



PARDS  
THERAPEUTIC CENTRE



PARDS  
THERAPEUTIC CENTRE



here, everyone belongs

# *Annual Report*

*For the year ending December 31, 2021*

# *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



## Message From the Leadership

2021 offered so very many opportunities to learn and develop as an organization. Included in that was the chance to take a good look at who we are, what value we bring to the community and what prospects exist for increasing our impact and further supporting those we serve. As difficult as the pandemic was as a whole, and as frustrating as every person, business and organization found navigating through restrictions and ever-changing health measures, we felt privileged to advocate for our riders to be able to continue accessing the animal assisted therapeutic programs they rely on and benefit from. Keeping our riders and their needs and best interests front and center in all of our decision making helped us to be confident in the choices we made and protocols we put in place.

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 was so nice to be able to host two events in 2021. We missed interacting and engaging with community members and supporters and enjoyed reconnecting with past friends and making new ones. Paul Pynn and Five Mile Hall helped make our Carnivale an event to remember. Our Dine & Dance was a sell-out and James, Carla and Emma Holton's presentation as our PARDS family provided insight and inspiration. We are always so in awe of the stories we hear when our families speak.

Teamwork and collaboration have been recurring concepts throughout the year. Whether it was staff covering for each other due to illness to ensure our riders were able to participate or board members working together on various committees to further the long term goals and objectives of PARDS, the necessity, benefit and effectiveness of working together has been highlighted and underscored time and again. We also collaborated with PACE, Petra Shelton and Denay Bjornson to develop a new program which we will be piloting in 2022. Working With Horses to Overcome Adversity (WWHOA) was developed to support front-line workers who have a high likelihood of experiencing trauma in the performance of their job role. One component of the program is prevention based in which we will provide group sessions to assist participants to build resiliency and develop coping skills to help them manage the experience following a high-stress or traumatic interaction. The other component is intervention based where the participant will partner with their horse and work one-on-one with a mental health professional to process their traumatic experience. We are very excited to add this important program to our offerings and extending our support to others who could significantly benefit.

Our committed and dependable volunteers continue to be instrumental in our ability to provide our animal assisted therapeutic programs. They are vital to the success of PARDS and it is impossible to thank them enough. We are beyond fortunate to have so many volunteers who have prioritized their support for PARDS riders for many years and are open and available to mentor new volunteers. 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.

We welcomed many new sponsors over the past year that have chosen to support PARDS in a variety of ways. Their generous support of our programs, facility and accessible bus helped us to manage expenses and continue providing our life enhancing programs at an affordable cost to our riders.

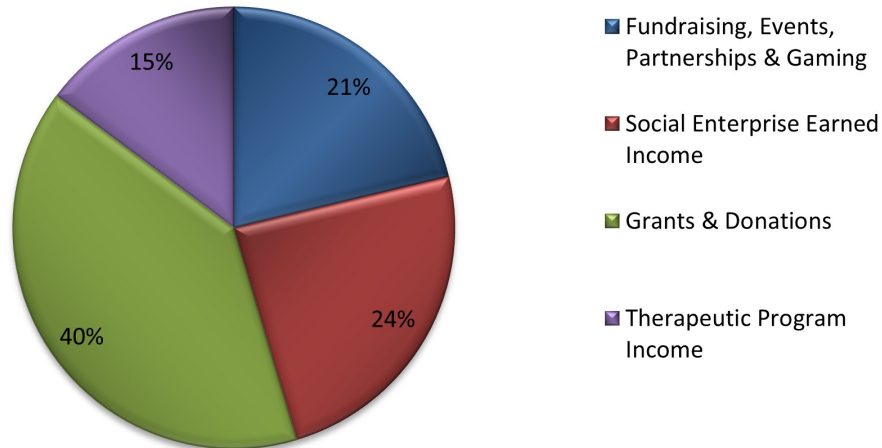
There can never be enough said in recognition of the amazing people who have come together in various capacities to help ensure our community continues to benefit from the existence of Equine Assisted Therapeutic programs and services. All are an intricate piece of the puzzle without whom the picture 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!

