



Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc.

Bits About ... SPURS

To provide opportunities for growth through horse related activities for individuals with special needs.

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Fall Winter 2021
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and Kristin Jobe

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Fun in Huron!!

News and Notes

by Becky Fischbach, Director

What a great year it has been at SPURS! 2021 was filled with lots of smiles and happy riders. We are truly blessed and have a lot to be thankful for! Our program would not be possible without our wonderful, committed group of hard-working volunteers, staff, and financial supporters who all come together to help provide equine therapy for some of the greatest members of our community.

In July, our riders rocked the **South Dakota State Equestrian Competition** as we returned to the Hippodrome to compete in the 2021 Equestrian Special Olympics. 27 athletes, 30 volunteers and 12 horses represented SPURS. Our riders brought home 23 Gold medals, 20 Silver, 19 Bronze, and a handful of 4th and 5th place ribbons. Everyone was happy to be back in Huron. We are incredibly proud of ALL our riders and their accomplishments.

We are excited to announce, and invite you to join us in cheering for our rider, Tori Eschenbaum, as she represents Team South Dakota in the **2022 Special Olympics USA Games Equestrian Competition** next June in Orlando Florida. This is a tremendous honor for both Tori and SPURS. We are sure to keep you posted as this once in a lifetime experience unfolds.

Our **James H. Thompson Sensory Trail** is now complete! Many kind and generous hands came together to help make this dream a reality for SPURS. The Thompson Family, Quest Construction, Jacobs Construction, Northern Electric, Wright and Sudlow, Boy Scout Troop 188, and John Noltner all went above and beyond to help create our unique, carefully designed trail and we couldn't be more grateful. We strive to better our facility so that we may provide the best possible

Chelsea Swenson & Jasper exploring the Trail



alternative methods of therapy for our riders. We look forward to utilizing our new addition in 2022 and can't wait to see and hear the excitement in our riders as they get to experience their new James H. Thompson Sensory Trail.

This fall we were "**Back in the Big Red Barn**" as we were fortunate to be able to hold our largest annual fundraiser once again. We were overwhelmed by the support we received from our generous community, friends, and supporters. Our barn was full of energy and excitement! If you are in our area, we invite you to stop in and see all the good things that happen at SPURS. You will leave with a happy heart!





Special Thank You

Pictured with Julie Kumpf, SPURS Fundraising Coordinator, is Janell Pinkman, from ABC Seamless of Aberdeen as she presented a check to SPURS from proceeds raised during a **donut sale** held during the NSU Homecoming parade. ABC Seamless of Aberdeen and Ken's SuperFair Foods together sponsored the sale and then matched the proceeds raised. SPURS is grateful for the donation and for everyone involved.

Blind Trust

"Back in the Saddle" was the theme for the Family Weekend at the SD School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. SPURS was excited to welcome the students, staff, and family members so they could participate in a fun filled day. Tours were provided of the SPURS facility and students were able to learn about grooming and how to ride the horses.



Work Never Ends

Recently, we welcomed a group of hardworking students from Roncalli High School to help spruce up our grounds. Thank you to the students for volunteering at SPURS!

Coy's Crusaders

Coy Stager, one of our awesome riders, is pictured presenting a check to Kortnee Kumpf for proceeds from **Coy's Crusaders Motorcycle Club's** annual poker run! We are so incredibly grateful for the amazing support.



"Pizza with a Purpose"

Nick Schaunaman, owner of Jimmy's Pizza of Aberdeen, is pictured presenting a check to Julie Kumpf and Dani Karlen, staff, after SPURS was the recipient of their **"Pizza with a Purpose"** night. SPURS is incredibly appreciative of the support.

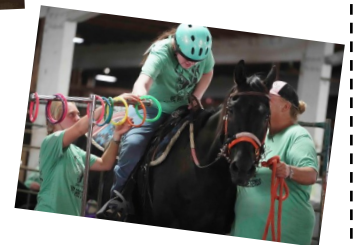
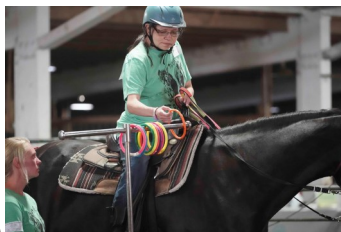
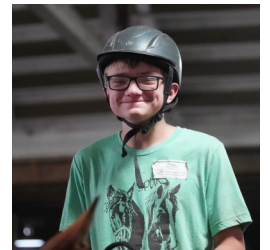
"Spirit Gear" Raising Friends and Funds

Monte Wahl, Owner of DSS Image Apparel is pictured presenting a check to Becky Fischbach, Director of SPURS, upon completion of the **SPURS "Spirit Gear"** fundraiser. The reason for the sale is to give everyone an opportunity to purchase items with the SPURS logo on them to share about the program and also to raise funds for the program. Another sale will be held in the Spring, so watch for more information about it on the SPURS Facebook page.



