



Annual Report For the year ending December 31, 2018

# Guiding Principles

#### ~ Our Mission ~

Peace Area Riding for the Disabled Society is committed to providing high quality Equine Assisted Therapy to Peace Country residents

#### ~ Our Vision ~

To support individuals of all ages and abilities to maximize their growth and potential; physically, cognitively, behaviourally and socially, through equine assisted programs and activities

#### ~ Belief Statement ~

We believe in the inherent worth of all people

We believe in the dignity & healing power of horses

We believe all individuals have the right to independence, self-confidence,

community presence & involvement

We believe all individuals have the right to access quality supports and services to assist them to achieve independence, self-confidence, community presence & involvement

We believe the community as a whole is strengthened by developing and providing services that enhance quality of life for individuals of all abilities

We believe the development and support for services for individuals with disabilities increases their opportunity to become equal, engaged and contributing members of the community

We believe the community as a whole has a responsibility to support social programs which are able to demonstrate benefits to society

#### ~ Our Aim ~

We strive to develop a client-centered organization with skills, knowledge and resources that are in keeping with current and innovative therapeutic riding approaches

We are committed to working in partnership with our community to meet these goals



# Messages From the Leadership

On behalf of the PARDS Board of Directors, I am pleased to present to you our annual report.

2018 was a year of growth and celebration for PARDS Therapeutic Centre.

In September, we celebrated our Grand Opening Event and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony! It was exciting to take part in such a monumental moment in our history.

Over the past year our Board of Directors has continued work to ensure that we are following a strong Governance Model to support our Executive Director, Jennifer Douglas and ensure that the organization is following our Mission and Vision.

I would like to thank Fletcher Bootle for his continued support as an advisor to the Board in the areas of Governance and Policy review. In recognition of his continued support he was awarded the Slim Allen Award of Excellence at our Annual Fund Ride in June. It was an honour to present the award in recognition of the many, many hours that Fletcher has contributed as well as the encouragement and mentoring he has offered to Board, staff and committee members.

As part of our Board Development Strategy, all Board members attended a Barn & Lesson Volunteer Orientation which gave all of us an even deeper understanding of the importance of PARDS in our community and everything it takes to make it all come together in the arena. Every forward motion we make and effort we undertake is done so with our riders front of mind. We exist to serve them and we are honoured that the community has shown their trust in our programs through their ongoing support. Moving forward we will be developing a skills assessment plan and recruitment strategies to attract new Board members to bring in an appropriate mix of skills and experience to provide the necessary depth of knowledge and experience to meet the Board's responsibilities and objectives.

We are so thankful for those who have given us their gift of time & service. It's through the support and dedication of our amazing volunteers and the generosity and support of this community through individual and corporate sponsorship and donations that has helped us grow and expand to where we are today.

~Christina Balcom, Board Chairperson

2018 was a whirlwind year. Our first full year in our new home came with many, many changes, opportunities and challenges. It has taken a bit of time to get our bearings with operating a facility so different from our former home. It is all coming together; from the development of a comprehensive Risk Management System including a detailed Emergency Response Plan to the overhaul of all of our Job Descriptions, we continue to build in processes and procedures to strengthen the organization and ensure critical knowledge does not reside solely within any one individual. It has proven to be overwhelming at times, but also invigorating, providing the entire team with opportunities to take ownership of specific areas within their roles and responsibilities.

The year saw us host all of our usual events with great success as well as add in our Grand Opening Celebration! We hosted a barn dance with live entertainment by Trevor Panczak and a Pitchfork Fondue for supper! Just prior to the Grand Opening, we presented our Ribbon Cutting event with the help of the Chamber of Commerce. One of the highlights of our Grand Opening was the original song that was written in honour of our riders and debuted at the event. Through the efforts of PARDS friend, Linda Gullickson, Trevor agreed to work with her on the lyrics and he would provide the original music to accompany. Having a PARDS song has been something I have been wanting for a number of years and I am filled with so much gratitude toward Linda for hearing my vision and helping it become a reality.

We also launched our Little Pony Motricity preschool program and it has been a resounding success! We are passionate about expanding our impact to those without a clinical diagnosis and adding the Little Pony Program to our program offerings takes us further in our efforts.

We were also fortunate to build a partnership with Alberta Health Services Youth Day Program as a pilot project and all the youth were eager to continue the program after the pilot project. We also partnered with Rotary House to offer some of their clients the opportunity to engage with our herd and experience the therapeutic benefits of horses.

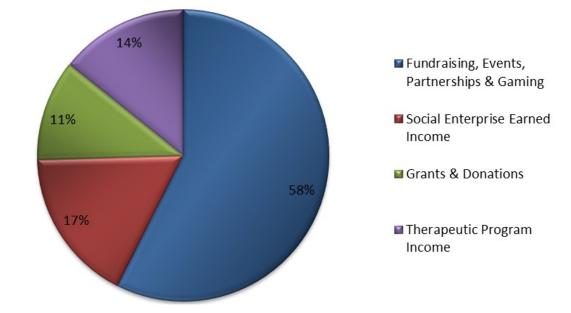
I commend the efforts of all PARDS Board members to continue building their skills in governance and knowledge of the organization. The volunteer commitment they have taken on is not one to be entered into lightly, but they have all proven up to the challenge.

Finally, I recognize my team of dedicated, knowledgeable and honourable individuals. You have shown true loyalty to the organization and commitment to our riders. I thank you for standing beside me as we navigate through all of the changes and transitions we face and I thank you for trusting me enough to share your ideas, opinions, fears and hopes through the ongoing process of growth and evolution we find ourselves in.

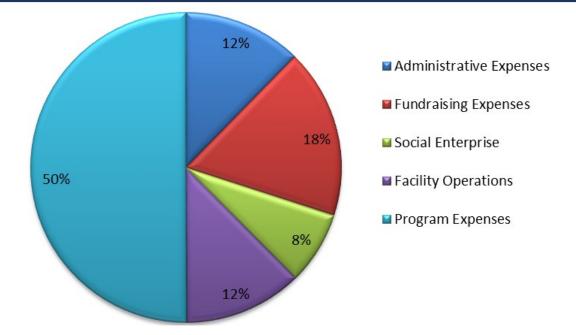


# Treasurer's Report

#### Where Do the Funds Come From?



#### Where Do the Funds Go?



2018 was full of excitement as we spent our first full year in our new facility! As illustrated in the above charts, our highest area of expenses was programming while the largest area of revenue was fundraising.

