

Tackroom Tales



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Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come, we have only today. Let us begin." Mother Teresa

This quote from Mother Teresa was the perfect mind set for us at Windridge as we transitioned from 2022 into 2023. The committed staff and Board of Directors have worked hard to develop a plan to help Windridge continue to change and grow to meet the needs of our families and riders. In October, Windridge hosted its first BBQ & Bingo Fundraiser. Along with the silent auction, it was a huge success and we received extremely positive feedback, including requests to sponsor our next Bingo event! Our Board has worked overtime to help with the operation of Windridge on top of their own jobs and responsibilities, and the staff would like to publicly thank each one of them for their time and commitment.

Exciting things continued in January ~ Rocco, one of our herd, was chosen to be a part of our Horse Sponsorship program. Check out Landri and Rocco's story for details. We are hoping that this program grows in 2023 to include more of our amazing horses! January also brought new members to our Board of Directors and a change in officers. See our updated Board list on the back, as well as our calendar full of new things and other information.

We have one more piece of exciting news for you ~ the Board of Directors and staff at Windridge would like to welcome our new Executive Director, Celia Bower, PT, HPCS! See the Director's Diary and Introduction to get to know her better.

We are thankful for you, the friends, supporters, and families of Windridge, and your dedication to helping us continue to provide excellent programs and services. Join us as we begin our journey to the best year ever...

Onward and UPWARD...!

Introducing...Celia Bower, PT, HPCS



Celia started as Windridge's Executive Director February 1, 2023. However, she may look familiar, as she has worked there as a physical therapist incorporating hippotherapy (use of a horse's movement as a therapy treatment tool) since 2004 through Kidz First Therapy. Celia has worked as a PT in many settings, but has been in pediatric home health for the majority of her career and is a strong advocate for families and children with special needs. She is thankful for her own family, including husband Joe and sons Collin and Carson, who continue to be exceptionally supportive and keep her entertained when she's not 'horsing around,' and even sometimes when she is!

Additionally, Celia has an equestrian background that started when she was 4 years old. She "grew up" in the United States Pony Club (USPC) and progressed through the ranks, eventually achieving the advanced 'A' rating at 21 years old. She raised and trained her horse and competed in 3-day eventing and dressage through college at UC Davis. She then served as a clinician, Head Instructor and National Examiner for the USPC for many years.

After physical therapy school at Loma Linda University and moving to E. TX, Celia found an opportunity to utilize hippotherapy at Windridge through Kidz First Therapy with Sue Haywood, PT. She attained the Hippotherapy Clinical Specialist board certification from the American Hippotherapy Certification Board in 2005 and now serves as co-chair of that board, as well as the Therapy Director for Kidz First Therapy at Windridge. She was blessed to receive the American Hippotherapy Assoc. Therapist of the Year Award in 2015 and is thankful to all who contributed to this honor along the way. This significant background in horses and horsemanship, combined with her therapy education and board leadership experience give her a unique perspective and natural motivation to expand the programs that Windridge provides and the number of people it serves.

Director's Diary

Faith and resilience...are what I have witnessed Windridge to embody since I first met the founder, Margo Dewkett, in 1997 on a clinical rotation for PT school in Longview. Throughout my history of visiting, volunteering and ultimately working at Windridge, these threads have been woven into what we all know and love as the peaceful place people go to be accepted and helped, by horses and people alike. Working at Windridge is such a culmination of so many areas of my life, I am thankful to the Board of Directors, staff and families for being so welcoming and supportive. What an amazing core group of dedicated people we have ready to serve!

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:31. God is in this place and is holding true to the guiding scripture chosen for Windridge many years ago. I am blessed to be here, to work here, to make friends here, to serve others here ~ come join me!

Here for you, Celia

Thank you!

...to the many companies, clubs and individuals that have generously supported Windridge over the years ~ your continued faith in the work we do and those we serve is graciously appreciated more than you could ever realize! Please come see us and go on a tour!

Horse Sponsorship Program

Windridge is introducing a chance for you to "Have a Horse that Makes a Difference" with our Horse Sponsorship program. The program allows businesses, families and organizations to choose one of our herd as "their own" horse. Their sponsorship will help cover the cost of the feed, upkeep and health needs of that horse. In return, the sponsor gets recognition at Windridge as that horse's sponsor, a cool t-shirt and a yard sign to let everyone know you have a horse that makes a difference in people's lives. Rocco was our first horse of 2023 to be chosen for sponsorship. Landri absolutely loves Rocco and Windridge, so her family came together to sponsor Rocco for her. What a gift!

Landri & Rocco

*a story of a girl and "her horse" ...
and how you can help make
dreams come true!*

"When our family learned about sponsoring a horse for the year, we knew this was something Landri would love to be a part of. The highlight of Landri's week is getting to see and ride Rocco on Tuesday afternoon. Landri has a December birthday, and we knew that this birthday "present" would mean more to her than any other gift. With the help of her parents, grandparents, Curtis and Rose Blakely, and her favorite "Uncle Chris", we sponsored Rocco for the year and the pride in receiving this birthday gift has Landri all smiles.

