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## **TO ALL VOLUNTEERS**

### **March 28, 2020**

### **Introduction**

2020 has become a year of change and developments that no one could have predicted. We had hoped to have a group meeting to fill in all the details, but COVID-19 has made that impossible. Please review the following material and if you have questions, contact any of the staff listed at the end of this document.

### **COVID-19 and Hope on Horseback Classes**

We made the decision in mid-March to cancel the classes that had started, with the promise to revisit by the first of April. We based this decision on information provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) regarding local activity and transmission of COVID-19. We have, and will abide by the guidelines provided by State and Local governments as well. At the moment, we are planning to start classes again on May 4 with a four-week semester. We would then be able to pick up our regular Summer Semester on June 1. A final decision will be made in mid-April and at that point we will also announce our Kick-Off Meeting time and location.

### **What can you do?**

We don't know when this crisis will end. In the meantime, our horses require food, exercise and grooming. In addition, there is tack to be cleaned and water buckets to be scrubbed. While we are avoiding group meetings to address these issues, we need volunteers who are willing to do some of these tasks on their own. Please contact Brenda at [volunteer@hopehorseback.org](mailto:volunteer@hopehorseback.org) if you are able to help. We will only be working in small groups using social distancing rules.

### **What else is needed?**

Asking for money from our volunteers is always avoided and never pleasant. However, we have had very little income from class fees since November and it looks like we have several weeks ahead with no way to cover costs other than donations. We are working very hard to obtain funding from grants and community sources, but unfortunately, many individuals, businesses and other nonprofits are also asking for help to provide life-sustaining services. Nonprofits will survive based on the strength of their support from individuals who believe in their mission. While we seek support, we have vaccinations, dental, farrier and veterinary services this spring for the health and comfort of our horses.

If you can make a donation at any level, it will be appreciated and put to good use. To use a credit card or Pay Pal, please go to <http://hopehorseback.org/donate.aspx> and follow instructions. If you wish to send a check, the address is 7280 Sterrettania Road, Fairview, PA 16415.

Many of you have already responded to our appeal on Facebook and we are so grateful for your help. We are going to make it through these tough times with the help of those who know how much our programs mean to our clients and their families!

## **New Owners**

Dr. Roseanne Palermo and Dr. Kirk Steehler

Tailwinds, our home for the past ten years, has been sold and is now known as Trinity Equestrian Center. We can expect this to be both exciting and challenging. Tina and Anna are no longer managing the facility. Tina has moved on, but you can expect to see Anna around the barn as she still has some training horses at the facility. We wish them all the best as they move on to new opportunities and thank them for hosting us for so many years.

This is nothing but exciting because the new owners are experienced horsepersons who understand the demands of the horse business. Dr. Palermo is the president of the United States Friesian Horse Association with an international reputation. The new owners bring with them an exceptional vision for the facility and have the resources to make their vision a reality. They have been working with us to accommodate the needs of Hope on Horseback into their plans. There will be MANY changes...but all of them lead to an exciting future!

## **Barn Manager**

Sue Stablein is the new barn manager — actually Sue is not new, she was manager of the Willows Equestrian Center some 15 years ago. Welcome back! Sue is a very experienced horsewoman and we can expect our horses to have an excellent standard of care under her supervision. There will be approximately 10 barn staff in addition to Sue.

## **New Horses**

Dr. Palermo has moved 20 of her own horses into the barn this week and Trinity is in the process of redoing the stalls in the South Barn. Please be respectful and do not enter that barn area without an invitation. We anticipate that Dr. Palermo will be pleased to give a tour and tell us about her horses once they are settled in.

## **Facility Changes**

The first and most visible changes are going to be in the Tack Room and Helmet Room. Trinity will be taking over spaces that we have had exclusive use of for years. Sue and Roseanne are working with us as we consolidate and review how our operation will work within the structure of an energetic and expanded boarding facility. We hope to have all the details worked out before classes start again, but no doubt there will be some confusion as we start our programs in May. We will address all of the changes and issues at a “Kick Off” meeting for all volunteers as soon as we have the all clear to host a group.

## **Communication**

As we enter this transitional period with new management, it will be important that we maintain clear lines of communication. To avoid confusion and misunderstanding, we are asking that you filter all questions through Betty, Brenda or Kimberly.

Betty Rositer

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Kimberly Danylko

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