With our expansion, we made the decision to invest in IT infrastructure including moving to an online program registration platform and a comprehensive database management system. The online registration system provides consistency for our riders and their families along with eliminating the extensive amount of paper that was required for hard copy registrations and associated forms. The database provides a system for any staff member to serve any stakeholder and have all necessary relevant information at their fingertips. This not only improves the customer experience, but also ensures that information remains within the organization regardless of changes in staffing or Board membership.

#### Governance Committee Report

The Governance committee continued its work with drafting new policies and reviewing existing policies to ensure the Executive Director and the Board have the resources, guidance and tools they need to achieve success collectively for the good of PARDS overall.

The Board completed our annual review and strategic planning in the fall. This is an ideal time to review what the past year held, areas of success and areas of opportunity. The planning session included short and long term planning, providing a roadmap by which we will measure our progress and also provide a clear vision for future Board members and staff to build upon.

Each year after the AGM we do a review/assessment of each committee which entails outlining what work is to be done, who is responsible, what skillset each committee needs for the year, timelines and review of each committee's terms of reference. Review of terms of reference is done at the committee level but also at the Board level to ensure a continuum of understanding of roles and responsibilities to ensure we are going forward as a team with clear objectives and expectations.

Each board meeting includes set policy review for the Executive Director as well as the Board, it's an opportunity to show how we are understanding and following our own policies and procedures and evaluate the necessity for any changes or clarifications as we develop.

We have grown a lot as a Board which has enhanced the Board's relationship with the ED and her staff, this has had a positive impact in the team's efforts in achieving the mission of PARDS.

~ Tyla Savard, Vice Chair/Governance Committee Chair

# Facility Committee Report



PARDS presents County of Grande Prairie Council with a cheque for \$975,280 for repayment of loan

2018 was our first full year in our new home. Part of the funding for construction came through a \$1 million loan by the County of Grande Prairie which was secured by the property that used to house our arena which was generously donated by the Haberman Family back in 1992. With the help of Greg Dobko and Bobbi Dawson of ReMax, who waived their realtor fees and commissions, we were able to finalize the sale of our former property and repay the vast majority of the loan. For the remaining amount, the County stepped up once again, continuing their support of our project and unanimously voted to forgive the outstanding loan amount of \$90,809 allowing us to launch programs and operations debt free!!!

The Facility Committee was struck to prioritize projects that weren't completed with the original construction such as completing the mezzanine, installing an elevator, completing the outdoor arena and other projects. The committee is chaired by Board member James Rawlek and consists of staff, Board members and members at large to ensure we have the diverse skills and knowledge necessary to make recommendations to the board for consideration and action.

~ Jennifer Douglas, Executive Director

# Gone but never forgotten, in loving memory

Thank you to all the family and friends who chose to remember their loved one through a gift to our special riders Gerald Bonnett Bonnie Dorcas Charlie Gillespie Robert Kimble Malcom Menzies Al Parsons Margaret Wenzel

and our beautiful, loving Gloria ~ we miss your smile

# Dur Home

# Thank You to our Project Partners





EVELYN SUTHERLAND

FOUNDATION

encana



#### **MC Pardell Contracting**



#### **Robert & Ruth Finch**

**Dean & Sheilah Swanberg Ruskin Construction Ltd. Big Stick Rentals Inc.** MR Plumbing & Heating Ltd. Grande Prairie Petroleum Association **Overhead Door** Keddie's Tack & Western Wear McLeod Family Paul & Coreen Evaskevich **Strasdin Orthodontics Charlie & Marilyn Cramer KIN Club of Grande Prairie** Smash & Sons Contracting Ltd. **Bluewave Energy** Sheepo Fencina AccuPro Real Estate Appraisal & Consulting **Odessa Doors** All Class Fabrication CNRL - Day of Giving Back **Mainline Construction** 

Ed & Terri Haberman & Family



**Integrity Industries North Rentco Equipment Ltd.** Swan City Rotary Club Northern Mat & Bridge **Risley Equipment Inc. Bowes Family** Canfor Karen Blais **Troyer Ventures** R & B Oilfield Rentals **Rob Rasi Ventures** Sunrise Rotary Club **Renos by Enos Prairie Signs Roy Bickell & Family Dulux Paint Beairsto & Associates** Engineering Ltd. Hans Valen Painting **Telus - Day of Giving Grande Prairie Regional Airport Reco Construction ATCO Electric** 





Tom Brown 1000 Mile Ride **Behlen Industries LP** Kev's Kids LSM Plumbing & Heating Peavy Mart Ken Sargent GMC Amgas Withers LP **Grant Evaskevich & Family Brian Tink & Family** Grande Prairie Gymkhana Club **Glen's Graders** Willy's Trucking **Global Raymac** J.R. Paine & Associates Ltd. **Rocky Mountain Equipment Northern Doors** Fine Line Cabinets & Countertops 1266823 AB Inc. Wapiti Gravel Suppliers **Beattie Family** 



#### Community Champions



Ann McLeod joined PARDS Board in 2002 where she continued as Chairperson through 2007. It was during this time it became clear that our old facility was literally bursting at the seams; city development was surrounding us and too many riders were on a waitlist waiting to access programs. We had to relocate and build a larger facility - this was the beginning of the idea of expanding our facility. Ann says one of her favorite memories of PARDS was when Risley Equipment started clearing the land for PARDS new home. While doing research on the Pine Beetle, Kevin Timanson arranged to have Risley volunteer to clear PARDS future property. "It was such a beautiful sunny day and

they were volunteering everything, there was such excitement in the air!"

Ann and her husband, Lorne are wonderful ambassadors for PARDS and everything we stand for. They were a tremendous part of our recent Grand Opening event. Ann sat on the Planning Committee helping with the program, putting together PARDS history for the slideshow and assisting with sponsorships. She also decided that there were a few projects, like installing baseboards, which absolutely HAD to be done before our event. She took it upon herself to reach out to GP Flooring to secure the donation of baseboard materials and recruited Lorne to arrange installation. Next on the McLeod Team's list was the landscaping. Ann



created a plan and then she and Lorne spent many hours over many days bringing her plan to life. Ann even reached out to Keddie's for the donation of a flagpole and to Kakwa Stone for a load of decorative gravel for our landscaping beds. Team McLeod could be seen cementing in the flagpole (with Ann checking Lorne's work with her trusty level), raking gravel and repurposing some of the native pine on the property to live in the half oak barrels which were donated by Jennifer Wolf along with one from Bob Wallace. There wasn't any detail that Team McLeod overlooked or any job that they weren't willing to tackle. While Ann

continued with some of her Planning Committee responsibilities, Lorne was busy building Live Auction Boards and 10 Silent Auction Tables which will be an asset for all of our future events including our upcoming Dine & Dance. Ann & Lorne also spent time creating a list of invites of past "old time, from the beginning" PARDS supporters. They loaned their beautiful Raspberry Red International for the décor and

helped to set up the event. They sponsored a table at the event and also contributed to the Mission Moment, helping us raise funds for our much needed elevator lift. Their impact was felt throughout the room in many ways.