Windridge means the world to Landri. She loves the instructors and all the volunteers. Windridge has taught Landri about responsibility, punctuality and gratitude.



"Landri's "CiCi" takes her to Windridge every week and it's their special time together, and Landri always thanks her multiple times. Windridge has become a very important part of Landri's life and sponsoring Rocco makes it even better." Latricia Malone (Landri's Mom)

Landri's "CiCi", Carol Caldwell, would like to challenge other families, donors and businesses to sponsor a Windridge horse. She says "...You can ask friends, aunts, uncles, grandparents, and others to chip in to sponsor. We have lots of horses to sponsor, **LET'S DO THIS!**"



For more information on Sponsoring a Windridge Horse call the office at 903-797-2414 or email windridgetx@aol.com

Volunteer Spotlight

One of our newest volunteers is Anna Dietz, who joined the team at Windridge in November of 2022. Anna has such a sweet spirit and demeanor. In her short time here, she has shown what a hard worker she is, a can-do attitude, and a love for the horses and the clients. Anna is a recent high school graduate and is taking some time to figure out exactly what she wants to do in the future. We are so excited to have Anna with us and can't wait to see where the future takes her.

My name is Anna Dietz, and I reside in the piney woods of Gilmer, Texas. I am 18 years old and live with my parents and sister, and a whole menagerie of animals, from guinea pigs to chickens! I love spending time outdoors and helping people when I can. I wanted to volunteer at Windridge as a way to give back to the community. Hearing about how Windridge has helped and touched the hearts of many people made me want to join in!

Volunteering at Windridge is never dull, as there's always something to be done. My favorite part of it is getting to interact with each of the clients, and preparing the horses for classes. I love working with the horses, staff, and the clients, and being able to help out. It is the most rewarding pastime I have, and quite often, the highlight of my week. It very much blesses my heart to see how Windridge helps others, and to be able to be a part of it!



While our Horses are the backbone of our program, Windridge could not function without our dedicated volunteers. They are an integral part of our daily routine from horse care and barn maintenance, to assisting with classes. We are blessed to have each and every one of them.

Anna Dietz



If you are interested in volunteering at Windridge, contact Janet at 903-797-2414 or janet.windridge@gmail.com. We have a lot of opportunities, including group, specialty and scouting projects, individual volunteers and our Friends of Windridge Committee of volunteers to help with fundraising and events.

From the Horse's Mouth...

Devon wants you to know...

An average horse takes approximately 3,000 steps at the walk in 30 minutes, and that for "vertically challenged" guys like me it's even more! This means, that my herd friends and I give our human friends literally thousands of repetitions of practice of whatever is being worked on in just 1 session. Bet you can't beat that with a treadmill or therapy ball!

Wish List:

Please call w/questions

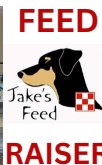
- Tri-fold paper towels
- Toilet Paper
- Sponsors for golf tournament
- Sponsor for pasture fertilizer/weed control
- Welder for pipe fence repair
- Volunteers
- Forever Stamps
- Cleaning supplies
- Rider Scholarships
- Tractor alternator
- Helmets
- 9"x12" manilla envelopes
- Horse Sponsorships

Updates...

Inservice week was off the charts!

- Feedraiser at Jake's: 58 bags of feed!
- Huge arena fans were installed (Big Ass Fans®) & dust control dirt treatment was applied thanks to a grant from Longview Greggton Rotary Club.
- LeTourneau University Kinesiology and Education student education about Windridge and Equine Assisted Services

- First Presbyterian Church of Dallas service group
- Christian Heritage Classical School service group
- Dental work for the whole herd



Contact info:

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Gilmer, TX 75645
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2023 Save the Dates

Spring Session

February 28-April 22, 2023

Easter Holiday (Closed)

April 7 & 8, 2023

In-Service Week (Closed)

April 25-April 29, 2023

Summer Session

May 2-June 24, 2023

EAST TEXAS GIVING DAY



East Texas Giving Day
Online Non-profit fundraiser
April 25, 2023



"Par for the Horse" Benefit Golf Tournament

Tempest Golf Club
May 8, 2023



BBQ & Bingo

TBD Oct. 2023

Women's brunch

TBD Fall 2023

Board of Directors

Michelle Holloway, President
Molly Riley, Vice President
David Brabham, Secretary
Stacy Morrison, Treasurer

Larry Courington
Ray Bostick
Crystal Thornton
Latricia Malone
Dr Blake Williams
Constable Roger Askew
Michelle Gamboa
Judge Tim Bryan

Staff

Celia Bower, PT, HPCS
Executive Director
Chris Stow
Instructor, Facility Manager
Emily LeBlanc
Instructor, Equine Manager
Janet Bagley
Administrative Assistant
Valerie Lowery
Instructor

NOTICE: we are updating our mailing list and will be converting primarily to electronic newsletters. Please see the included contact information form to let us know you want to stay in touch!