~Christina Balcom, Board Chairperson & Jennifer Douglas, Executive Director

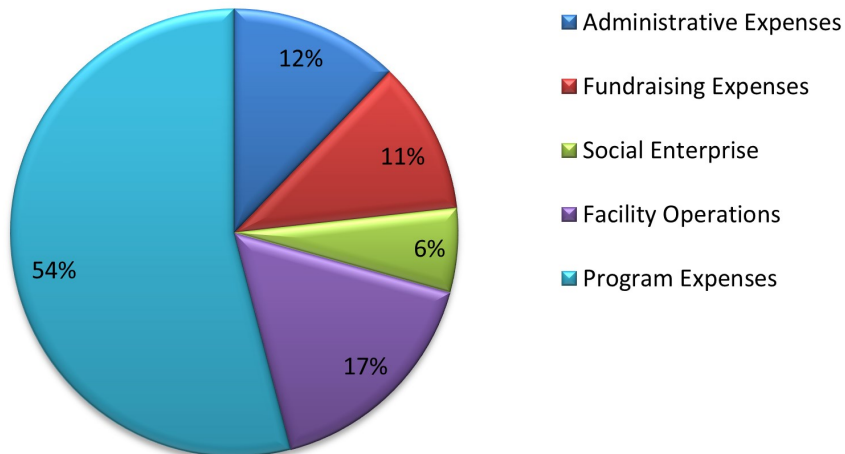


# Treasurer's Report

## Where Do the Funds Come From?



## Where Do the Funds Go?



In 2021 the impact of the Covid pandemic was still felt for the first part of the year as lessons for session 2 did not resume until February 1, 2021. The challenges presented by the pandemic continued to reinforce what we know about the community we serve; it is full of empathetic and generous individuals and companies that value the programs and support PARDS offers to those of all abilities. This is shown through 40% of our income being derived from grants, donations and partnerships with other organizations within the Grande Prairie Area. Similarly, the reintroduction of our annual events Carnivale in partnership with Paul Pynn and the Five Mile Hall Grand Opening in August, and the Dine & Dance Event in November. We did qualify for the CEWS Program January through to October, 2021 which provided much needed support during the pandemic.

Facility Expenses include capital projects and facility improvements: the shavings hopper, sealant to the mezzanine floor, painting of landing, stairs and main vestibule, welding of fencing for six boarder paddocks and critter pen in front of barn (time and expertise was donated by Ruskin Construction). The repair/reconfiguration of automatic water bowls, installation of the east paddock water bowls, hay storage repair, grading of property, spreading manure in pastures and constructing our shavings enclosure. Our facility sign was donated and installed by Prairie Signs in June 2021, which has made a huge aesthetic impact to the PARDS facility. In November 2021 we entered into agreement with Celtic Construction to complete entranceway covers.

~ Stacey Longson, Treasurer

# Governance Committee Report

The Governance committee continues to follow its schedule of policy review at each Board meeting to ensure everyone has input if changes are needed, can give examples of how we follow each stated procedure and identify if there are additional areas, we should consider to fill gaps in our policy portfolio. We continue to build upon our resources, knowledge and fine tuning of how we connect, work together and accomplish our goals as a Board of Directors. Covid added some additional challenges but we continue to adapt and maintain rhythm to keep things moving forward for the betterment of PARDS as an organization.

~ Tyla Savard, Vice Chair/Governance Committee Chair

# Carnivale

A HUGE thank you to all our sponsors, donors, volunteers and community members who contributed or came out in support of our first event in over a year! Families joined us to take part in the carnival games, pony cart rides, petting zoo, face painting, glitter tattoos and delicious carnivale food. Later in the evening it was a fun time for the adults for a dinner, entertainment and live and silent auctions.



## Spotlight Sponsor



## Silly String Corral Sponsor



## Prize Sponsor



## Entertainment Sponsor



## Pony Cart Sponsor



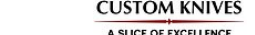
## Petting Zoo Sponsor



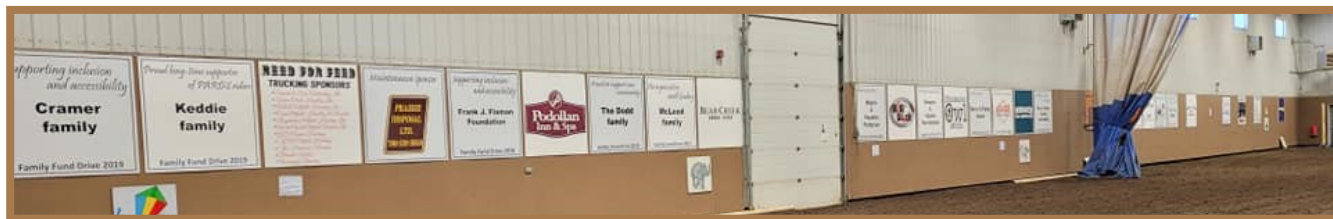
## Table Sponsors



## Game Sponsors



## Kickboard Sponsors



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Windsor Ford

Thank you to all Kickboard Sponsors whose generous donations support **PARDS** Therapeutic Programs.