South Dakota Special Olympics State Equestrian Competition

It is hard to explain just how wonderful an experience like riding a horse can be for someone with unique abilities so competing in a horse show can be an overwhelmingly positive experience. We need to send out a BIG thank you to all of our competitors, parents, friends, and volunteers of the SPURS team who helped to make the show a wonderful experience! Here are a few photos (taken by Ken Bryan) to show just how special the event is for everyone .



So Many People to Thank

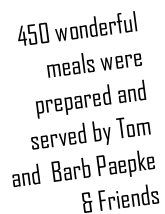
This fall we were “Back in the Big Red Barn” once again for our barn dance, our largest annual fundraiser of the year. We were overwhelmed by the support from our generous community, friends, families, and supporters. The barn was full of **energy and excitement!**



Dani Karlen selling tickets to win a donated pistol



Board President Len and Cathy Ivey sold tickets for 1/4 beef





SPURS “SPIRIT GEAR” FUNDRAISER

With the help of Dakota Silk Screen (DSS) we are excited to share about a new way to show support by wearing the SPURS name on your clothing, all while raising funds for SPURS.



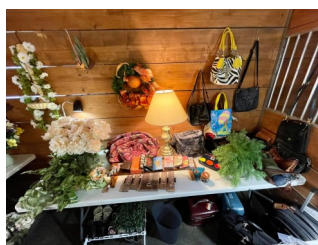
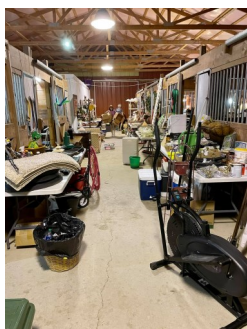
SPURS has been in operation for close to 30 years now and has helped change the lives of so many individuals and families. Now, it is our chance to help them by purchasing items. If you do not have a debit or credit card you can go into the DSS store at 114 S Lincoln St, Aberdeen SD and they will help you place an order. Products can be shipped to your home if you live outside of Aberdeen. The next web-store will be open again for a few weeks in **April or May of 2022**. Check out SPURS Facebook page for updates.



Never Too Old

Nancy Irvin is pictured visiting with the horses at SPURS. Nancy stopped out at SPURS to see if it would be possible for her to volunteer. She grew up riding and training horses and now at 80 years old was so excited to finally have the opportunity to visit SPURS. She was told it is never too late to volunteer. When asked how it felt for her to be around horses again, she could not describe the feeling without becoming emotional. We should all be a little like Nancy.

Huge Rummage Sale



Thanks to our wonderful volunteers and community, SPURS held a fantastic rummage sale.



A Special Member of Our Team

For the last six years, we have been blessed to welcome a wonderful photographer to join our team at the Special Olympics State Equestrian Competition in Huron SD. Ken Bryan, pictured with Caryn Johnson, got involved with SPURS because of his cousin Julie Kumpf. Ken is from Great Falls, Montana and loves to travel around the country taking unique pictures. Riders and families are so thankful to have the high quality .

Follow us: on Facebook at [SPURS Therapeutic Riding Center](https://www.facebook.com/SPURSTherapeuticRidingCenter/) / Facebook and on our Website at spursaberdeen.org

Wrangler Spotlight

We are very lucky to have a wonderfully enthusiastic staff. SPURS recognizes the seriousness and professionalism required to work with horses, kids, and people with disabilities. In this issue we are spotlighting two of our exceptional staff members.



Dani Karlen, Head Instructor/Equine Manager/Program Director, started as a volunteer in 2016 and then became a member of the staff in 2017. Her job duties include teaching riding lessons, schooling horses, feeding horses, saddle fitting, and then pairing the horses with the riders. Dani was an Equine Specialist, upon graduating from college, with a history in therapeutic riding. When asking her what does she like best about the job she stated "it is the connections she has made with the horses and riders." Dani has extended her education by becoming PATH Certified-CTRI, Hippotherapy trained, CPR/First aid Certified, Equine Sports Massage Therapist, and then she received an Associate's Degree in Equine Management & Training from Lake Area Technical College. After being part of the SPURS team for the last 5 years, Dani has decided to step down from her position to become the Assistant Store Manager at The Buckle. She will continue to be involved with the activities at SPURS. We greatly appreciate all Dani has done for SPURS.



