



PARDS
THERAPEUTIC CENTRE



Annual Report

For the year ending December 31, 2019

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

PARDS operates under a governance model and, as such, the Board governs through policies that establish the organization's aims and management limitations. Through these policies we define the relationship between the Board and the Executive Director. These policies set the framework from which the Executive Director oversees the day to day operations of the organization. They allow the Board to monitor the performance of the Executive Director and ensure that the organization is following its mission and vision and that we are accountable to our stakeholders.

Our Board of Directors have been very active and have proven themselves to be progressive, forward thinkers who are committed to the expansion of both our capacities and programs while remaining faithful to our charitable purpose. The work of our Board, in further developing a strong foundation to support the future of PARDS through committee structures and policy development, continues and I thank my fellow Board members for your support and commitment to engaging in a meaningful way with the new initiatives we continue to put in place.

In closing, I would like to thank our Executive Director, Jennifer Douglas and all the PARDS staff for their dedication and commitment to our riders, as well as our volunteers for being so giving of their time. With a strong team and the ongoing support from our donors and sponsors we look forward to the new challenges and achievements ahead in 2020!

~Christina Balcom, Board Chairperson

Our client base continues to grow and we are so humbled to have the opportunity to be a part of each of our riders' journey to being the best version of themselves. All of our riders are so inspirational and, like every other person in this world, they each have their own special gifts and talents; it is truly an honour to help them discover, build upon and celebrate them.

It is due to the commitment of our volunteers that we are able to continue providing our therapeutic riding programs. They are vital to the success of PARDS and it is impossible to thank them enough. We are blessed with many volunteers who have prioritized their support for PARDS riders for many years and are open and available to mentor new volunteers. Grande Prairie Regional College continues to bring students from the Adaptive Physical Education program out to introduce them to PARDS and many of these students choose to fulfill their curriculum volunteer requirement at PARDS. Almost all of these students far exceed the required number of hours assisting our riders and we are so appreciative of them all.

Many of our riders continue to access Equine Canada's Video Competition Series and their results are amazing! The benefits of sport and competition are well documented and we are so pleased to be able to offer this opportunity to our riders and so very proud of each and every one of them. Thank you so much to Robyn Boudreau who, even after stepping away from her full-time Senior Instructor role, has continued to support our riders in engaging in the competitions. She has also continued to mentor and guide our instructors in all of the CanTRA guidelines for therapeutic riding.

Our Public Horse Boarding Program has grown in no small part due to the hard work and leadership provided by our Program & Facilities Coordinator, Sarah Gunter. Sarah has worked very hard over the past year to expand her knowledge, strengthen her leadership skills and help guide all of our programs in a positive direction.

All of our Instructors and Barn Assistants are hardworking and dedicated to the progress of our riders and the care of our herd. Their roles are imperative to our existence and their riders value the relationships they develop with them almost as much as that with their horse partner. Their role can be challenging, uplifting, draining and inspiring, sometimes all in the space of a single lesson! Thank you to all of you for upholding our values, working to high standards and investing in the well-being of those you serve.

It cannot be forgotten, however, that the Instructors could not achieve what they do for their riders without the support of the rest of the team. Gayle Mayer, Office Manager and Jennifer Wolf, Volunteer Coordinator/Administrator are the unsung heroes at PARDS. They both fulfill their designated roles with a high degree of integrity; they also go above and beyond filling in whatever gaps arise. Their roles give new meaning to the term "other duties as required" and they are always up to the challenge.

All of us here at PARDS value all of these relationships and we are committed to continuing to be a true "community organization" in all that we do.

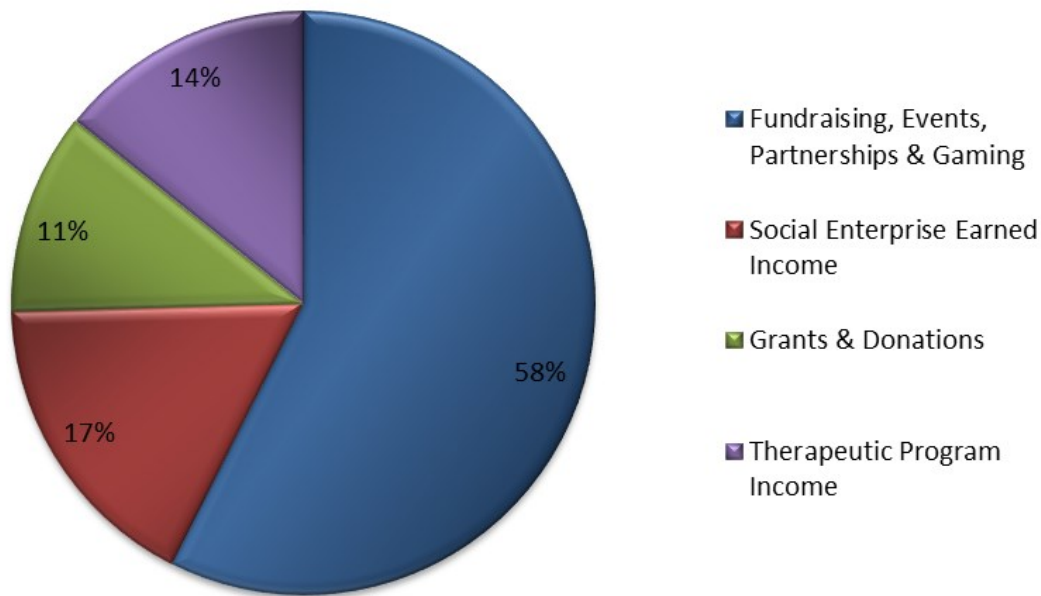
There can never be enough said in recognition of the amazing people who have come together in various capacities to help ensure our community continues to benefit from the existence of Equine Assisted Therapeutic programs and services. All are an intricate piece of the puzzle without whom the picture could not be complete. You will see many examples of selflessness, philanthropy and commitment as you view the following pages and we hope you find the information interesting, insightful and inspirational. To our riders, Board members, volunteers, donors and staff; Thank you, thank you, thank you!