## Slim Allen Award of Excellence



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 our organization. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak in March of 2020 we were unable to hold our Annual Fund Ride. We look forward to announcing both the 2020 and 2021 recipients at our next summer event.



# Rider Spotlights

## Therapeutic Cart Driving



Tricia has

been driving with PARDS since the fall of 2019. Tricia is 47 years old and has a quiet, soft nature. Tricia offers gentle pets, scratches and quiet talks to the horses and cats in the barn and to Jade in the office. Before registering in the driving program herself, Tricia would come and watch Boyd, her husband, drive in his cart lesson. Tricia was looking for an enjoyable recreational activity and decided to try the cart driving herself.

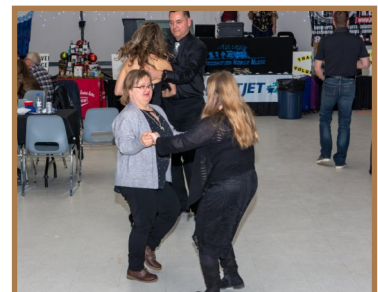
Tricia has Down Syndrome and, along with the recreational aspect, Tricia's personal goals were to improve her muscular strength, endurance and speech clarity. Her first short term driving goals were to feel comfortable when driving and be able to assist in walk/halt transitions. Tricia was successful in her goal and also successfully advanced to independent walk/halt transitions. Tricia had enjoyed her lessons so much and has made such great progress that she has started working on using directional reigning.

Tricia's lessons are broken down in segments, which involve grooming, tacking up the harness and therapeutic stretches to begin each lesson. Instructions are kept short and given that Tricia utilizes a hearing aid, clarity of instruction is very important as Tricia can become frustrated if she does not understand or hear what is being asked of her. We have also incorporated the use of a white board to further assist with overcoming and adapting to her communication challenges.

Over the past year Tricia has become more anxious as both her and her husband Boyd's health have declined. With COVID, the activities they enjoyed and were able to do have become restricted. Fortunately, PARDS is a place that Tricia's family felt comfortable bringing her to when restrictions allow. The routine at PARDS stays the same and the barn is quiet, (except for the occasional whinny), making it easier for Tricia to reach her personal goal to get out of the house and relax. Sometimes Tricia is so relaxed in the cart she appears to be asleep!

Tricia loves to do puzzles, color, clean her home and she loves to dance!. Tricia and her husband took country dance lessons and Tricia and her sister Kaylee (also a PARDS rider) burn up the dance floor at PARDS Dine and Dance Fundraisers which she and her family have attended over the years and have enjoyed each one!

PARDS is happy to support Tricia in her journey and hopes to continue offering her a safe and relaxed activity in a supportive and inclusive environment.



# Rider Program Spotlights

## Therapeutic Riding

Teaghan is 15 years old and has been riding at PARDS in the Therapeutic Program since January of 2020. Riding is very calming for Teaghan which she says helps in her day to day life dealing with ADHD, anxiety and depression. As soon as she swings her leg over her horse she has the biggest smile on her face. The bond between rider and horse also brings a sense of trust and companionship that can create a sense of belonging and contentment which can greatly impact many riders dealing with these same diagnoses.

Teaghan and her mother, Bobbi thought that riding would be something they would enjoy together. Teaghan realized how much joy and confidence riding gave her, she thought riding with her mom was a great idea! Teaghan registered as a therapeutic rider while mom registered as a public rider, both learning the basics of riding skills in the same lesson. This also allowed for mom and daughter to spend quality time together.

Building confidence in yourself, while learning a new skill can be very helpful if you can apply that confidence in your daily routine. Currently, Teaghan is riding solo and says, "What makes these lessons great are the horses." Horses are very therapeutic animals and can be your best friend, especially when you just need that someone to be with. Sometimes you just look at a rider and horse and see that bond; this is Teaghan and Molson. Teaghan has riding goals as well as personal growth goals built within her program, but her one personal long term riding goal is to jump. Jumping is a very big step with many smaller goals to achieve but each building on that confidence building. We can't wait to see where Teaghan goes and look forward to being with her each step of the way!