It won't take you long on a tour of PARDS facility to see the McLeod name. Lorne spent many hours helping to install our barn stalls and even secured the donation of the stall lumber through Canfor. Then Team McLeod decided they wanted to sponsor one of the stalls, so now their family name is proudly displayed as a Barn Stall Sponsor. While Lorne was here helping get ready for our Grand Opening he was "tasked" with helping get the final shelter repaired to be moved into the paddock. With one look, Lorne

determined the shelter was beyond repair and decided to become a Shelter Sponsor instead! Now their family name is also proudly displayed on a brand new shelter. Ann & Lorne have also sponsored the feed and care for Ace, one of our program horses for 2020, ensuring that his feed, supplements and farrier expenses are paid for the year. Through many years, in many forms, Ann & Lorne have remained engaged with and supportive of PARDS. Every time you thank Lorne he always says, "Anytime. You are good people at PARDS & we are happy to help."

Ann, with her enthusiastic spirit, shares, "I was always involved with horses, not as much as my sister Ruth, but I see all these kids



in sports and I feel every child needs to experience the fun and joy of sport. They need to be able to have their friends and family cheer them on. I see millions spent on ice arenas, football fields and such, but for many of our riders, the PARDS Arena is one of the only facilities money has ever been injected into for them. For many of them, this is the only place they can enjoy sport and have their families cheer them on. That's why I stay involved with PARDS; the Riders." Then she added, "I have to say though, it was pretty fun going back through the photos to create the history for the Grand Opening. I got to see Ray Binks grow up over the years, which was pretty touching."



# From Dur Riders & Their Families

PARDS is one amazing facility and we are grateful to be one of the family!	She began riding at PARDS when she was 4, could hardly lift her head up and wheelchair bound; that was 8 years ago. Now on her horse she looks like she belongs up there; head up, back straight and the freedom of walking with 4 legs!!
Love hearing about the fun he had after his lesson each week! It is amazing to watch the growth she has made. She could barely sit in a saddle on her own without a side walker	He is very bonded with the horses and when having a bad day that he himself may not understand why or is too loud when around the horses, he comes home and talks about how "his horse didn't like that and that he needs to be nicer." Coming to PARDS has taught him how to be more social in other areas such as home and school, stretching his desire to socialize and be accepted more by others.
and leader ~ now she is trotting independently! She has physically become stronger and more coordinated. She is more disciplined and her confidence has grown. She rides with a smile!	He seems to connect quickly with the horses. He seems to understand their nonverbal cues and calms down when he is around them.
I enjoy learning new and interesting things about riding and horses	She had/has poor muscle tone and special needs. We heard great things about the PARDS program and how inclusive it was!

She has come so far both physically and competitively. Winning first place in the PARA Equestrian Video Competition for the first time was a proud moment. Her first place ribbon is framed, hanging in her room as a reminder of what is possible with hard work and a four legged friend!

Huge boost in his confidence/self esteem. His conversational skills have improved since he is learning new terms and has more to share with others.

She is calmer especially after riding. She is able to follow instructions and is feeling very successful in her accomplishments.

# Rider Spotlights

#### Therapeutic Riding



#### **Kathrine Shields**

Kathrine has been riding at PARDS for just over two years. She is your typical twenty-two year old in many ways; she enjoys spending time with her friends and family, she enjoys going swimming, goes for motorcycle rides with her dad, she plays the piano and most of all she loves riding horses. So what is it that sets Kathrine apart from others her age? She has no vision. That's right, she is able to do all those seemingly normal activities and excels at them while not being able to see what's in the world around her! Having known Kathrine all her life (in addition to being her riding instructor, I am also her cousin!), I have seen she does not let her vision impairment slow her down. Being blind since birth, she has developed and used her other senses to make up for it and she has and continues to accomplish some pretty amazing things. Kathrine can tell you the

colour of her shirt and other clothing by being told what colour

it is and then remembers the texture and its colour. It may be the texture or an applique, but what a phenomenal memory! She often comes from her room and announces that she dressed herself and asks "how do I look?"

When Kathrine is at PARDS she trusts her equine partner to be her eyes and legs for her but she is still the rider in charge. The arena is set up as a standardized riding ring used in most competitions. There are letters set at every corner and the center of each wall at set distances. Kathrine is able to gauge where she is by feeling the movement as her horse takes each step and then feels and counts how many steps her horse takes to get to each letter. Kathrine has a horse leader and sidewalker in her lesson as a safety precaution. Kathrine



independently steers her horse around all four corners of our ring and can accurately stop her horse beside each letter knowing by memory exactly where she is. The horses best suited for Kathrine are ones with even, consistent strides and a shorter, sturdy wide build to assist with her balance. This gives her a sense of comfort and she is able to trust her partner with every step. In her lessons we give Kathrine many verbal descriptive cues as to her surroundings and give directions spaced out to allow her time to process before needing to execute the movement such as a corner or a halt.

Being Kathrine's instructor and able to share some insight into just what goes into the lessons we provide has been very rewarding. As her cousin, to watch her *live* with blindness and see her accomplish so much and be willing to take on anything given to her, I am filled with even more pride. It amazes me that Kathrine can recognize the staff and volunteers here by just the sound of our voices. It tells me that the staff and volunteers truly are engaged with Kathrine. Kathrine is always so happy to be here and that attitude is contagious!

#### ~Jessica Anderson, PARDS Instructor



PARDS was featured in an episode of Our Community through Accessible Media Inc. which highlighted the possibilities PARDS offers to riders like Kathrine. Kathrine was a part of this video. To view visit: <u>http://www.ami.ca/category/our-community/.../accessible-riding</u>



#### Little Pony Motricity

#### Wynter Van Shaick

Wynter is five years old and rides in our Little Pony Motricity Program. Wynter started riding in the fall of 2018 and has participated in two sessions. She rides our miniature pony, Chevy who she says is "her favorite horse at PARDS". Wynter has been a fun little girl to work with. She comes each week with a bubbly attitude and big smile that just brightens anyone's day. She is excited in her Little Pony lessons, always asking questions and wanting to learn more. She is a friendly girl, offering an enthusiastic greeting and winning smile to meet her volunteers. Some of her favorite things to do are trot and play, "What time is it Mr. Wolf". In this game they gain strength in numeracy, walk/halt transitions, listening skills and balance just to name a few. Wynter has come a long way since her first lesson with Chevy. In the groundwork portion of her lesson she knows her brushes and how to use them and her basic pony parts. On the horse, Wynter is able to balance with no stirrups and no hands holding on, (airplane arms), she knows how to walk, stop



and steer her pony and is becoming very accomplished at the trot! Wynter's riding goal is to one day ride Chevy independently.