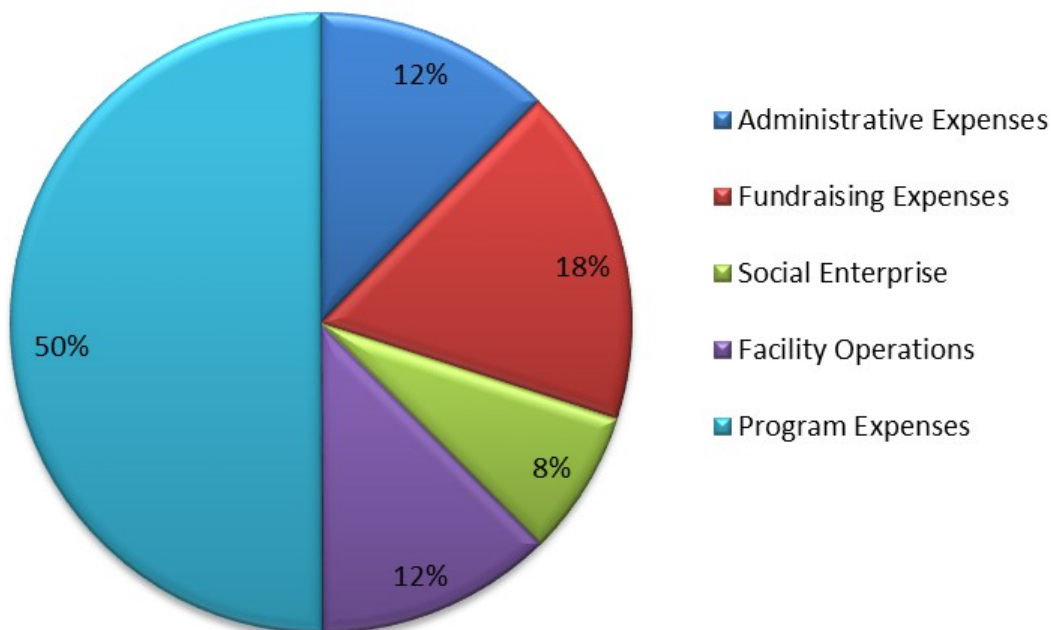
~Jennifer Douglas, Executive Director

Treasurer's Report

Where Do the Funds Come From?



Where Do the Funds Go?



2019 saw some great changes at PARDS. We expanded our public and therapeutic programming, thanks in part to the installation of the arena curtain which allows 2 classes to run at once. The program expansion increased our therapeutic program revenue by 4% over the previous year. This year we also took a step back from fundraising through events and raffles and focused more on growing our base of donations, grants and donors through projects like the Family Fund Drive spearheaded by a committee of longtime supporters of PARDS. The development of a long term donor program is a key part of our diversified revenue strategy.

Our facility expenses were a bit higher this year compared to 2018, this is mainly due to the installation of our long awaited lift which now makes our facility fully accessible, along with the dismantling, moving and reconstruction of our new hay shed which was generously donated by Canadian Tire Grande Prairie where it served as their Garden Centre before the move to their beautiful new store.

~Adrea Simmons, Secretary/Treasurer

Governance Committee Report

The Governance committee continues its work with the creation of new policies as required and regular review of existing policies to ensure we are current in our responsibilities and understanding of what is required collectively and individually. We make sure to include details from our Annual Strategic Planning when doing all governance work.

We have continued to benefit from the support and mentorship of Fletcher Bootle who has served as a volunteer consultant to our board for almost 4 years and his knowledge and support have been instrumental in the progress we have made in policy development, committee terms of reference, meeting protocols and governance process.

We continue with our commitment to an annual planning session in which we bring together all staff and board members in an effort to fully collaborate and ensure the governance priorities of the board are in alignment with the operational priorities. This strategy has served to strengthen our organization as a whole through mutual understanding of goals and challenges for all levels of the organization.

~ Tyla Savard, Vice Chair/Governance Committee Chair

Facility Committee Report

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.

Many smaller projects were completed throughout 2019 including the finishing of both vestibules, completing turnout paddocks and building a new rider mounting platform to work with our electronic lift. Thank you SO MUCH to Bill Alloway for taking on that project and donating his labour and all the materials.

The major project completed was the installation of a lift providing access to the mezzanine. Through the generosity of Canadian Tire JumpStart, The Government of Canada Accessibility Fund and the MD of Greenview all of our riders and supporters now have access to all areas of our facility regardless of any mobility challenges.

We were also so fortunate to have both CNRL and Telus choose to support us by sending a group of volunteers to work on some projects. As a result, our Memorial Garden was started with a pathway and planter boxes installed which were made from the downed trees from our property. Marilyn Cramer and Carol & Doug Balcome brought us lots of plants to start the garden off. The memorial bench donated by Pat Tebbutt in memory of his son and PARDS rider, Chad was moved to the garden area offering a quiet place of contemplation and remembrance for all to enjoy. We also got all of our horse shelters and the hub building painted, blinds installed in the offices and an external plug for our bus.

We also benefitted as the recipient of the Canadian Tire Garden Centre Cover-All structure from their old location. Thank you so much to GM Ron Regnier for arranging and approving the donation. It is now set up on the property to protect up to 250 round bales of hay to feed our herd throughout the year. This was an invaluable donation as weathered hay can cause significant health issues for horses.

~ Jennifer Douglas, Executive Director with James Rawlek, Facility Committee Chair

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

~ Percy Head ~ Diane Bootle ~ Carol McQuaig ~ Mike Tremblay ~

~ Lynne Costley-La Rocque ~ Zelda Fraser ~ Rita Gillespie ~

Family Fund Drive Facility Accessibility Project

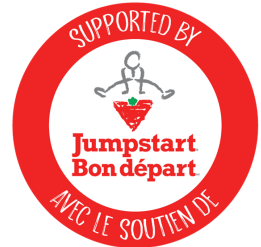
About the Accessibility Project...

