

For Immediate Release

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Ninth Annual Derby Day fundraiser held to support therapeutic riding program

The Huntington Central Park Equestrian Center's Red Horse Barn was transformed to Churchill Downs on Saturday May 6, 2017 for the ninth annual Derby Day fundraiser benefitting the Therapeutic Riding Center of Huntington Beach. The event has been held on the first Saturday in May for the past nine years, to coincide with America's greatest horse race, the Kentucky Derby.

TRC Derby Day was a fun-filled day of great barbeque, music, parade of TRC athletes, riding demonstrations by boarders and trainers, and the traditional hat contest and mint juleps. Guests got the opportunity to choose this year's Derby winner when they played the Derby Pick, and watched the legendary race straight from Churchill Downs via live television broadcast. Derby-goers browsed tables filled with silent auction items donated by the business community, and had a chance to win fabulous live auction prizes like a wagon ride pulled by Clydesdales, a helicopter sunset ride, and a large screen T.V. Younger Derby guests kept busy with horseshoes to decorate, a bounce house, face painting, and pony rides on two of the TRC horses. Dignitaries in attendance were City of Huntington Beach Mayor Barbara Delgleize, and Miss Huntington Beach Jena Farris and her court Sophia Silveria and Tia Giron.

The \$20,000 raised from Derby Day will go toward general funding, arena upgrades and other program necessities. TRC relies on individual donations, fundraisers such as Derby Day, student fees, and some corporate and foundation funding. With an ever-increasing demand for services, new programs, such as Reins for Success that gives at-risk youth an opportunity to work with horses, and plans to expand, the organization is continually seeking additional sources of funding. The seven working horses alone cost approximately \$5,000/month to support. Horse sponsorship is just one way to contribute to TRC.

The Therapeutic Riding Center of Huntington Beach is a member of the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl). For over 25 years, TRC has been providing equine-assisted activities to people with a variety of disabilities. Their mission is "to empower people with physical and developmental challenges to discover their greatest strengths and gain a sense of self-confidence and self-reliance through the special relationship with a horse.

The motion of the horse, the concentration needed to improve one's riding skills, and the communication between instructor, volunteer and rider allow people with a variety of disabilities to benefit from therapeutic riding.

"I have seen first-hand what this program can do for children and adults with all different types of disabilities", says TRC President Donna Brandt, whose daughter has been riding in the program for 15 years, and loves it. "It builds confidence and self-esteem where there is usually little".

Saturday May 5, 2018 will mark the 10th anniversary of the Therapeutic Riding Center's Derby Day fundraiser. Join TRC for the special event to experience all the excitement and traditions of the Run for the Roses, and be a part of the spirit that overcomes disabilities!