# Rider Program Spotlights

Therapeutic Riding



#### Reeghan Funk

Reeghan is a twelve year old girl who has been riding in the PARDS program for eight years. Reeghan has CP and it effects her ability to stretch out her legs and arms and prevents her from walking. Reeghan looks forward to coming to PARDS each week to ride. Beyond having fun, she understands the benefits of how riding helps her stretch out and relax her muscles as well as work on her core strength. This happens through the horse's body heat warming the muscles to help them relax and also the movement of the horse which mimics the movement we make when walking, which in turn moves Reeghan's hips. Reeghan has a team of two side walkers and a leader to assist her in her lesson. The sidewalkers give her a secure thigh hold support for balance, while also adding an ankle hold to keep Reeghan's legs extended as much as comfortably possible.

When Reeghan was born, her parents were told she may never be able to sit up on her own. One of the things her family says she has benefitted from with coming to PARDS is her ability to sit up straight from the core strength she works on while riding. One of Reeghan's

goals in the future is to move to a team of one sidewalker and a leader so that she can be more independent in her riding.

She looks forward to continuing to ride in horse shows such as the ParaEquestrain Video Competitions put on at PARDS through Equine Canada. Reeghan is a five time winner in her class for the video competitions.



Reeghan's favorite things to do while riding is 2 point and trotting. Although her disability effects her ability to stretch her legs fully out to support herself in a post, she is able to sit any trot

wonderfully from her years of riding experience. Working on her 2 point has strengthened her core muscles to also help her sit her trot, as well as "its just fun!" she says.

Reeghan has recently needed to change horses due to her growing taller. She has started riding Montney and even though it can be hard to change your horse, Reeghan has adapted to the change well and already seems to have a fantastic bond with her new horse. Both Reeghan and Montney are excited to start their lesson every week and always have fun.

~ McKayla VanNieuwkerk, PARDS Instructor

#### Therapeutic Cart Driving



#### **Michael Knox**

Michael always has a smile on his face and is always up for conversation when he walks into PARDS. Michael has been riding with PARDS for 8 years and is 52 years old. He loves being around the horses as he finds it a wonderfully relaxing & stress free environment. Riding gives him a sense of freedom and allows him to be in control. Michael started in our Therapeutic Riding program, bonding with Holly and benefitting from her gentle nature and rolling walk. With the progression of symptoms of his Parkinson's, diagnosis, Michael's balance became impaired and it became unsafe for both Michael and his support volunteers for him to continue mounted riding. Michael was offered our Cart Driving program and he was very open to the chance to learn something new and still remain in the place he found

relaxing. Michael has now been riding independently in the cart for 3 years. Cart driving offers many of the same horsemanship skills as in a mounted program along with new skills and techniques. Michael has gained confidence in his ability to harness and hook up his cart and finds that focusing on reining while driving and keeping his cart on track helps him focus.

For Michael, driving is not the only time he is involved at PARDS. For the past 3 years he has volunteered with the FUND Ride Carnival. He wanted to contribute and eagerly accepted when asked to help with one of the carnival games. The first year, when he arrived with his support worker, he was very anxious about being in such a large crowd. With a bit of a nervousness in his voice but still with his witty, joking manner he said to the carnival coordinator, "Well, I'm here". He was offered the fish pond game that was in a quieter corner, where he would mostly see little children laughing and having fun. It's not only our programs where PARDS takes the needs of our clients into consideration. He had so much fun and with his confidence in himself building through his riding program and involvement in the community there was been no hesitation when asked each year to come back and help out.



# Youth Leadership Program



When Jenny (not her real name) started in the Youth Leadership program, she presented as a kid who felt like and truly believed that she never quite fit in anywhere. She was referred to the program to help her develop coping skills and strategies around her struggles to form social relationships with her peers, her constant state of worry and her low self-esteem. Jenny has a good heart, adores all animals and fell in love with horses after her first lesson at PARDS. After the barn tour, the group participated in an exercise of interacting with various herd members in an effort to find an equine partner for that evening's lesson. Freckles, a newer program member, can be quite impatient when separated from the other horses and vocalizes her disapproval loudly and constantly. However, she is also very distinctive with her white coat and brown speckles all over and she caught Jenny's attention. As Freckles called for her friend and pranced around while tied in the alley, Jenny watched very closely. The other kids in the group flocked to the mini pony and other large black horse standing calmly farther down the alleyway making comments why they didn't want to work with the loud horse (Freckles).

After a few moments, Jenny walked over to Freckles and patiently waited for her to acknowledge her presence. Freckles sniffed at her and stood very still, eyes wide and very unsure of the young girl watching her. As Jenny started to brush Freckles, she noticed Freckles starting to calm down, relax and focus on the grooming session and not the other horses. Jenny

described Freckles demeanor as "like she feels accepted and isn't afraid of being alone". After a few minutes the rest of the group noticed that the noise had quieted and the horse had settled with Jenny still grooming. The rest of the group slowly joined Jenny with one youth asking her how she got Freckles to settle down. Jenny replied, "I just quietly spoke to her and saved her some space so she wasn't alone".

Since starting the Youth Leadership Program, Jenny has found a place to belong. She has found an interest to pursue with pride in what she is capable of. She has overcome so many fears and since attending PARDS Youth Leadership program she has learned strategies to help her continue to conquer even more.

Observable changes in behaviour over the time Jenny has participated in the program include a significant reduction in negative self -talk, a notable increase in the confidence she displays and every week when she arrives, she is more and more comfortable with her surroundings and the people she has gotten to know as friends to look to for support instead of strangers to look at with fear. This is the greatest gift of the Youth Leadership Program. Jenny may not "fit" in with the rest of the world, but at PARDS she has found acceptance and the confidence to believe that safe places do exist.