## PARDS Accessible Bus

You're at home here.



**PETROLEUM  
NEW HORIZON**



THE CITY OF  
**GRANDE**  
prairie



The City of Grande Prairie donated a beautiful 2013 Handi-Bus to PARDS and with the generous support from New Horizon Co-op, the County of Grande Prairie, 911 Industrial Response and Commandeur Mechanical we have been able to ensure all Riders are able to access our Programs.

A big thank you must also go to PARDS staff bus driver Bob Dressler, and volunteer bus driver, Ernie Pigeau.



## *Little Pony Motricity Inclusive Preschool Program*



Bryce is an energetic little boy who comes twice a week to participate in the PARDS Little Pony Motricity and therapeutic riding programs. The Little Pony Motricity program gives Bryce the beginning steps in horse care, building comfort and confidence around horses as well as learning cooperation working as a team with another young rider.

Bryce's family saw the enjoyment and growth in his confidence and riding skill so decided to give him a second riding experience that would also work towards his therapeutic goals and registered him for therapeutic riding. First and foremost Bryce would like everyone to know that he and Encana like to go fast and that they are best friends!

At his assessment, both therapeutic and riding goals were established. His long term goals are to learn riding skills, and to improve his expressive language. During his lessons we work on letter recognition using games and activities within the arena using the dressage letters and pictures, such as /m/, monkey and using words we use when riding 'Walk on' and 'Whoa', for example. These basic concepts create confidence in usage as they are repetitive by use when riding. Once the confidence is there, natural conversation skills can occur between Bryce and his instructor. Bryce's parents say they have noticed a difference in his attempts at conversing with others. Bryce is always telling a story to everyone in the barn and has a contagious smile.

During his assessment, focusing, body awareness and control were discussed and goals were made. Games and activities incorporating focusing, listening to directions, balancing exercises, stretches identifying balance and spatial awareness help to develop good posture and balance which, along with therapeutic benefits, are all skills needed for riding. We look forward to seeing Bryce's continuing progress!

## *Program Sponsors*

### **MOUNTED THERAPEUTIC**



### **CRITTER CONNECTIONS**



### **YOUTH LEADERSHIP**



### **LITTLE PONY MOTRICITY**



# Ground Driving Program



Josh is 23 years old, was born on the Autism Spectrum and has been coming to PARDS since 2009. He began as a young rider in lessons and participated in the Para Equestrian Video Competition during that time. By 2016 Josh grew to a strapping, 6 foot tall young man and transitioned to participating in PARDS' cart driving program. The cart program provided Josh the opportunity to continue participating in PARDS programs which his mother Donna says has been a huge part of Josh's life and will remain as long as PARDS is here. Josh is non verbal but has a few key words, one of which is "horse" which speaks volumes about the important role his relationship with his horse has for him. A few years back Josh had a seizure which is a contraindication to both riding and driving; once again, PARDS adapted to meet the needs of the participant by creating a ground driving program still utilizing all the skills learned in the driving program without the safety concerns due to the seizure disorder and Josh was able to continue coming to PARDS and participating in PARDS life-enhancing programs. This keeps Josh engaged with the horses, an opportunity to socialize with staff and the physical activity he has come to rely on from PARDS.



Josh enjoys painting; activities incorporating colour matching and allowing him to draw on a white board with different colours to check off the lesson activities keeps him engaged and focused. Although Josh's expressive language is limited, his receptive language is well developed. His lessons utilize directions and options such as "would you like to ride inside or outside", "which colour marker would you like to use", rather than questions only involving yes or no answers. Josh prefers to ride outside even if it's raining, the sights, sounds and smells engage all of the senses which enriches his experience. Repetition is key when providing Josh with instructions as he thrives on consistency. Josh has learned some key words such as "foot" for when he is getting his horse to lift the hoof to be picked, which is the activity that Josh begins each of his lessons with. The routine that is followed each lesson gives Josh a sense of what is expected and this allows him to go into each lessons with as much ease as possible and sets him up to be successful each week.

Josh also takes time each week and comes to PARDS as a volunteer to take care of our paper recycling and helps with shredding. He thrives on the routine of coming around to each office and collecting the recycle bins, shredding the papers, bags, and sweeps up before taking the recycling out. Josh is a huge help when he comes and all the staff look forward to his weekly visit and ensure they have something in their bin ready for him.



