

Board of Directors



Donna Brandt, President: Donna found TRCHB 15 years ago when she began searching for therapies for her eight year-old daughter. Soon, Donna began volunteering with TRCHB as a side-walker, then a horse leader, and eventually became our Board President and Head Instructor.

Joy Forbes, Vice President: Joy is one of four instructors at TRC. Growing up in California, Joy had horses all of her life and worked in Northern California as a riding instructor for many years. When she is not running her bakery, a task that begins at 3 am each day, Joy and her husband love to take their motor home on road trips to the river when they have down time.

Karen Graves, Secretary: Karen began volunteering for TRCHB in January 2009, and quickly became dedicated to our students and mission. Karen works as a Contract Administrator for Kyocera. As a Board Member and Instructor with TRCHB, Karen's goal is to aid others in experiencing and achieving that fleeting "moment" where horse and human move as one.

Mark Szatkowski, Treasurer: Mark came aboard TRCHB as Treasurer in October 2015, however, he has been around the organization for years supporting his wife and daughters who are active volunteers. During the day, Mark is the Controller for a mid-size marketing communication company in Irvine where he manages a team of ten in the accounting department and oversees the completion of the company financial statements.

Heather Burns, Board Member: Heather began taking riding lessons at the Huntington Central Park Equestrian Center, and she was hooked! Wanting to volunteer for a good cause and spend more time at the stables, she then stumbled upon TRCHB. She started volunteering on Saturdays and fell in love with the amazing program and great kids.

Caroline Winnik, Board Member: Caroline holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and a Master of Arts in Special Education, with an emphasis in blindness and visual impairment. She also has specialist training and certification as a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist and has completed course work for the Teacher of the Visually Impaired credential.

Scott Sanders, Board Member: Scott joined the Board of Directors in September of 2014. He is a retired Senior Sales Management Executive of Xerox Corporation, where he spent 37 years and managed regional and national organizations in manufacturing, logistics and distribution, administration, and sales. Scott and his wife, Wendy, moved to Huntington Beach in 1998 to be closer to their horses after they discovered the Huntington Beach Equestrian Center in 1996. They have had two horses at the center in training with Rick Baer for the last 18 years.

Jon Berger, Board Member: Jon holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Speaking & Debate from Cal State Long Beach and brings 18 years of business experience and achievements. He has extensive management and business development experience. Jon specializes in simplifying business to a conceptual level, coaching sales teams, and creating new business opportunities through cold calling and networking. When he's away from the office, Jon enjoys shaping longboards as a hobby (Bald Jonny's Longboards in Huntington Beach) surfing, Krav Maga, and most importantly, being a father for his two beautiful daughters, ages 15 and 13.

Kelly Szatkowski, Board Member: Kelly and her husband both grew up in Huntington Beach. They have two girls, Madison, 14, and Katelyn, 11. Kelly found TRC while searching for a place for Madison to continue her riding. Kelly and her girls began volunteering for TRC shortly thereafter, and Kelly knew she wanted to be more involved with this amazing group of people that work tirelessly to help the special needs community and their families. Kelly began by helping with the Derby Day fundraiser and Volunteer Training. She joined the TRC Board in June 2015.

Erika Kumata, Board Member: Erika fell in love with horses as a very young girl, and as a teen, she was able to take riding lessons. She was also a trail guide for a number of years. Life then took Erika to college, grad school, and then overseas to Japan for several years. After many other adventures, she finally moved back to Southern California. Although Erika had no prior experience with children or those with disabilities, she wanted to volunteer for a worthy cause and also be hands-on with horses again, so she started volunteering at TRC on Saturdays