~ Tíara Chambers, Youth Leadership Facilitator



#### Annual Sponsors-Facility















#### Donor Spotlight



Brandt Tractor has been a long time supporter of PARDS; always ready to help where they can. In the fall of 2016, Andrew & Craig of Brandt Tractor called to share their summer BBQ program had been a huge success and 2 of their locations had chosen PARDS as the benefitting charity. In the spring of 2017, when we were planning our very first "Shoot for PARDS Stars," a regular donor suggested we invite "The Brandt Boys" out because they love clay shooting, especially for a good cause. Branch Manager, Kevin Lavallee, was very interested and he decided on the spot to sign up a team as well as sponsor the event! The Brandt team attended PARDS Clay Shoot that July and had a great time; so much so, that this year they registered 2 teams and once again sponsored the event!



PARDS relationship with Brandt has continued to grow because they believe in PARDS programs and giving back and building a community where children thrive and people of all ages and abilities receive the supports they need. They are always there and willing to help when and if they can and their support reaches well beyond monetary donations. When we needed an excavator, ditch witch or bobcat they were right there to loan us the needed equipment and even deliver it! This year, when hands were needed to throw hay bales, the PARDS Staff were hoping to see 1 or 2 helpful Brandt volunteers but were very happy to see 5 of the Brandt staff; Andrew, Colin, Craig, Dave and Kevin walking across the acreage to help load. Then they returned to PARDS and unloaded it in what seemed to be record time. We all had a great time; Brandt staff always bring humour and smiles where ever they go! That day, they offered not only their labour and time, but also trucks and trailers if needed for future hay hauling.

Last December, Kevin reached out and asked us to create a slideshow about PARDS Horse Sponsorship. He showed the slideshow at the staff Christmas party and his staff overwhelmingly decided they wanted a horse for PARDS Programs. Brandt was extremely patient and involved during the entire process as it took PARDS lead instructor, Robyn several months to locate just the right PARDS horse to add to the herd. Horses are selected based on a number of factors including stature, training and temperament. PARDS herd is as diverse as our riders. A well rounded herd is critical to our ability to serve all of our riders safely and effectively. After a potential program horse is found, we then do an evaluation and vet check, then after arriving at PARDS they go through a lengthy trial period in which they receive extensive training specific to our riders needs. This includes desensitizing them to lesson props, the mechanical lift, loud noises as well as many other things. In July, Brandt's horse passed his final tests with flying colours, allowing him to become a PARDS equine staff member! This was a very exciting day for Brandt the company as well as Brandt the horse. Kevin Lavallee arranged a full BBQ, Lou brought a horse trailer and trailered Brandt

to Brandt's Clairmont location to meet all 70 Brandt employees, where the salesmen were chefs to an all-out BBQ with all the fixins! The Brandt team didn't stop there, they had raised an amazing \$1800 at their Christmas party which they used to spoil their handsome gelding with anything and everything he could need from a fly sheet to a winter blanket, to a beautiful leather bridle and new saddle.

The Brandt team is a big family, with huge community spirit and support many worthy causes in the area. They are a big part of the County Clean up every year, helping to clean up the powerline east of PARDS and Evergreen Park, Big Hearts for Big Kids and many more. In 2017, Brandt Tractor won the County of Grande Prairie's Landscape Recognition Award of Excellence and Brandt definitely enjoyed his time grazing the beautifully well kept lawn!

Since this time, Brandt and Smash & Sons saw a need as our existing quad was aging and donated a side by side which will make light work to many jobs at PARDS. They will be providing regular maintenance and on the first check went over our tractor as well!



We can't thank Brandt enough for all they continue to do!



# 2018 House of the Year

Congratulations to Finale on winning the 2018 horse of the year!!

Finale is a 20 year old buckskin mare who joined the PARDS programs back in 2010.

Standing 14.3HH Finale is a great all round horse. Her rolling walk and quick trot helps to open her rider's hips and greatly mimics the movement of the human walk.

Finale is a great asset to our public and independent therapeutic riders. With her previous background, Finale has all the training to take young riders to the next level. She quickly picked up on voice commands, which is amazing, as it allows riders with "weak legs" to still signal Finale as to which gait they want her to pick up.

Over the years Finale has been the trusted mount of many first time video competition riders. It is

not uncommon to see riders go into the ring a bit nervous and come out with a huge smile on their face as Finale carries them smoothly through their competition as if saying "don't worry kid, we got this!"

Way to go Finale on your 2018 horse of the year award! We look forward to many more wonderful years with you!

#### Horse Sponsorship

When Northstar Hydrovac learned that we needed a pony for the "between" riders, they enthusiastically stepped up to help and now we are so pleased to introduce North. North is a 15 year old grey mare pony. She is a new addition to the Little Pony Motricity (LPM) program and will be used in therapeutic lessons for our smaller riders as well. She stands at 11 hands high which allows the taller LPM riders to continue to enjoy our program when they are too big for our minis but are not quite ready for our other riding programs. North is calm, patient, and working hard to create her place at PARDS. In addition to the sponsorship of North's purchase and associated costs, Northstar Hydrovac



continues to support North with an annual donation to cover the costs of her feed and care. They also support our Christmas campaign by purchasing whatever tack or supplies she is needing at the time. Thank you so much Northstar!



# Characteristics of a PARDS Horse

What does PARDS look for in a therapeutic program horse prospect?

We don't look for a specific breed, as each horse is viewed as an individual. Traits we look for include: soundness, three good clear gaits (no gaited breeds) at walk, trot and canter, a nice temperament, low flight response, a minimum of 14HH and ideally between the ages of 10 and 17. We look for horses that are well-schooled in either English or Western. Experience in 4H, Pony Club and the competitive riding disciplines is a huge asset. They should have good ground manners and be able to tolerate the attention of many people.

Not every horse has what it takes to be a PARDS therapeutic riding horse. It takes a specific skill set combined with strong training and unique character traits for a horse to be accepted as a therapy horse partner.

It is sometimes necessary for us to seek out horses who have very specific skills and attributes in order to maintain a well-rounded herd for the benefit of all of our riders and often these horses are not available as a donation.

With this in mind, PARDS created the Horse Sponsorship Program. To ensure a safe and beneficial riding experience, we seek community members and companies to sponsor the purchase price including associated costs (vet check, vaccinations, etc.) of a suitable therapeutic program horse. Sponsors are encouraged to name "their" horse, and signage is provided on the stall door with the horse's name along with the name of the sponsor.

All horses, whether donated or purchased, undergo a lengthy assessment and vet check before they come into the program as a PARDS 'Trial Horse'. During a trial period of approximately 7 weeks, PARDS qualified staff will further assess the horse before accepting them into the program.