In 2017 PARDS moved into our new Therapeutic Centre, boasting an indoor arena, 45 stall barn, rider lounge, office space including boardroom, therapy room, full kitchen, viewing area, classroom and offices as well as a mezzanine.

As with many major building projects, some areas were not yet complete. Thanks to generous grants, in 2019 we were able to complete the first phase of the project, a lift to the second floor mezzanine, ensuring all PARDS members access to all areas of PARDS Facility. For this phase, funding was provided by :

Funded in part by the Government
of Canada's Enabling Accessibility
Fund

Canada



The next phases of completion include finishing the mezzanine, paving the parking lot and covering the entry ways to ensure the comfort and safety of Riders in all weathers and installing a septic field. To assist with funding these projects, a small group of community members have formed a committee to spearhead the **Family Fund Drive**. They believe in the benefits of Equine Assisted Therapies and want to support the hardworking staff and volunteers to continue their good works in a fully functional facility.

Family Fund Drive Committee:

Lorne & Ann McLeod ~ Wayne Patterson ~ Glenn Keddie ~ Charles Longmate

About the Family Fund Drive...

PARDS is all about championing people of all ages and abilities to be the best version of themselves, supporting them to challenge themselves in an effort to reach their personal goals. Our volunteer committee is reaching out to families within the community seeking funds to finish up the incredible facility PARDS and the Grande Prairie and surrounding communities have built. Why families? Because our committee feels that strong family values are very much in line with PARDS core values of Learning, Caring, Competence, Responsibility and Integrity.

The committee has set a goal of raising \$175,000 toward completing the projects of which \$105,000 was raised in 2019. Any funds raised in excess will be directed toward future capital projects and improvements and therapeutic program equipment.

PARDS would like to thank the following supporters for their 2019 Family Fund Drive Campaign donation

- | | |
|--|---|
| ~ The Bowes Family ~ | ~ The Jones Family—Keith, Annette, Brennan, |
| ~ The Radbourne Family—Darrell, Joan, Cole & Janelle ~ | Lori, Bree, Rod ~ |
| ~ The Cramer Family ~ | ~ Roy and Allana Carter & Family ~ |
| ~ The Keddie Family ~ | ~ The McLeod Family ~ |
| ~ The Truhn Family ~ | ~ Wayne & Paulette Patterson ~ |
| ~ Dennis & Tina Dale—In Memory of Kathy Donis ~ | ~ Barry & Patsy Smith ~ |
| ~ Dianne Delaney ~ | ~ Dwayne & Sandra Van Schaick ~ |
| ~ G & M Plumbing & Heating Ltd. ~ | ~ Dr. Edward Welsh ~ |

Facility Sponsors

Thank you to the many generous Gift in Kind sponsors that help us to manage our costs, freeing up resources to further support our riders!

Country Pump Out Ltd.



Country Pump Out has generously taken on the sponsorship of maintaining our septic tank. Aquatera has sponsored the disposal fees.



Alliance Disposal has sponsored the rental fees for both our garbage and cardboard disposal bins.



Spring Fresh provides mats for our facility to help keep it clean and safe.

Della Morrison of AJ Dalton Interiors has generously supplied weekly janitorial services and supplies of our facility.

DELLA
MORRISON



Aurora Spring Water has provided bottled water for us for many, many years and they always show up with a smile!

Brandt has sponsored the maintenance of our tractor, Bobcat and side x side units, ensuring we always have the right equipment in great working order for any job.



InfoTech is the Tech sponsor for PARDS. In 2019, InfoTech managed our transition to the Office 365 platform. Trevor and his crew are always available to help us troubleshoot any of our IT issues.

Thank you to Wild West Oilfield Rentals Ltd. For providing the free lease of a Sea Can to help us keep organized and inventoried feed dry and safe .



Bear Creek Animal Clinic has provided exemplary care to our herd for many, many years, much of which they donate. A huge thank you to Dr. Lisa McClarty and her team for being a great resource and support for everything equine!



From Our Riders & Their Families

He loves his riding lessons. The volunteers are amazing and his instructor is fantastic!
A big Thank You!!

Her instructor was amazing! She learned a lot from her and enjoyed having her as an instructor which made her lessons even more enjoyable and beneficial.

The knowledge being shared is informative & never ending. Even growing up around horses I've found that I hardly know anything. My instructors have been teaching me many new and informative things about handling & communicating with horses.

He will be riding as long as he is able. He loves the program and he looks forward to each and every lesson.

We feel very lucky to be part of the PARDS program.
Thank you for all your hard work!

Her core strength and understanding of concepts has drastically improved in her 2 years of riding.

Coming to PARDS to ride and be around the horses is one of her favourite times of the week.

His instructor is wonderful and truly listens to what he has to say. He expressed an interest in riding Ace who was not his regular horse and she made it happen for him.
Thank you for giving him a great riding experience each week.

She loves her riding lessons and we appreciate the kindness and patience of everyone at PARDS.

The therapeutic lessons have helped strengthen my core and leg muscles. Riding provides an enjoyable, new way to loosen the tendons around my pelvic saddle and hip flexors to a point that they have some flexibility now.

Everyone is really good with her. The lessons are well organized activities and a nice environment to be in.

We are very satisfied with what she is doing in her lessons.

Rider Spotlights

Therapeutic Riding



Cindy Bishop

Cindy is a wonderful rider who we all, including the horses, love to see each week. She is a friendly face and is always chatting up a storm. Cindy has ridden a few of PARDS horses but mostly rides Ace or Risley in her lessons. Each week she arrives with fresh carrots to share with her horse. Feeding treats gives her some quality one on one bonding time with her horse which is an important component in any therapeutic lesson. The engagement is calming and allows for muscle stretching while grooming and/or scratching using long smooth stroking motions on the neck and builds the relationship between horse and rider.

