her riding to a higher level and maybe being a math teacher because she's "really good at math." Not surprisingly, she'd love to have her own horse as well. College is a must, though, "I have no choice, my dad would drag my butt there!"

She also recently underwent genetic testing to see if she can participate in a research study in Philadelphia focused on one of the genes that apparently cause LCA. "We'll keep our fingers crossed that whatever gene caused her mutation is the one they are doing the study on," says Anja. "This study is attempting to not only save vision, but improve vision" for those with LCA. Tiffany and her family are hopeful.

But first she has to get through several performances of her school's production of "High School Musical." Tiffany auditioned—something her mom never could have imagined her doing before she came to the EquiCenter—and is part of the chorus, dancing included.

"I still haven't got the dances down 100 percent, but one kid was complaining about how he couldn't get it," Tiffany says with characteristic humor, "and I was like, 'Okay, I'm in the back, I'm blind and I can do it! You can do it too!'" Which character in "Musical" does she most resemble? "Sharpay is more like me, she's got attitude and she's real confident." And that's music to her parents' ears.

## NARHA & NYSHHAP

The EquiCenter is one of only two therapeutic equestrian centers in New York State to receive both accreditation from the North American Riding for Handicapped Association (NARHA) as a Premier Accredited Center *and* the New York State Horse Health Assurance Program (NYSHHAP). The other therapeutic equestrian center with this recognition is located in Verona, New York.

NARHA is the governing body for therapeutic equestrian centers in the United States and Canada, fostering safe, professional, ethical and therapeutic equine activities through education, communication, standards and research for people with and without disabilities. It sets the standards for the "industry" in terms of program safety, instructor preparedness, facility maintenance and horse care. NYSHHAP is a New

York State Department of Agriculture and Markets certification program designed to promote and teach a pro-active approach to equine health, care, and welfare through the use of certain "best management practices" and to recognize exceptionally managed equine operations.

# VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR



This year the EquiCenter has had the good fortune to enjoy a “two-for-one” special with our Volunteer(s) of the Year. **Leslie and Peter Harter** are such versatile volunteers that no matter what the need, they are willing and able to meet it. Just mention that the EquiCenter is having an event and these two talented and enthusiastic people are certain to show up and help.

For the past several years, they have solicited, picked-up and served food at the volunteer tent during the EquiTrails trail trial event. They staffed the EquiCenter information booth at the Mendon Station Festival this year and always help out and cheer on our riders at Special Olympics competitions. Whether helping with EquiCenter provided horse rides at Mackenzie-Child’s Fall weekend event, or with selling raffle tickets at the Syracuse Invitational Sporthorse Tournament, both Leslie and Peter are happy to share their valuable time and expertise. Leslie also walked the entire route of an EquiCenter fundraiser walk for breast cancer.

All of this is in addition to the regular volunteering Leslie does at the barn helping with lessons, cleaning grooming boxes or any of the myriad chores always needing to be done at a horse facility. Oh, and the EquiCenter horses want to be sure to mention that the Harters provide lots of carrots and apples for their after-lesson treats.

One of Leslie’s favorite activities at EquiCenter is ministering to her “adopted” equine, Charlie. Thanks to her nursing background, she doesn’t mind going above and beyond the usual adoptive horse care parameters by providing additional care for Charlie’s special needs.

Best of all, Leslie and Peter feel that they get more back from their volunteer time at the EquiCenter than they give. So, this year, we give a special salute to Leslie and Peter Harter, two dedicated friends of the EquiCenter. They join our many wonderful volunteers who provide the time and expertise needed to keep our *“people and horses growing together.”*

## UNITED FOR SUCCESS!

This was the second year the EquiCenter participated as a donor-designated agency in the United Way of Greater Rochester’s campaigns. We are thrilled to see the outpouring of community support, and look forward to even more success in years to come.

**The EquiCenter’s United Way donor-designation is 2420.** Additionally, the EquiCenter continues to participate in the State Employees Federated Appeal (SEFA) as a donor-designated agency, and we can only hope for equal success in this campaign. **Our SEFA donor-designation is 85-723.**

Thank you to all who have chosen to give to the EquiCenter! We are grateful for your continued support during these campaigns, especially in these challenging financial times.