# PARDS FUND Ride & Community Carnival

What an amazing time was had at PARDS 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual FUND Ride & Community Carnival. A fun filled day of trail rides for our FUND raising participants as well as all our little riders who joined us on our pony trails through the Community Carnival. There was great food provided by the Grande Prairie Rotary BBQ Crew for breakfast before the riders hit the trails; as well as for volunteers and event attendees for lunch. The Community Carnival saw young and old alike showing their competitive spirit at the carnival games and the laughter could be heard from the newest addition to the carnival, "The Silly String Hobby Horse Corral", where everyone galloped an obstacle course riding whimsical hobby horses, thanks to Tina Gaylard who designed and created each one! Tokens were won and prizes were chosen.



After the riders returned, a great steak supper was provided by New Horizon Co-op and awards

were given. PARDS would like to thank all the participants that collected pledges prior to the ride and the sponsors and donors who collectively raised almost \$40,000.00. These funds allow us to continue to make Therapeutic Riding accessible to everyone.

As well we would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make the event a fantastic success from planning with the committee, setup, pony ride, trail, (keeping our riders safe), carnival, keeping everyone fed and teardown. Together we made it happen and we couldn't do it without you!







# PARDS Summer Camp

2018 was another great year of Summer fun at PARDS in all of our Camps. Riders enjoyed rides through the vast 55 acres of treed land. We held 4 weeks of PARDS Youth Summer Day Camps and 1 week of Adult Therapeutic Camp. We once again partnered with Camp Tamarack for their horse camp and this year we had our first Little Pony Motricity Day Camp.

PARDS Summer Camps provide an inclusive environment where those of all abilities are encouraged and supported to identify and build on their own strengths as well as recognize and appreciate the strengths of others.

Our camps are full of fun and friendship. They are also full of all kinds of learning and personal discovery hidden within the games, activities and adventures. Almost all of PARDS programs are incorporated into the day camps including Riding, Grooming, Cart Driving and Youth Leadership. It's a fantastic way to learn the basics of horse care, riding, horsemanship, cart driving and much more. The last day of each Youth Camp included a day of skills displays where campers shared their new learned knowledge with family and friends.

We are pleased to report that all riders throughout the summer had a ton of fun!







# Equine Canada Para-Equestrian Video Competition

The Para-Dressage Video Competition Series provides riders of all levels and abilities with the opportunity to compete. Participants are judged by EC certified para-dressage judges against similar riders across Canada, and are eligible to place and win great prizes.

Video competitions encourage riders to develop effective riding skills, and are a fantastic way to ensure that all riders nationwide have the chance to compete. Competition is an integral part of athlete development, and offers a sense of empowerment and accomplishment to all those that participate.

PARDS had 9 riders participate in 2018 under the direction of Robyn Boudreau - CanTRA II / Equine Canada Instructor and received the award for High Point Therapeutic Centre in Canada. Congratulations to our riders in 2018!

#### Para-Equestrian Sport 2018 Video Competition Video Series

Some of our riders took part in Equine Canada's Video Competition Series in 2018 and they achieved some wonderful results. We are so proud to be a part of their accomplishments and their efforts to achieve their own personal goals. Congratulations to all that participated!

#### February

#### Class #1

1st - Leah Sietsma on Molson 2nd - Kianna Parker on Saphfyre 3rd - Jada Martins on Risley Class #7 1st - Justeen Schneider on Windsor March

Class #1 Kianna Parker on Saphfyre <u>April</u> Class #1 2nd - Jada Martins and Rislev 3rd - Leah Siestma and Molson November Class #1 1st - Leah Sietsma and Molson

2nd - Kianna Parker and Saphyre Class #2 1st - Aly Keay and Manny Class #5 1st - Leah Post on Molson 2nd - Hana Dachuck on Alby 6th - Janelle Tucker on Alby Class #7 3rd - Justeen Schneider on Windsor

#### May

Class#1 1st - Leah Sietsma and Molson 2nd - Hana Dachuck and Finale 4th - Kianna Parker and Saphfyre 5th - Dakota Lynch and Saphfyre 6th - Jada Martins and Risley Class #5 1st - Leah Post and Molson

#### October

Class #1 1st - Leah Sietsma and Molson 3rd - Kianna Parker and Saphfyre Class #5 3rd - Janelle Tucker and Alby 5th - Leah Post and Molson 6th - Hana Dachuck and Finale







2018 PARA-DRESSAGE VIDEO COMPETITION EQUESTRIAN ANADA FOUFSTRE HIGH POINT

THERAPEUTIC RIDING CENTRE AWARDED TO PARIDS



33nd Annual Fund Ride & Community Carnival

# **FUND Ride Sponsors & Donors**





















And a HUGE thank you to all the volunteers for sharing your time and skills with us and to all the community members who came out to participate and make the event a great success!!!



# Dut and About in 2017



**Agri Show & Home Show**—PARDS was excited to attend both the Agri Show & Home Show with Tool Box Raffle partner PrairieCoast Equipment. Thank you to PCE for sharing their booth space and to all the volunteers who manned the booth.























**Hunt Mania Trade Show**—PARDS was happy to attend the Hunt Mania show courtesy of Primetime Hunting & Fishing, who shared space in their booth for us to sell BBQ Tickets and promote PARDS clay shoot, Shoot for PARDS Stars. We had a great time working with them throughout the year!

**1st Annual Grande Prairie Gold Mining Association Tradeshow**—PARDS was excited to host the Gold Mining Tradeshow in the arena at our former facility. All proceeds raised through the event were donated to PARDS!

**Sports Expo**—PARDS volunteers were happy to attend this event promoting PARDS Programs and selling BBQ Tickets in a booth generously donated by Sports Expo. Volunteers had a fun time chasing the bears around the show!

**Grande Prairie Stompede**—PARDS enjoyed the Stompede with a booth generously donated by the Stompede to sell Raffle Tickets & offer Glitter Tattoos. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped out.

**KMSC Golf Tournament**—PARDS has partnered with KMSC for this event since inception. Our golfers certainly enjoyed a fun filled day of golf, laughs and sunshine!

**TP Creek Stampede**—We had a great time working with the committee again this year! PARDS partnered with the Stampede to host the Thursday, Friday & Saturday morning breakfast. Volunteers had a blast working together and feeding some very hungry and appreciative folks.

**Brandt Staff Appreciation**—The generous staff at **Brandt Tractor** sponsored a new horse for PARDS Herd, Brandt, and when he was ready to enter PARDS programs, the staff at Brandt held a staff BBQ in his honour! They picked him up and let him enjoy their award winning lawn while PARDS & Brandt Staff enjoyed a delicious BBQ of burgers & fixins! Brandt also chose PARDS as the benefitting charity of their Christmas Party for the 2nd year in which they raised money for a new shelter as well as money and awareness for PARDS Programs!