Cindy is 54 and is a retired elementary school teacher. She is married and has 2 adult children. Cindy was a figure skater growing up and a skating instructor into her young adulthood. She rode horses a little bit as well in the past. When Cindy was 25 she was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, also known as MS, which is the breakdown of myelin (an insulating sheath around many nerve fibers, which increases the speed at which impulses are conducted along neurons). This slows and sometimes stops electrical signals (messages) from the brain and spinal cord to muscle. This chronic disease often progresses differently for each individual. In Cindy's case, it began as relapsing-remitting, meaning that for periods of time Cindy experienced little to no symptoms so she was still able to do most of her usual activities; even some trail riding with family in Manitoba! Cindy now has secondary progressive MS so there is no break of symptoms and the symptoms will continue to bring greater disability. Cindy is now no longer able to walk independently; she uses an electric wheelchair to get around. While the chair helps her get around independently, it does not allow her muscles to stretch out or to work as they would through performing consistent daily living activities. This means that she needs other opportunities to engage her core and leg muscles.

While her children were growing up, Cindy was often at PARDS watching them ride in lessons, but in her words, "she was never brave enough to ride herself". That was until summer of 2018 when Cindy finally decided she, "had the nerve" as she says and now she is so thrilled she did. She loves spending time with the horses, but she also loves how much the riding impacts her. The first time she got back on a horse, she was brought to tears because the movements of the horse made her feel like she was able to walk again! Often after lessons she mentions that she forgot she couldn't walk.

She notices that her strength has increased and she is able to move around home easier on her own. Her muscles which are normally very tight have relaxed a lot from coming to PARDS on a regular basis. When Cindy rides Ace or Risley, the heat from their bodies helps to warm up her tight leg muscles, which allows them to relax and stretch. While Cindy rides, she attempts different stretches to target her tight muscles. Cindy has been working on improving her balance by strengthening her core and is now able and confident to ride while holding the reins rather than use her hands for balance. Cindy is working on improving her strength and balance while at physiotherapy, but she is now also able to improve muscle strength and flexibility "while hanging out with the awesome horses as well as the caring and supportive staff!".



Rider Program Spotlights

Therapeutic Riding



Jilien Wilkinson

Jilien is a sweet 5 year old girl with a very comical yet serious nature, cracking others up with her straight forward, innocent, natural conversations and her love of being photographed on her terms and times, saying "wait while I pose" bringing smiles to everyone she meets.

In August, 2019 Jilien came to PARDS Little Pony Motricity summer camp where she met Chevy, her equine partner for the week. Chevy helped Jilien learn the basics in grooming, horsemanship, riding skills and was a reading partner during the literacy portion of the program. Jilien has a diagnosis of FASD with ADHD and OCD. With this, building positive relationships and her ability to hear, process and follow directions can be difficult at times. The first day of camp, Jilien found it difficult to focus with the stimulation of being in a group, the new surroundings and new learning. During the week, Jilien's mother saw the enjoyment, the growing engagement Jilien was having with both her horse and instructors and the calming effects the horses were having

on Jilien and decided to enroll her in the PARDS Therapeutic Riding Program fall session.

In the therapeutic riding program, Jilien has made a new equine friend, Buttercup. The lesson goals are to help Jilien learn to trust and build healthy, safe relationships with others. Jilien gets closer to that goal every time she comes to PARDS; she wants to talk with everyone, give high fives, and pet the ponies.

When Jilien came for her assessment she saw a guitar on the wall and began to strum it. Her mother tried to deter her, but was encouraged by staff to let her play as the guitar was given specifically for our riders by entertainer Trevor Panczak at PARDS Grand Opening in 2018. Jilien's mother recognizes that Jilien thrives and copes on routine, so each lesson day they arrive early so Jilien can get her 2 to 5 minutes of guitar time. Lesson instructions are kept repetitive and built on slowly. This helps with Jilien's trust of others as she knows what to expect going into each lesson and understands her instructors and volunteers are there for her. Her mother says she is also improving outside of PARDS, warming up to new people a little easier. We are excited to see Jilien continue to grow and are very happy to see that she is taking big steps towards her goals!



PARDS Accessible Bus

There are often changes and challenges that affect PARDS rider's opportunity to access life enhancing programs. Fortunately, the Grande Prairie community always seems to step in to help!

As you may or may not be aware, Disabled Transportation Society (DTS) has dissolved and accessible transportation services have been taken over by the City of Grande Prairie. Before DTS dissolved, they made a number of decisions in an effort to be sustainable. One of those decisions was to suspend transportation to any destination that was not for medical, employment or educational purposes which resulted in them not providing services to and from PARDS. With the City taking over the service, they have opted to keep the service levels that DTS had been offering before their dissolution which means they have, so far, not resumed service for transportation to or from PARDS. Fortunately, PARDS entered into a free lease agreement with 911 Industrial for an accessible bus that we could use to transport PARDS riders that didn't qualify for DTS services. Then, Windsor Ford stepped forward to provide and sponsor the regular maintenance of the bus and soon after, New Horizon Co-op made the decision to sponsor the fuel for the bus! So now, with all of those changes to accessible transportation and because of the giant hearts and strong community focus of 911 Industrial, Windsor Ford and New Horizon Co-op, we are currently supporting 34 riders to make it to and from their lessons each week!



You're at home here.



**PETROLEUM
NEW HORIZON**



Therapeutic Cart Driving



Todd Perks

Todd is currently our longest running client; he started riding with PARDS in 1988 and is still with us over 30 years later! During his time here, he has progressed from a therapeutic rider with a leader and a side walker, to having just a leader in 2010, to becoming a therapeutic cart driver in 2014!

Todd is 51 years old and has been diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy and Diabetes. Cerebral Palsy is a condition that results from irregular brain development or central nervous system (brain, spinal cord and nerves) damage caused before or during birth.

Symptoms affect each individual differently and to different degrees. The symptoms often affect muscle coordination, muscle function and muscle tone, movement, balance and can cause hearing and vision impairments. Todd has noticed his condition impacts the coordination and function of the right side of his body more than his left. His condition has also impacted his speech. He has also noted that since he started as a participant of PARDS he is more relaxed, has increased coordination and flexibility and riding and cart driving have helped him improve his balance.