## REMEMBERING AL

The community and the EquiCenter lost a special friend last June with the sudden death of **Al Kober**. We are honored to have known and worked with “Big Al,” and wish to thank the more than 60 individuals and organizations that made memorial donations to the EquiCenter in his name raising over \$2,000. We would also like to thank the Kober family for donating Tux, Al’s wonderful horse, to the EquiCenter where he is distinguishing himself in his new career as a therapy horse. Tux has been with us only a few months, but he has already helped his riders garner numerous medals in the State Special Olympics competition. He has also won the hearts of the EquiCenter staff, volunteers and participants. Tux is a standout favorite to all who meet him, just like his “Dad” was.

# EMOTIONAL HEALING

EquiCenter Horsemanship program lifts spirits, alters attitudes and changes lives

6

*A special moment between David and Rayne.*

For decades, therapeutic riding for individuals with physical disabilities has been widely accepted as an effective form of treatment. Known throughout the industry as Hippotherapy and Therapeutic Riding, volumes of anecdotal and case study evidence have affirmed its healing powers – physically and spiritually.

Exchanging a wheelchair or hospital bed for the freedom of motion experienced atop a nimble and graceful 1200 pound animal is the type of exhilaration few of us will ever know. And because cost-effective physical and rehabilitative therapies are few and far between, therapeutic riding programs are not only celebrated, they're replicated wherever and whenever possible.

Therapeutic interaction between horses and adolescents with emotional disabilities seemed like a natural extension, and in the mid-to-late nineties that's exactly what happened with the birth of Equine Facilitated Mental Health (EFMH).

## LESS RIDING. MORE RESPONSIBILITY.

"Our pilot EFMH, or Horsemanship Program, began in May of 2004 and we could see right away we were onto something special," says EquiCenter President and CEO, Jonathan Friedlander. "Confidence grew, attitudes changed and self-esteem blossomed right before our eyes. It was hard not to be excited."

In short order, at-risk youth from Rochester-area residential programs and schools began benefiting from close and continuous interaction with horses. Unlike therapeutic riding programs, the Horsemanship Program involves less riding and more responsibility. "The kids are charged with grooming, feeding and general care of the horses on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. It's work, but it's also about building relationships and honing communications skills. It's wonderful to watch the transformations."

It's even more wonderful for parents to watch.

"My son suffered from low self-esteem and weak social skills," says Susan, a former Horsemanship Program parent. "I heard about this new and exiting startup program at the EquiCenter through David's school (The Norman Howard School). The Horsemanship Program was implemented as part of the curriculum for 5th and 6th graders at the school. It sounded promising, and after just a few visits, I realized something pretty amazing was happening." The bond formed with the horses was immediate – and so was the growth and progress. Typically, David frustrated easily -- his voice often growing louder, his tone would increase in intensity. Because horses are hyper-sensitive to changes in human behavior, they react accordingly. "The feedback from these awe-inspiring creatures is instantaneous, and my son found out quickly how his behavior directly affected the horse's demeanor," Susan continued. "It changed everything."

Susan recalls one experience in particular that sums up her feelings toward the EquiCenter's Horsemanship Program. "Given David's challenges in reading, he was never inclined to pick up a book on his own. You can imagine how I felt one morning when my son informed me that in addition to feeding and grooming the horse to which he had grown especially attached, he would also read him a story that day. It was one of those moments I'll never forget."

## SUCCESS BREEDS GROWTH

Now over four years old, EquiCenter's Horsemanship Program has grown from eight participants a week to 40, and the waiting list continues to swell. Since its inception, the program has welcomed kids from the Hillside Children's Center's residential programs, emergency placement program, foster care program, and recently the Hillside Work- Scholarship Connection. Curriculum-based programs that allow Norman Howard School students to participate in the Horsemanship program during the school day have also proved successful. Similar curriculum-based programs are being explored by Hillside and Wilson Commencement Park. Additionally, efforts are in the works to establish a Horsemanship Program with Gilda's Club for children whose lives have been touched by cancer.

It's just the tip of the iceberg, says Friedlander. "As evidence of EFMH's successes pile up, so too does interest from other areas of adolescent medicine. Dr. Richard Kreipe, a member of the EquiCenter's Advisory Board, and a Professor of Pediatrics at Golisano Children's Hospital believes there is a great deal of untapped potential for EFMH in his specialty -- adolescent female eating disorders.



"There is a very powerful bond between female adolescents and horses," explains Dr. Kreipe. "Exploring how that bond can help promote a stronger sense of self worth is something those of us working in the field of adolescent eating disorders can rally around with a great deal of enthusiasm."

While riding horses has been a therapeutic staple for treating females with eating disorders for some time, it's only in the past few years that non-riding EFMH-like programs have begun popping up around the country. "Successful treatment of something as serious as an eating disorder requires a fundamental change in self image," says Dr. Kreipe. "The sense of accomplishment and simple joy derived from the care and maintenance of something with the stature of a horse can go a long way in helping that change occur."