**New Horizon Co-op**—PARDS was once again the charity of choice for the Month of May with all of New Horizon Co-op locations collecting coin boxes and selling Great Neighbour Cards raising over \$2000 for PARDS Riders!

**Dream Home Lottery**—PARDS was once again chosen as a benefitting charity for the **Grande Prairie Rotary Club**'s Dream Home Lottery! Thank you to all of our volunteers that made this commitment a reality!

**Cash & Camping/Cars for Christmas Lotteries**—PARDS was lucky enough to be chosen as a benefitting charity for both the Cash & Camping Lottery as well as the Cars for Christmas Lottery, both of which are held by **The Swan City Rotary Club**. Thank you to the Swan City Rotary Club for choosing us as a partner in both lotteries and to all the volunteers who made this partnership possible!

**Chamber of Commerce Booth**—PARDS enjoyed attending the fall Showcase with an informative booth on PARDS Programs!

**Revolution Mazda Test Drive**—PARDS was the chosen Charity of Revolution Mazda's Community Test Drive in June. We saw community members come by for a test drive & a BBQ in which PARDS received \$20 for each individual! Thank you to the volunteers who spent the day BBQing for attendees!



# PARDS Grand Opening 'This is Dur Story, This is Dur Song'

*"This Is Our Story, This is our Song"* ~ was a magical evening celebrating all that has been and can be accomplished when we share a common goal and vision.

It was an evening honouring our riders and the volunteers, community members and businesses who have come together to build this facility & ensure PARDS essential service remains available in our community.

All proceeds raised through the event stay within the PARDS organization and directly benefit our riders by completing the facility to support our therapeutic programs. The generosity of the Peace Area helps children and adults within our community access Equine Assisted Therapeutic Services in pursuit of living their best life. We would like to thank everyone who sponsored, donated, presented, volunteered and attended the event as well as in the past to make this dream a reality. It took a Community coming together to make this an evening to remember!

# THIS IS OUR STORY SPONSOR

Big Stick Rentals is pleased to be a co-sponsor of PARDS Therapeutic Centre Grand Opening. It has been truly eye opening to get to know PARDS and many of the people (staff, volunteers and riders) who make up this organization. Since becoming involved with PARDS it has only become more and more apparent that the programs offered are essential to our community and we are extremely proud to offer our support.

Big Stick is committed to enhancing the communities in which we operate and we consider ourselves fortunate to be aligned with an organization like PARDS Therapeutic Centre. Congratulations to everyone who helped PARDS to complete the facility!

# THIS IS OUR SONG SPONSOR

It has been the highest honor for us, Southwest Design & Construction Ltd. to be a part of the PARDS Design/Build initiative for the past 14 years, and we are committed to continuing our relationship with the community in a program which is as vitally important as this.

We firmly believe in and support the PARDS cause which brings confidence, instills a belief in self-worth and builds pride and strength in its members.

We are so proud to have been and continue to be a member of the PARDS family. We are and always will be a proud supporter of this necessary and exciting project in order for the community as a whole to benefit even more from the amazing PARDS programs!

Thank you PARDS...for this amazing opportunity as a Major "This Is Our Song" Sponsor for the 2018 Grand Opening Celebration!!!

CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB VERY WELL DONE!!!!



If someone had said to me last year at this same time I'd be riding this high I'da called them a liar

It was so different then I never had a friend that empowered me with hope and love

You're more than a friend to me You're everything my body needs I can feel you heal my very soul You take all the cares away You help me face another day Stronger than when I was alone Oh how I never want to feel alone

This is our story this is our song

My heart skips a beat when you walk with me The bond that we share comes naturally

You are my happy place You are my shining star I'm one with you Vou're one with me You're more than a friend to me You're everything my body needs I can feel you heal my very soul

You take all the pain away You help me face another day Stronger than when I was alone Because of you I'm standing on my own Thanks again for helping me get strong This is our story this is our song This is our story this is our song

You take all the pain away You help me face another day Stronger than when I was alone When I'm with you I never feel alone This is our story this is our song

Whoa oh When you're right here to guide me







Whoa There's nothing I can't do Thank you for helping me get strong Because of you I'm standing on my own

You're more than a friend to me You're everything my body needs I can feel you heal my very soul



# Thank you to our

Big Stick Rentals Southwest Design & Construction Edmonton Kenworth Led. Altatude Music Rene Blais Encana Entegrys Engineering Health Hut Integrity Industries North Seven Generations Energy Ltd.

Aureus Energy County of Grande Prairie #1 Board and Staff of PARDS Edward's Factory Outlet

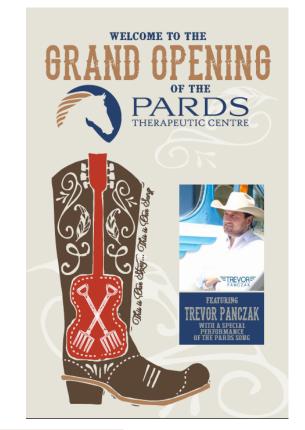


Event Sponsors Leon Gullickson of Southwest Design & Construction and Kevin Bjornson of Big Stick Rentals greet the attendees before dinner.



Swancy helped us sing "O Canada"

# PARDS Therapeutic Centre Grand Opening September 15, 2019





PARDS Welcomed Trevor Panczak and thanks him for coming to play at PARDS Grand Opening. Together with long time friend Linda Baczuk-Gullickson they collaborated to bring PARDS our very own song!!



Merv's Pitchfork Fondue provided a delicious and unique meal to celebrate the event.



Board member, Adrea manned the Beer Tractor



Even our barn cat, Gus showed up to celebrate



1-355-376-6237

TW COMPRESSION LTD



# Celebrating Dur Volunteers!

#### PARDS Volunteer of the Year: Della Morrison



It is said, "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." "Many hands, make light work", and "it takes a village". In all of these statements, at PARDS, it is our volunteers that makes them all true.

We see over 14,000 hours of time given each year by our volunteers. This comes in many forms, from leading and side walking in lessons, helping in the barn, sitting on committees or our board, helping with events and selling raffle tickets or even crocheting dish cloths! Everyone has something to offer. Volunteering at PARDS is not all about helping with lessons and horses, but in the end, it IS all about making therapeutic lessons accessible to our riders.

