

A video showcasing our happy herd.

Dear Friends of Saddle Up!,

Hope and Gratitude are key during these uncertain times. We hope to see you soon and are grateful for your patience, understanding, care and support over the past several weeks. We have certainly missed our kids and families, our volunteers, and the joyful clamor of our programs in action!

In our 30 years of service to the children and youth of Middle Tennessee, our organization has overcome challenges, and we have always persevered. Saddle Up! will continue to provide excellent outcome-based programming for many years to come. Years of diligent stewardship and your ongoing support allow us the opportunity to continue in our mission to develop the abilities, social connection and self-worth of our participants. This newsletter features our graduates who exemplify our mission. Our graduates will forever belong to the Saddle Up! family.

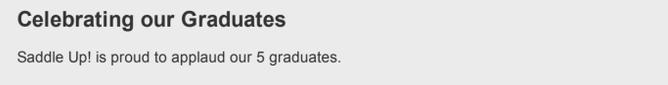
Our herd is the lifeblood of our programs, and for the past several weeks only our full-time staff, our farrier and Tennessee Equine Hospital have been providing care and conditioning for our 25 horses. Our full-time staff has also maintained our property, while still completing their administrative planning and projects. I am truly grateful to this group of dedicated employees who not only did their regular work, they also did the work of an army of dedicated volunteers and part-time staff.

Saddle Up! suspended programming beginning March 23rd, and we are now grateful to report that we are tentatively planning to resume semi-private and private lesson programming with limited volunteer support in July. Now in place is a comprehensive safety protocol that follows TN Pledge, Williamson County Government and CDC guidelines. Look for more details to come on our website, in social media, and by email about how we are phasing our program opening to parallel government guidelines.

It is with the greatest respect for each individual's circumstance at this time that we reach out to you, a member of the Saddle Up! family, to ask if you would consider supporting our herd and our rider subsidy with a tax-deductible donation. Our herd and our riders depend on you, especially in these unprecedented circumstances, to ensure that this ride to a more self-realized life never ends.

Yours truly,
Laurie Kush

[Make My Gift to Saddle Up!](#)



Celebrating our Graduates

Saddle Up! is proud to applaud our 5 graduates.

"Bel has been riding for 15 years! She's done it most of her life. We've seen her grow up, walk better, talk better, develop her independence and her sense of humor."

– Bel's Parents

Accomplishments

Her strength, stamina and verbal communication have significantly improved.

Fun Facts

She loves the volunteers, staff and community at Saddle Up!

She loves trotting with Boomer and knows he can take her sarcasm.



Bel H. GRADUATE HIGHLIGHT

"SU! was a bright spot in a dark time for us, opportunity in the midst of uncertainty."

– Jennika's Parents

Accomplishments

She has been riding for 13 years.

She has felt supported and competent, which has been a source of confidence even during times of challenge.

She has made many friends and has significantly improved her social skills.

Fun Facts

Gabby is her favorite horse.

She loves chatting with everyone at SU!



Jennika T. GRADUATE HIGHLIGHT

"Saddle Up! gave Fu the breakthrough that changed his life."

– Fu's Parents

Accomplishments

Physically, he's gained additional strength and control.

His stamina has grown by leaps and bounds.

His motor skills have improved and he knows how to advocate for himself.

His working memory has increased and he is now able to ride independently.

Fun Facts

Rocco is his favorite horse.

He is a great advocate for himself and is always willing to try something at least once.

He loves talking about food and teaching his volunteers to speak Chinese.



Fu C. GRADUATE HIGHLIGHT

"Riding my horse makes me feel calm. I have learned how to care for an animal. I will miss Big Mac."

– Dylan F.

Accomplishments

He has been riding for 10 years.

He has overcome his fear of large animals through riding horses.

He has improved muscle tone, balance and focus.

His dismount has improved significantly.

Fun Facts

Big Mac is his favorite horse because he is so tall.

Dylan has improved self-confidence and loves the horses at SU!



Dylan F. GRADUATE HIGHLIGHT

"Saddle Up! has been a peaceful oasis for our family. While Wyatt rides, we've appreciated having a quiet interval on the calm farm setting to work or read or walk around. This respite is invaluable"

– Wyatt's Parents

Accomplishments

After riding for 15 years, he learned about responsibility with horse grooming and can socially curb his impulses until the time is right.

His balance, coordination and confidence have significantly improved.

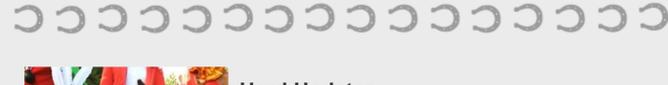
Fun Facts

Boomer is his favorite horse because he is fast.

He's flourished "holding court" in the family area after his lessons - swapping stories with staff and volunteers and promoting them with "tell them about..." Through this he's developed some great friendships!



Wyatt M. GRADUATE HIGHLIGHT



Saying goodbye to Sherman and Webster.

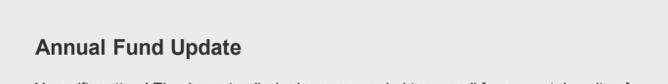
Herd Updates

Minis, Sherman & Webster, will always hold a special place in our hearts.

This month we said goodbye to a little guy with a BIG heart. Sherman was a miniature horse who loved attention.

Since 2013, Sherman and his buddy Webster worked in our Equine Assisted Learning Program. They have also been our ambassadors at events and were the best fundraisers for Saddle Up!. You would occasionally find them in a volunteer training as well. Sherman was a great partner around people-always calm, well-mannered, and he loved to be petted.

Unfortunately, Sherman was diagnosed with hip dysplasia and after seventeen years, we could no longer manage his pain and provide him with a good quality of life. Without Sherman, we were concerned Webster would be too lonely, but we are grateful that owners Robert and Edie Jenner were able to take Webster back home to get reacquainted with old friends.



Annual Fund Update

Your gift matters! Thank you to all who have responded to our call for support. In spite of the challenges presented by the COVID pandemic, our work goes on. Our horses continue to be lovingly cared for, our instructors and therapists continue to work virtually with our riders and participants, our Property Director continues to maintain the farm, and staff continues our mission. We will persevere and, with your support, raise the funds needed to serve the Saddle Up! community.

[Make My Gift to Saddle Up!](#)



Upcoming Calendar

Chukkers for Charity - Saturday, September 12, 2020 at Riverview Farm, Franklin, TN

Saddle Up! SUPER Show - Saturday, October 3, 2020 at Saddle Up!

Music Country Grand Prix presented by Tractor Supply Company - Saturday, October 24, 2020 at Brownland Farm, Franklin, TN

Check our website and social media for updates regarding our 2020 Events Calendar and when tickets will be available for purchase. Many thanks to all of our wonderful event sponsors for their flexibility and continued support!

[Read Saddle Up!'s Plan for Reopening](#)



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