And while repairing the human spirit can be difficult to quantify, scientific research on the long-term potential of EFMH in treating emotionally-challenged adolescents is under way right here in Rochester. Working in tandem with the EquiCenter, Christel Parker, a Leadership Education in Adolescent Health (LEAH) Fellow at the University of Rochester, is developing a systematic approach to tracking and documenting the experiences of each and every EFMH participant.

A lifelong equestrian, with several years of hands-on therapeutic riding experience, Parker certainly understands the need to promote the efficacy of EFMH-like programs. "It's the next logical step in the progression of EFMH as a universally recognized method of treatment for adolescents with emotional issues" says Parker. "The anecdotal evidence is abundant, but for EFMH to secure the type of research and funding grants required to realize its full potential, a quantitative analysis of the entire process is essential."

Another essential for Ms. Parker? Having the full cooperation of the EquiCenter. "These are exciting times for all of us," concludes Jonathan Friedlander. "A lot of human success stories have been scribed over the past four years thanks to our Horsemanship Program, and there's no reason not to expect more of the same during the next four and beyond."



ANGEL



MISS BAILEY



BILLY



CHARLIE



DOC



MIKEY & BUDDY



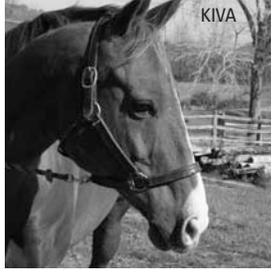
HARLEY



HICKORY



KATIE



KIVA



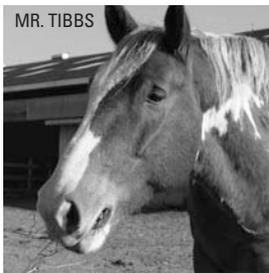
MACHO



RAYNE



SAMMY



MR. TIBBS



TUX



ZEUS

# OUR EQUINE STAFF

8

**ANGEL** 14.2 hand  
17 yr. liver chestnut Morgan mare  
Former show horse and 4-H mount

**MISS BAILEY** 15.3 hand  
16 yr. warmblood mare  
Former dressage horse  
Donated by Junko Mills

**BILLY** 15.1 hand  
21 yr. chestnut Quarter Horse gelding  
Former trail horse

**BUDDY** 32.5 inch  
10 yr. grey & white American Miniature  
Horse gelding, donated by Kateland  
Farms

**CHARLIE** 15.1 hand  
25 yr. bay Grade gelding  
Former Fox Hunter  
Purchased by Joe Best, a program  
participant, on behalf of the EquiCenter

**DOC** 14 hand  
23 yr. bay Quarter Horse gelding  
Former trail horse

**HARLEY** 16 hand  
10 yr. grey Irish Draught gelding  
Former hunter/jumper  
Donated by Hollis Angus

**HICKORY** 13.3 hand  
13 yr. chestnut Haflinger gelding  
Former 4-H mount  
Purchased by the Kiwanis Club of Brighton  
on behalf of the EquiCenter

**KATIE** 16.2 hand  
23 yr. red roan Clydesdale mare  
Former family trail horse

**KIVA** 16.1 hand  
15 yr. chestnut Appendix Quarter Horse  
Former show hunter

**MACHO** 14.2 hand  
25 yr. chestnut Quarter Horse gelding  
Former trail horse

**MIKEY** 31 inch  
18 yr. chestnut Pinto American Miniature  
Horse gelding, donated by Kateland Farms

**RAYNE** 16.2 hand  
15 yr. brown Percheron Quarter  
Horse gelding  
Former fox hunter  
Donated by Stirlin and Beth Harris

**SAMMY** 14.2 hand  
13 yr. paint gelding  
Former show and trail horse

**MR. TIBBS** 16 hand  
8 yr. paint Belgian Cross gelding  
Former fox hunter and trail horse  
Donated by Sharon and Chip Presutti

**TUX** 15.2 hand  
16 yr. chestnut Quarter Horse gelding  
Former trail and parade horse  
Donated by the family of Al Kober

**ZEUS** 16.3 hand  
12 yr. grey Percheron gelding  
Retired Monroe County Mounted Sheriff's  
Patrol horse

# FOUNDATION AND CORPORATE SPONSORS

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Admar Supply Company  
AirTran  
Allyn's Creek Foundatin, Inc.  
Ames-Amzalak Foundation  
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Mendon Meadows Market  
Merzbach Law Office, P.C.  
M&T Charitable Foundation  
The Mix Advertising  
Nalgene  
New Energy Works Timberframers  
Nutramax Laboratories, Inc.