Todd's motivations for attending PARDS are that it provides a safe and enjoyable sport and recreational opportunity. It also allows him a great space to share his passion for horses and ponies. Todd now drives the cart independently, loves learning all the brushes for grooming, and learning all the parts of the cart and harness. Todd loves to challenge himself and enjoys the independence the cart program offers him.

Along with cart driving, Todd also stays active within our organization as a volunteer board member. Our board members play a vital role within our organization, dedicating many hours to policy and governance. Todd brings valuable insight to our board as he provides a voice for our program participants, ensuring that they have strong representation regarding policies that effect them. He also supports the organization as a representative at many events and fundraising activities.

Todd's engagement with so many aspects of PARDS is a testament to his loyalty, dedication and belief in the benefits of equine assisted therapy. Make sure you look for his friendly, smiling face at a PARDS event and stop for a chat, Todd is always up for a visit. PARDS is blessed to have Todd as a part of our organization.



Precious Support for our Precious Herd

PARDS was so fortunate to get our years supply of hay delivered all in one shot! All 500 bales! A sincere and enthusiastic "Thank You!!!" to all the companies who donated their trucks, trailers and time to make it all possible!

Thank you, Randy Smashnuk for organizing a flawless delivery once again. We appreciate all your support!

-Mark's Hauling
-Wapiti Sand & Gravel
-Joe Francoeur Trucking
-Curry Transport

-Murtron Hauling
-N.T.L.
-Three S Contracting
-Kenetic Trucking

Youth Leadership Program

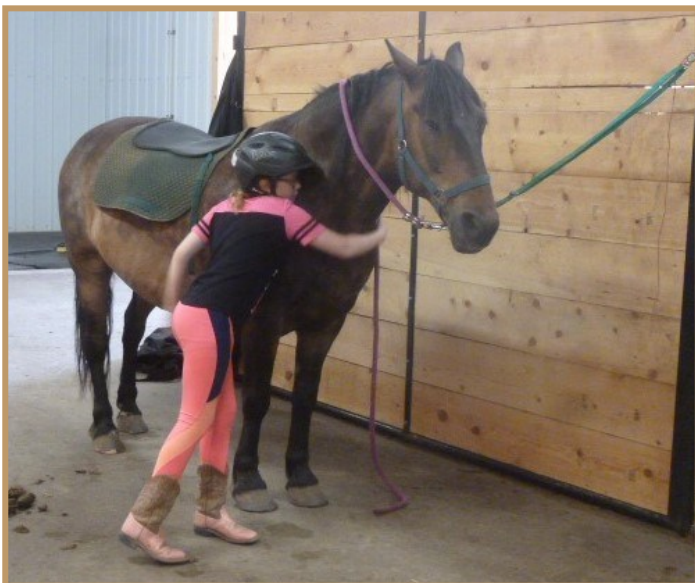
Hillary (name changed for privacy) is 9 years old and has been participating in youth leadership since December of 2018. When she started in the program, she was very shy and quiet. She didn't enjoy sharing any information about herself with the group and didn't seem to make any friends within the group right away. She tended to avoid making eye contact with anyone and would hang out at the back of the group and watch while everyone else participated in the activity for that day. She would follow the group quietly and it was a struggle to get her to engage in discussions or actively participate in activities. Her confidence around the horses was also very low, she seemed to be unsure and almost afraid of what they might do. Her demeanor was consistent whether the interaction was with the horses, the facilitator or the other program participants.

Hillary has attended 4 ten-week Youth Leadership sessions. Her changes have been consistent but gradual. Reflecting back to where she started and to where she is now there are definite differences in her demeanor and comfort level when she comes to PARDS. Hillary has started opening up to the other kids in her group and is beginning to develop stronger relationships and make new friends, she is usually excited to participate in whatever activity we have planned for that week and puts lots of thought and effort into what that activity asks her to do. She grown more confident while she is at PARDS to open up a bit to meeting and socializing with new people. Hillary is still struggling a bit with the proper way to socialize with her peers, but she is putting more effort into wanting to try and figure it out.

As Hillary's overall self confidence grows, her confidence with the horses is also growing. She has gone from being terrified of having to lead or even be near the horses to being comfortable leading them on her own. The biggest change I have noticed with her around the horses is, just recently in one of our activities, Hillary had the opportunity to ride her horse bare back through an obstacle course with another person leading. Usually, with this type of activity, Hillary would become quiet and when asked if she wanted to ride the horse, she would say no. This time Hillary jumped at the opportunity right away and was one of the first people to ride. She got up on the horse and was still a bit nervous but was happy and giggling most of the way. Observing Hillary, it is heartening to see her coming out of her shell and developing a sense of pride for the accomplishments she has achieved. As time progresses and Hillary takes advantage of more opportunities to participate and engage with her horse and the group, she is also becoming more comfortable and trusting of me as her instructor as well as knowing the horses here at PARDS are here to take care of her and help her grow and learn. She has learned to trust her own feelings and comfort levels when she is in a new situation and has developed some strategies on how to push through when she is out of her comfort zone along with coping skills to help

her more quickly recover from situations and interactions which, previously, would have resulted in a significant setback and reluctance to re-engage.

Hillary has so many gifts and talents and it is truly an honour to be able to help her recognize them within herself and gain the self-confidence to share them and herself with those around her.