Della came into volunteering with no expectations other than working with the horses, something Della missed from her earlier years, and helping others. What Della didn't expect was how much she would love the clients and the rewarding experiences at PARDS that keeps her coming back each week. Something that has been a highlight during her time at PARDS is the

progression and successes she sees in the riders throughout their lessons.

Everyone you speak to says Della is a joy to work with, she has a very positive attitude and a soft spoken, gentle manner and she makes our riders feel comfortable and valued.

As for her volunteer work with us, Della does EVERYTHING including, but not limited to, leading and side walking in lessons, barn chores and helping with the FUND Ride Carnival. As well, as the owner of her own cleaning company she knows the hours it takes to keep a building such as PARDS clean. Knowing the limited time of staff, Della took it upon

herself to clean what she could during the day she volunteered and asked nothing in return. She even reached out to Spring Fresh to secure dust mats for the facility by donation!

A favorite story is about when Della ran into one of the clients she works with at PARDS while at the East Link Centre. Together they walked laps, had races, and talked and laughed together. The next week, in his lesson they had so much to talk about and were so excited to share in that memory together. For both of them the experiences didn't end at the PARDS door.

Thank you, Della Morrison! It is an honour to recognize and celebrate you as PARDS 2018 Volunteer of the Year! Your ongoing generosity and support is significant, appreciated and makes PARDS a better organization.



#### Slim Allen Award of Excellence: Fletcher Bootle



The Slim Allen Award of Excellence is presented each year by Slim's family in conjunction with our Annual Fund Ride. Slim was one of the founding members of PARDS and stayed connected with us in some form throughout our history. Before Slim passed away, he reached out to PARDS with the idea of the award which he wanted to be presented to someone that made an exceptional contribution to PARDS in any capacity. Over the years, we have had the honour of presenting the award to riders, volunteers, long-time advocates and even staff members. Slim's life and legacy reflects his belief that horses are healing and that everyone deserves an opportunity to be active and engaged in whatever they are passionate about. PARDS was so fortunate to have had Slim as a foundational member of the organization.

2018 saw PARDS recognize Fletcher Bootle as the Slim Allen Award of Excellence recipient.

Fletcher has been engaged with PARDS for many years, starting with a number of projects that the Rotary Club of Grande Prairie got involved in, of which Fletcher is a very active

member. Most of these projects were initiated by fellow Rotarian and friend, Bob Wallace. When Bob passed away, Fletcher honoured his friend by including PARDS among the many organizations he supports through his knowledge and experience in Governance Process and Board Development. He has remained engaged in this capacity and extended his support to include a number of donations he hand makes in his woodshop in support of our Dine & Dance Auction. Fletcher has spent his retirement busily helping to build capacity in many of our local community organizations and PARDS is truly humbled to be included in those he views as vital in our community. As he shares his wisdom and experience, he always allows us the time and space to incorporate his suggestions in the ways that work specifically for our Board and organization. He offers support without judgment and with the authentic desire to help. Thank you Fletcher, you are valued and appreciated.





**INTEGRITY** 

**Definition:** Maintaining congruity between one's values and actions.

What this means to us: Being honest and doing what we know is right even when it's difficult. If you do for one, you do for all.

#### RESPONSIBILITY

**Definition:** Being accountable for results.

What this means to us: We take ownership of our roles and tasks regardless of situation and associated outcomes, without excuse; being accountable to the team – subordinates, superiors, clients, stakeholders.

#### COMPETENCE

**Definition:** Possessing the ability and capacity to do something well.

What this means to us: Doing your job to the best of your ability, always; upholding organization standards and contributing to the creation of a safe, stable and supportive environment.

#### CARING

**Definition:** Feeling and exhibiting concern and empathy for others. **What this means to us:** Considerate of others' feelings, perspectives, and beliefs.

# LEARNING

**Definition:** Committing to growth, development, and gaining understanding.

What this means to us: We embrace change and the opportunities it creates, encourage innovative thinking and seek to improve. We encourage continued learning in a way that is mutually beneficial to the individual and the organization.

# Peace Area Riding for the Disabled Society 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Executive

Chairperson Christina Balcom Vice Chair Tyla Savard Secretary/Treasurer Adrea Simmons

#### Directors

Raymond Binks, Past Chair Todd Perks Jim Rawlek Ellen Archibald Daniel Nowosad

#### Outgoing Shane Anderson J.C. Coutts Thank you for

your service!

#### 2018 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

#### Fund Ride Committee

Jenn Ash Robyn Boudreau Jennifer Douglas Marge Elliott James Holton Shirley KyleMGayle MayerDCarolyne McBrideJeRick ParsonsJim Rawlek

Mort Timanson Jenn Ash Dave Westwell Carol Balcome Jennifer Wolf Jennifer Douglas Gayle Mayer

Kathy McNally Jim Rawlek Jennifer Wolf

#### 2018 STAFF

2018 EQUINE STAFF

Jennifer Douglas Executive Director Gayle Mayer Office Manager

Jennifer Wolf Executive Assistant/ Volunteer Coordinator

Jenn Ash Community Engagement Coordinator Sarah Gunter Senior Instructor/Boarding Kataryna Hagglund Instructor Abelone Petersen Instructor McKayla Van Nieuwkerk Instructor Eve van de Beek Instructor in Training/Barn Laurie Prichuk Instructor Dave Neale Facility Maintenance Robyn Boudreau CTRII/ Instructor Mentor Tiara Chambers Instructor Amanda Udey CTRII Instructor (Volunteer) Hunter Walker Facility/Barn Support

**Dine & Dance** 

Committee



Jessica Anderson Hallie Moutray

Encana, Norwegian Fjord Holly, Belgian Fjord Finale, Welsh Pony X Montney, Quarter Horse Timber, Percheron X Risley, Morgan/Quarter Horse Molson, Canadian Moonbeam, Paint Angel, Pinto Moxie, Paint Mix



Hot Wheels, Miniature Chevy, Miniature Swancy, Miniature Brandt, Quarter Horse Alberez. Quarter Horse Poco, Pinto Ace, Quarter Horse Chance, Quarter Horse Vala, Paint Morgan Freckles, Appaloosa

#### PARDS WELECOMED IN 2018



ALBEREZ Generously sponsored by Kev's Kids



BRANDT Generously sponsored by Brandt Tractor Ltd.



FRECKLES Generously leased to PARDS by Shelly Lacoursiere 

 Our Canine Partner

 Jade

 And Our (Not-So) Hard Working

 Feline Staff...

 Mrs. Howell & Gus

 Image: Comparison of the staff of the staff...



CHANCE Generously leased to PARDS by Gisele Dion





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