Nutrena  
Parelli Natural Horsemanship  
Park Avenue Bike Shop  
Paychex Contribution Committee  
Penfield Rotary Club  
Pheasant Hill Farm  
Pittsford Carriage Association  
POV – Rose Films, Inc.  
The Polisseni Foundation  
Rochester Area Community Foundation  
Rochester Automobile Dealers Assoc.  
Rochester Women's Charitable Society  
Rochester Press-Radio Club  
Rush Lions Club  
Saints & Sinners  
Donald B. Shaw, Jr. Charitable Trust  
Solius Web Solutions  
Spezio Property Services  
Stuart Horse Trials  
Sweet Grass Meats  
Tailored Events  
Ten Ugly Men Foundation  
Townline Truck & Trailer  
Towpath Bike  
Uniform Village  
VP Supply Corp.  
Valley Cadillac-Hummer  
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Victor Excavating & Landscape  
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John F. Wegman Fund  
Wm. B. Morse Lumber Co.  
Elaine P. & Richard U. Wilson Foundation  
Marie C. & Joseph C. Wilson Foundation  
Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP  
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## PARTICIPATING AGENCIES AND AFFILIATIONS

The Advocacy Center  
Al Sigl Center  
The ARC of Monroe County  
Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired – Goodwill  
BOCES  
CP Rochester  
Cazenovia College  
Continuing Developmental Services  
Easter Seals of New York  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Golisano Children's Hospital  
Hillside Family of Agencies  
Humane Society at Lollypop Farm  
Maxwell School of Public Administration – Syracuse University  
MS Society  
Nazareth College Department of Health Science & Physical Therapy  
St. Joseph's Villa  
The Norman Howard School  
Rochester Rehabilitation Center, Inc.  
William E. Simon Graduate School of Business – University of Rochester  
University of Rochester Medical Center

## JESSIE'S LEGACY



Through donations by the Kenlou Foundation, the **Jessie Olin Memorial Scholarship Fund** was established four years ago, after Jessie passed away from a congenital heart condition at the age of five. She loved family, friends and horses more than anything in the world. Because of her love of animals and all things living and joyous, this fund was established. Its goal is to help other young people thrive through horse therapy provided at the EquiCenter.

"Jessie was always so happy when she was around horses – she loved them from the moment she could walk under her grandfather's horse," said her parents, Baylie and Chuck Olin of Victor. "She would have loved to have her physical therapy sessions on horseback."

"Jessie will have a place here forever," said Jonathan and Stacy Friedlander. "Children like Jessie benefit greatly from the gentle nature of our horses and the support of staff and volunteers. For so many, there is no better experience than being on top of a horse. Program participants give so much love to a horse, which is then given back to them in such a therapeutic way."

More than \$15,000 dollars have been raised to date. To contribute to the fund, contact Jonathan at 585-733-1111. Eligibility for the fund is based on financial need.

# FUNDRAISING EVENTS



## RING IN THE HOLIDAYS!

We are very excited to be a part of the opening night of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra's Gala Holiday Pops Concert this year on December 17th, featuring Jeff Tyzik and The New York Voices. Proceeds will benefit the EquiCenter and the Golisano Children's Hospital. Tickets are available at RPO Box Office, 108 East Avenue – 585.454.2100 or [www.rpo.org](http://www.rpo.org), or any Wegmans locations. Special opening night ticket prices are available. The evening's presenting sponsor is Dixon Schwabl.



## A COMMUNITY COURTYARD

Thanks to the talents of Bruce Zaretsky of Zaretsky & Associates phase one of a more efficient, safer and welcoming courtyard is now complete, greeting our participants and volunteers at the EquiCenter. Bruce Zaretsky generously donated his time, heavy equipment and employees to the project. Many other companies came together to help make the new courtyard a true community effort: Five Star Equipment, Diva Trucking, Victor Excavating & Landscape and Hanson Aggregates.

Highlighting the new courtyard will be landscape plantings donated by the Junior League of Rochester Garden Club. At their club's annual meeting recently held at the EquiCenter, the Garden Club presented the EquiCenter with a check to cover the cost of plantings.