Program funding provided in part by:

Riders grow
horse partners



close bonds with their



Slim Allen Award of Excellence: Brandt Tractor



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 that 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 for 2 years. PARDS relationship with Brandt has continued to grow because they believe in PARDS programs, 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. They have helped with

hauling and unloading of hay with many hands making light work. When we needed an excavator, ditch witch or bobcat they were right there to loan us the needed equipment and even deliver it! 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 and we welcomed a new addition to our herd! This was a very exciting day for Brandt the company, as well as their new horse, "Brandt". Kevin Lavallee arranged a full BBQ, they provided a truck and trailer to take Brandt to the Brandt Clairmont location to meet all 70 Brandt employees, and sales people with a BBQ with all the fixin's! 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! 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. In March, Brandt Tractor Ltd. and Smash & Sons Contracting got together to provide PARDS with a truly wonderful gift, an awesome side-by-side unit was delivered to us complete with logos and beautiful graphics, helping PARDS staff work even more effectively and efficiently. Brandt has been there to service not only on the side-by-side but has offered to service much of PARDS equipment to keep it all running smoothly. Brandt is a sponsor of some of our horse shelters and has been a large contributor to PARDS Dine & Dance with Silent Auction items as well as attending the event, inviting employees and friends. The Brandt team is a big family, with huge community spirit and support many worthy causes in the area and PARDS is extremely proud to be one of them!



"Brandt—Powerful Value. Delivered."

Brandt



2019 Horse of the Year

Alberez



The votes were unanimous for the 2019 Horse of the Year for many reasons. Alberez (Alby) joined the PARDS team in June of 2018. He was graciously sponsored by Kev's Kids. He is a great fit for the program because of his medium build and height which makes him a strong all-around horse and is assisting in programs right along side the rest of our fabulous equine members. Alby is one of the few herd members that fully embraces all programs. He is a steady, quiet lead line mount for nervous riders, he will stand quietly waiting while his rider mounts and adjusts to become ready to ride and is a joy to work with by staff and volunteers as his handler. In beginner lessons with new or young riders, his steady rhythm and laid back attitude helps instill confidence and allows them to move through the basics with ease. For more advanced lessons, perhaps teaching someone to canter or jump, although his legs are short, he has taken to his jump lessons with enthusiasm. He is ready for whatever is asked of him in any given day. The variety of lessons could be within hours of each other and he just adopts the hat he is given at the time and rocks the lesson he is in. We would like to congratulate Alberez on the 2019 Horse of the Year award.



PARDS Fund Ride & Community Carnival

PARDS 34th Annual FUND Ride & Community Carnival was a 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. The Grande Prairie Rotary BBQ



Crew joined us for another year to provide lunch for volunteers and event attendees and all donations were in support of PARDS Riders. The Community Carnival was a big draw this year and event participants enjoyed playing over 25 Carnival games. Tokens were won and then prizes were "purchased" at the prize table.

After the riders returned, they, along with event volunteers and family enjoyed a choice of 3 types of chili for every taste bud to enjoy! After dinner, awards were presented.



Congratulations to this year's highest fundraiser, Edie Dodd who won the prize saddle which was generously donated by Keddies Tack & Western Wear. PARDS would like to thank all the participants that collected pledges and the sponsors and donors who made the event a success. These funds allow us to continue to make Equine Assisted Therapeutic programs accessible to everyone.



As well, we would like to thank all the volunteers, many who were therapeutic riders who gave back with their time. All our volunteers helped make the event run smoothly and a fun filled day for everyone. To everyone who helped in the planning with the committee, setup, pony ride, trail, carnival, keeping everyone fed and teardown, we couldn't do it without you. **THANK YOU!!!!**



34th Annual Fund Ride & Community Carnival

FUND Ride Sponsors & Donors

MANE EVENT

You're at home here.



CARNIVAL



HORSESHOE



Alberta Lands Inc.

SADDLE PRIZES



HOBBY HORSE CORRAL



PONY RIDES



CART RIDES



Alberta Lands Inc.

GREAT 'NEIGH'BOUR



LUNCH BBQ



Rotary Club of
Grande Prairie

SUPPER



AND A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OTHER SPONSORS, DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS FOR SHARING YOUR TIME AND SKILLS WITH US AND TO ALL THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO CAME OUT TO PARTICIPATE AND ENJOY AND MADE THE EVENT A GREAT SUCCESS!!!

PARDS Summer 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.



2019 was another great year of summer fun at PARDS in all the camps. We held four weeks of PARDS Inclusive Youth Summer Day Camps and one week of Adult Therapeutic Camp. We once again partnered with Camp Tamarack for their horse camp.

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 who were also invited to join their camper for an end-of-camp BBQ lunch.

Little Pony Motricity & Leadership Skills Camp

PARDS held the popular Little Pony Motricity, 10 week programs throughout the year as well as 2 weeks of Little Pony Motricity Day Camps for our wee ones (ages 4-6).

Camps are held for a half day with camps running both mornings and afternoons. The program is set up with fun activities that incorporate fundamental skills in early stages of motor, social and cognitive development through animal assisted learning with their equine partners. Little Pony Motricity is both a ground work and riding program. This year we introduced a new summer program, Equine Leadership Skills Camp. This brought the Little Pony Camp and staged it in conjunction with our popular all day Skills Camp for more advanced riders. Skills campers learned to become mentors, how to create lessons and then put these lessons into practice with the Little Pony riders. During their week at camp they also worked on developing their horsemanship and riding skills. We engaged our miniature horses for the Little Pony camps so that even the smallest of children (48 " and 65 lbs. max) could learn to groom, saddle and even pick hooves by themselves! Literacy was a component of this camp, even ponies like to be read to! They created their own little books to read at the end of the week. While we did that, Skills Campers prepared for and tested their Equine Canada English Exams and Riding Competencies test. Best wishes to our future coaches who went through this program; you all did awesome!!



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 a fabulous showing in participants in 2019 under the direction of Robyn Boudreau - CanTRA II / Equine Canada Instructor

Para-Equestrian Sport 2019 Video Competition Video Series

In 2019 some of PARDS Therapeutic riders took part in Equine Canada's Video Competition Series and they achieved some wonderful results. We are so proud to be a part of their accomplishments and efforts to achieve their own personal goals. Congratulations to all that participated!