Kortnee Kumpf, Volunteer Coordinator, joined our staff in 2020. Kortnee grew up at SPURS, volunteering at a very young age. Her main job is to recruit volunteers to help during classes throughout the riding season and for other special projects. Kortnee is great at arranging schedules to fit the needs of a classes and will even help out during a class, if needed. This past year, she worked with over fifty volunteers to cover classes during the riding season. She said her favorite thing about her job is seeing the smiles on the riders faces and being able to help them learn new skills. Kortnee loves helping the riders, working with volunteers, talking with people, and helping anywhere she is needed. We greatly appreciate all the organizing Kortnee does for SPURS.



"Christmas at Runnings"

Thank you so much to everyone that stopped by Runnings in Aberdeen during our "Christmas at Runnings" event and either made a cash donation or purchased an item from our wish list to donate to SPURS! We were very blessed and received a generous amount of items donated. Also, a big THANK YOU to Runnings for hosting the event!

Thank You Volunteers

Volunteers are the vital lifeblood of the SPURS organization, so we are incredibly thankful for every single person that helps keep our program thriving. We are blessed beyond measure for everyone who spends time making a difference in the lives of our riders. Volunteers make it possible for children and adults facing special challenges to experience the unique joys of learning to ride, caring for animals and bonding with their horses, fellow riders, instructors, and volunteer helpers. Both riders and volunteers alike find their time with SPURS immensely rewarding. Pictured are just a few of the volunteers that attended our recent get-together held at SPURS. We thank everyone who helped make 2021 an amazing year at the SPURS Therapeutic Riding Center!



SPURS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Len Ivey, President
Robin Mitchell, Vice President
Kerry Swingler, Treasurer
Ron Lindner, Secretary
Becky Fischbach, Director

Members: Julie Berry Paul Darling Linda Ellis
 Keith Hainy Marion Marske Eldon Swingler
 Jeff Sveen Jack Thompson Lori Westby

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Therapeutic Riding Center
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Aberdeen SD 57402
Physical address: 1006 130th Street
Phone: 605.226.1099
Becky Cell: 605.380.9295
Email: spurs@nrctv.com
Website: spursaberdeem.org

Notes from the Board by Len Ivey, Board President

It's hard to believe 2021 is coming to an end. It seems like we just got started and here we are rolling the calendar to 2022. Where did it go? This past year has been amazing. We had our Barn Dance in September, we added the Sensory Trail for our riders, new lights in the arena and had an amazing Special Olympics in Huron in July. All of this wouldn't be possible without our amazing staff, our board members, the generous support from all our financial donors, the community and all the volunteers that put in countless hours of their time to make our program successful.

It is my pleasure to be a board member and be a part of such an amazing organization that is life changing for our adult and student riders with disabilities. If you have the courage to help change someone's life (and it might just be yours!) SPURS is always looking for volunteers. 2022 is going to be a banner year for our riders with new events, great fund raisers and fresh new ideas. So get out, hook up and volunteer or help support our riders with a monetary donation. Happy Trails!

Saddle up

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address, City, State: _____
Email: _____

In support of the SPURS Therapeutic Riding Center, I/we would like to contribute annually:

(Circle one) \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Other _____

Where would you like your gift directed? ____ Horse Fund ____ Rider Scholarships ____ Give where needed most

Would you like to dedicate your gift in honor or in memory of someone?

____ Yes ____ No Name _____

How would you like to pay? Check Visa Mastercard Card Number: _____ Exp Date: _____ CVN: _____

Please make checks payable to SPURS and mail to: SPURS Therapeutic Riding Center, PO Box 431, Aberdeen, SD 57402.

Gifts are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. For more information, call 605-226-1099.

Authorization for Direct Payment I authorize SPURS Therapeutic Riding Center to initiate electronic debit entries to my: _____ checking account _____ savings account For payment of my \$ _____ donation.

I acknowledge that the origination of ACH transactions to my account must comply with the provisions of the U.S. law. This authority will remain in effect until I have canceled in writing.

My preferred withdrawal date: _____ Financial Institution Name: _____

Account number at Financial Institution: _____ Routing number: _____

Financial Institution city and state: _____

Signature: _____