## ROCKING HORSE ON PARADE



MACKENZIE-CHILDS



A special thanks to Mackenzie-Childs, based in Aurora, NY, for donating a \$4,800 hand-made Lots of Dots Rocking Horse to the EquiCenter to be used for a December raffle to be drawn at the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra's Gala Holiday Pops concert, also benefiting the EquiCenter. This particular rocking horse is the first in a series of 14 horses hand-made in Poland and decorated in Aurora. It has been "on parade" at the MacKenzie-Childs shop in Aurora, the Genesee Valley Hunt Races, the offices of Dixon Schwabl, the Syracuse Invitational Sporthorse Tournament, and it is currently "parading" until December 17th at Parkleigh in Rochester. The final stop on the parade route will be on the night of December 17th at The Eastman Theater where the drawing for this incredible horse will take place during the Opening Night performance of the Gala Holiday Pops. All proceeds raised by the raffle will be used to support programs at the EquiCenter.



## CAR WASH KIDS

You're never too young to help out – that's what 9-year old Jackie Napier found out this past summer. Jackie (above left) came up with the idea to help the EquiCenter and she, Annie Kesselring and Annika Temp held a car wash in the Napier's driveway, raising \$85 for the EquiCenter. Equally important to the funds raised is the awareness the girls developed about the importance of getting involved in their community to help others. Thanks for your hard work, girls!

## TEED UP FOR EQUICENTER

Thank you to VP Supply for choosing the EquiCenter as a beneficiary of the proceeds from their annual Elliot Curwin Memorial Golf Tournament. What initially looked like a washout turned into a superb day for golfing this past June. A brief shower had over a hundred golfers take cover in the Victor Hills golf course pavillion, yet the storm couldn't dampen the spirits of those who attended. The generous and enthusiastic golfers raised over \$2,000 for the EquiCenter.

## EQUITRAILS & FIVE STAR BANK



The EquiCenter and presenting sponsor Five Star Bank teamed up again this year for the EquiTrails trail trial event. Hosted and organized for the third year by Lisa and Peter Sykes and the Davidson Knoll Farm in Canandaigua, the event raised over \$25,000. This year more than 100 horse and rider teams competed in this cross-country event, where they were judged on their skills and abilities to guide their horses through natural and man-made obstacles, with an emphasis on calmness and safety. The event would not have been a success without the support and generosity of many other companies and individuals too numerous to list (see sponsors on page 9).

## TYING THE KNOT FOR EQUICENTER



*Bill and Jennifer Best (right) present their check to Jonathan and Stacy Friedlander.*

By coincidence two newlywed couples (not associated with each other) decided to forgo wedding favors to their guests this past summer. In lieu of favors, Bill and Jennifer Best and Mike and Christine Buchholz shared information about the EquiCenter with their wedding guests, and took the money that would have been spent on the guests and donated it to the EquiCenter. Approximately \$1,000 was donated by the two couples.

## STICK HORSES ON PARADE™



Nearly 400 people participated in the EquiCenter's first annual "Stick Horses on Parade" at Frontier Field on May 30. Over 130 children decorated stick horses which they brought to the Rochester Red Wings' game, parading them around the outfield and bases as the players were taking the field. The event raised more than \$22,000 for the EquiCenter thanks to the children and their families, presenting sponsor Dixon Schwabl and many other sponsors listed on page 9. And a special thanks to the carpentry students at BOCES #1 in Fairport who cut and assembled hundreds of stick horses for the event.

## EQUICENTER GETS UGLIER



The EquiCenter was once again a recipient of proceeds from the 10 Ugly Men Festival held at Genesee Valley Park. This year's 19th Anniversary Festival was a huge success with thousands of people taking part in fun, food and live music performed by the Gin Blossoms. In addition to our special thanks to the 10 Ugly Men for supporting us again, we are also grateful to the many EquiCenter volunteers who helped serve food and drink at the event. We can't wait until next year's 20th Anniversary Festival!



## WALNUT HILL

EquiCenter was again a beneficiary of the Ascot Family Picnic Night at the Walnut Hill Carriage Driving Competition, receiving close to \$2,500 at this annual event. During this evening of competitions and entertainment, spectators were treated to demonstrations of hippotherapy and therapeutic riding by EquiCenter participants and volunteers. And for the first time, the demonstrations included a driving therapy exhibition by an EquiCenter rider and a driver from Kateland Farms. Driving therapy will be offered at the EquiCenter beginning in 2009 thanks to the generous donation of an adaptive driving cart and our two new miniature horses from Kateland Farms.

*And thanks to our contributors:  
Design and layout, Dona Bagley  
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Linda Interlichia*

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