2019 Equine Canada Video Competition PARDS Rider Standings

March 2019

Walk Class -Level 1
1st place - Leah Sietsma
2nd place - Kianna Parker

Walk Class -Level 2
1st Place - Aly Keay

Walk Trot Class
1st Place - Hana Dachuk
Walk Trot Canter
1st Place - Justeen Schneider

April 2019

Walk Class Level 1
1st - Leah Sietsma
2nd - Kianna Parker

Walk Class Level 2
1st - Aly Keay

Walk Trot Class
1st -Leah Post
6th -Hana Dachuk

May 2019

Walk Class Level 1
1st - Leah Sietsma
3rd - Kianna Parker

Walk Class Level 2
1st - Aly Keay

Walk Trot Class
1st - Hana Dachuk
2nd - Leah Post

Walk Trot Canter
2nd- Justeen Schneider

October 2019

Walk Trot Class
2nd -Hana Dachuk

FEI Team Test
1st - Aly Keay

November 2019

Walk Class
3rd Place- Kianna Parker

Walk Trot Class
2nd place -Hana Dachuk

Walk Trot Canter
1st Place - Justeen Schneider

FEI Team Test
1st - Aly Keay



PARDS Dine and Dance

"Angels Among Us"

PARDS Dine and Dance theme for 2019 was "Angels Among Us" to celebrate all the Angels who are a part of the PARDS world.

This year the featured PARDS Family was Robert & Gwen Beattie whose daughter Dana has been a PARDS Rider since she was a small child. Bob and Gwen shared all the many joys and challenges of having a child with profound medical needs.

The evening was a success thanks to the many attendees who shared their time and were so generous with their bids.

Dave Neal was again our auctioneer, using his humour and skill to keep all the bids on track.



City of Grande Prairie Councillor Chris Thiessen offered his beautiful head of hair to the highest bidders to shave. At the end, the highest bidder opted to leave his section of hair uncut for 1 month; giving great sport Chris a most unique hairdo for his stint as acting deputy Mayor! Note, this spurred Chris to challenge the bidder, Kevin Bjornson, to a head shave for PARDS in 2020.



A delicious dinner by Shelee's Café & Catering, DJ services by Locomotion Mobile Music and the best MC in town, Tom Pura; the evening was a great success and a fun and fabulous time was had by all.

A huge thank you to all the many volunteers who gave many hours of their valuable time preparing for, working at, and cleaning up this important event. We could not do it without you!



2019 Dine & Dance

Thank you to our Sponsors!



~Mane Event~

~Hearts, Hooves & Courage~



~Horseshoe~



~Champagne Reception~

~Collector Coin Raffle~

~Ring Box Raffle~



You're at home here.

~Great Neighbour~



~Special Thanks to~

~ Dave Neale Auctions ~ Tom Pura ~ Diesel Powered Images ~ Greg Podmore Photography ~

Celebrating Our Volunteers!

PARDS Volunteer of the Year: Judi Harker



Time is the most selfless gift a person can give; especially when it is given to make a difference in the lives of others. At PARDS our volunteers are as unique as they are diverse in the skills they offer. We see over 15,000 volunteer hours per year from people as young as 8 who come to muck stalls to retirees coming to help lead or sidewalk in lessons or use their skills and trades in any way they can. We see volunteers selling lottery tickets, helping in events throughout the year and the list goes on.

We see PARDS riders come to volunteer such as Erin, who comes every Monday in her wheel chair to dust our main office window sills and tables, or Josh who has a love of paper, who comes to do our weekly shredding or Kaylee who helped with the Dine & Dance decor folding paper stars. Each volunteer gives of themselves doing what they can, in any way they can, all in support of PARDS riders.

Each year we honour a volunteer and choosing one is not an easy task. I would like to tell you a little about “our volunteer”, Judi Harker. Like many of our lesson volunteers say, the barn is her happy place, she enjoys working with the riders and she has a love of horses and she needs her “fix”. . which Judi said "ohh about 1-3 hours a week is just about right" for her fix, but I am not so sure about that. Personally, I think she has PARDS on speed dial, as when there is a volunteer cancellation in lessons, Judi is one of the first to call to say she can help. Over and above her 2—3 nights a week Judi also helps with birthday parties, leading the party goers and at the FUND ride helping in the carnival or with the pony rides. Judi has a quiet and understanding nature which allows PARDS horses to have trust in her and our riders to feel comfortable in their lessons, some even building strong bonds with her. One rider Rochelle, does not do well with change and as she came into the arena one day, she thought that her ‘regular’ leader volunteer was not there for her. Her arms crossed, her head went down and Rochelle shut down, unable to do anything more in her lesson. Well, Judi realized the problem, she called out to Rochelle and Judi then took off her toque, the locks of curls that had been tucked up fell, and Rochelle had HER leader again. She had the biggest of smiles and gave the biggest hug ever and Rochelle’s lesson began. Judi began volunteering with PARDS almost 6 years ago, giving 2 hours each week on her day off; but when called back to work full time was thinking that time may have to end. Now, we soon learned, this quiet nature was a source to be reckoned with. Returning to her full-time position Judi approached her employer and asked, “PARDS is my happy place and I need that; so if you would like this place to be just as happy, can I please continue my volunteering Wednesday afternoons?”. Which they supported for as long as they could. Judi is an ambassador for PARDS. When she heard PARDS was looking for welders to build the fences she approached her employer to see if they could help and did they ever! Thank you to Ruskin Construction Limited for welding our pen and paddock fences. Wanting more time with the riders and horses, Judi took on another evening to help in lessons and when asked what makes her keep coming back replied in her typical comical nature, “because you guys haven’t abused me enough, yet”. Now taking on an extra evening to volunteer at PARDS was not exactly what her better half Don had in mind and he shared they didn’t spend as much time together as they used to. And Judi's reply? "Well - come with me then", and he did, every Monday night.

We would like to thank Judi for everything she does for PARDS riders and are proud to introduce the 2019 Volunteer of the Year, Judi Harker. Like all of our volunteers, we can't do it without you!

~ Jennifer Wolf, Volunteer Coordinator ~



2019 Campaigns/Community Events



~ Great Neighbour ~

Grains Bakery
Peavey Mart
New Horizon Co-op

And all of our generous supporters who participated by purchasing a placard for display

~ Motorcycle Monday's ~

Canadian Motorcycle Tourism Association

And everyone who came out each week to enjoy the delicious BBQ's around town



~ Winterval ~

Sheldon Hannah - The Cooperators
Ole Smokes Coffee

And all who came out to enjoy the day, play some games and make some crafts

~ Christmas Blue Bow ~

Thank you to everyone for your donations
And to Kevin Bjornson & Chris Thiessen for their support through their Blue Bow Haircut Challenge



~ Valequines ~

Thank you to our riders and supporters who purchased a Valequine for their favourite horse

~ Dime at a Time Bottle Donations ~

Thank you to all of our supporters for your donations



~ Dream Home ~

Thank you to all of our volunteers for your help
And to the Rotary Club of Grande Prairie for choosing PARDS as a lottery partner

~ Cash & Camping ~

Thank you to all of our volunteers for your help
And to Swan City Rotary for choosing PARDS as a lottery partner



~ Grande Prairie Gold Mining Association Trade Show ~



~ Teepee Creek Stampede Pancake Breakfast ~

~ Aquatera Bottle Donation Program ~

PARDS was the recipient of community donations of refundable bottles and cans for the month of June.
Thanks to all who donated and to Aquatera for this great program!





OUR CORE VALUES

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

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive

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

Directors

Raymond Binks, Past Chair
Todd Perks
Jim Rawlek
Daniel Nowosad
Ellen Archibald
Stacey Longson (interim)

Volunteer Consultant

Fletcher Bootle

2019 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Fund Ride Committee

Jennifer Douglas
Marge Elliott
Gayle Mayer
Rick Parsons
Jim Rawlek

Mort Timanson
Dave Westwell
Jennifer Wolf

Dine & Dance Committee

Carol Balcome
Jennifer Douglas
Louis Ducsharm
Gayle Mayer

Leisa Peters
Jim Rawlek
Adrea Simmons
Jennifer Wolf

Governance Committee

Tyla Savard (Chair)
Ellen Archibald
Fletcher Bootle
Christina Balcom
Jennifer Douglas

Facility Committee

James Rawlek (Chair)
Raymond Binks
Fletcher Bootle
Jennifer Douglas
Sarah Gunter
Enos Kyle

2019 STAFF

Jennifer Douglas
Executive Director

Gayle Mayer
Office Manager

Jennifer Wolf
Volunteer Coordinator/
Administrator

Sarah Gunter
Senior Instructor/Boarding

Robyn Boudreau
Instructor Mentor/ParaEquestrian
Video Competitions

McKayla Van Nieuwkerk
Instructor/Youth Leadership

Abelone Petersen
Instructor/Barn

Jessica Fraser
Instructor/Barn

Eve van de Beek
Instructor/Barn

Kacie Vandemark
Instructor/Barn

Arris Trotter
Instructor in Training/Barn

Hunter Walker
Facility/Barn Support

Kayla Euchner
Facility/Barn Support

Nik Diesel
Barn Support

*Thank you to these
wonderful individuals who
were a valuable part of
PARDS in 2019. Wishing
you all the best in your
future endeavours.*

Tiara Chambers
Jenn Ash
Dave Neale
Kataryna Hagglund
Laurie Prichuk (returning in
volunteer role)

2019 EQUINE STAFF

Encana, Norwegian Fjord
Holly, Belgian Fjord
Finale, Welsh Pony X
Montney, Quarter Horse
Tim-Br, Percheron X
Risley, Morgan/Quarter Horse
Molson, Canadian
Moonbeam, Paint
Alberetz, Quarter Horse
Brandt, Quarter Horse

Windsor, Anglo Arabian
Becky, Quarter Horse
Saphyre, Pinto Pony
Polly, Quarter Horse
Chance, Quarter Horse
Freckles, Appaloosa Paint X
Poco, Pinto
Ace, Quarter Horse
Chance, Quarter Horse
Vala, Paint Morgan

Petunia, Miniature
Tory, Miniature
Hot Wheels, Miniature
Chevy, Miniature
Swancy, Miniature

Our Canine Partner

Jade

Our (Not-So) Hard Working Feline Staff...

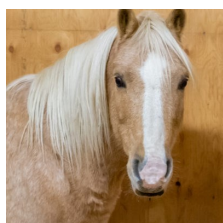
Travis and GreyCat

And our "daffy" ducks...

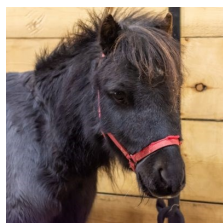
Johnnie & June

*Thank you to all of our generous supporters who have
sponsored, donated or leased their equine friends. These
amazing animals have impacted and enriched our programs
and touched so many lives.*

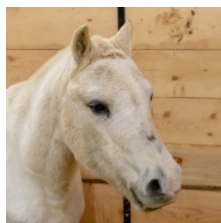
PARDS WELCOMED IN 2019...



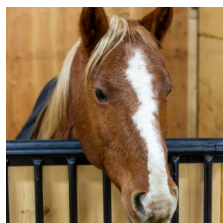
**BUTTERCUP
WELSH PONY**



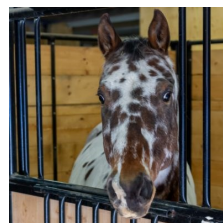
**FRODO
MINIATURE**



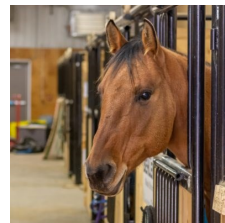
**NORTH STAR
SHETLAND PONY X**



**PEPPERMINT
PAINT/QUARTER
HORSE X**



**CHIP
APPALOOSA**



**COWBOY
QUARTER HORSE**



PARDS

THERAPEUTIC CENTRE



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COUNTY of GRANDE PRAIRIE #1, AB T8W 5A7