## *Youth Leadership Program*

The following is a letter we received from the parent of one of our participants. Cheyenne (name changed for privacy) has participated in 5 sessions of the Youth Leadership program.

"The PARDS Youth Leadership program prevented our family from falling into an abyss. Our daughter, Cheyenne, had a disastrous transition to secondary school and as a result, developed severe anxiety and has not attended school since. We found her school and family doctor were no help at all and we were unable to gain timely access to Children's Mental Health Services. There is so much need for so many kids and resources are very limited. As I have discovered, if a child is not deemed "in crisis" their needs fall between the cracks.

"Cheyenne spiralled quickly into a really, really dark place and withdrew from everyone and everything. The pandemic added another layer of challenge to an already challenging situation. I'd heard good things about horse therapy in the past and found out that you were still offering programs and that's why we decided to try it. Getting to the first lesson was a huge hurdle but now Cheyenne attends every week and actually looks forward to the sessions. The connection she has made with the horses has been amazing and inspiring; I've watched her gradually come out of her shell and re-engage with herself and the world. At the end of one session my daughter said 'I love it here Mom, I can just be and forget all the stupid, mean and crappy stuff.' Horse therapy has been a powerful constant through a really difficult and ongoing journey. Our family is so grateful that we have a program like Youth Leadership in our community."

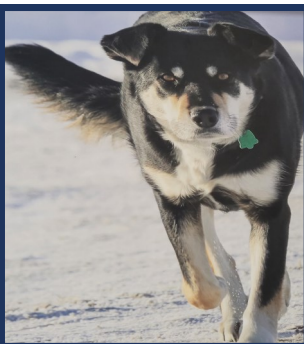
~ Cheyenne's mom

### **Youth Leadership program funding provided in part by:**



## *Gone but never forgotten...*

### *In loving memory*



We were all so very sorry to say good-bye to Jade, our resident dog. Jade passed away in December 2021 after 12 years of greeting and loving our riders. Jade was very popular with so many that came through our doors; riders, families, volunteers, staff, donors or just general visitors. Her calm demeanor and beautiful brown eyes sucked you right in and you couldn't help but give her a pet or a treat, both of which she couldn't get enough of.

Good-bye, Jade. You are loved, you are missed and you are remembered.

### *A loving and lasting legacy*

Thank you to all the family and friends who chose to remember their loved one through a gift to our special riders

~Mary Gacek~    ~Roger Loïselle~    ~Lynn Hoflin~

## From Our Riders & Their Families

When it was my first day of horse camp I was scared that no one will like me, but I was wrong everyone liked me. On the first day I made ~~my~~ 1 friend her name was Celeste. We hung out all day and then at the end of the day we said bye bestie see you tomorrow. And we did see each other the next day. We even share snacks, but my favorite things at camp are, ~~to~~ brushing horses, arts and crafts, barn chores ~~to~~ (sweeping) riding horses and making new friends. but my most favorite part about camp is that I ~~can~~ have fun. Thank you for letting me come to camp.

Dear, Pards

I feel when I comes to parads I feel confident and that no one will make me feel bad about myself.

When I come to my lessons, and get on Molson's back I feel a sense of freedom and he takes all the worries away.

The instructors and volunteers are caring, kind, and patient. They make me feel like I fit in and they encourage me to do my best. Pards is one of the places that I feel like I belong and it is a safe place to me.

Sincerely Zayda



Dear: Ace.

Hi Ace. How are you?

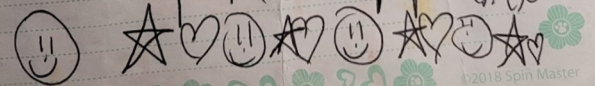
I am doing good.

My Bff Lily is her to  
play today. Lily and I are

going to Playout Side.  
What are you going to do  
today? Besides eat hay.

Are you happy today? I am  
happy. It is so cold outside  
today. Bye! Bye!

FROM: People.



When I was brushing ghost (My Horse) he loved it and he moved closer to me. Then ghost ~~had~~ had ~~an~~ an itchy spot so I ~~scratched~~ scratched it and he did this silly thing with his mouth. Ghost loves me and I love ghost. Ghost will only let me brush his and no one else. Ghost is the one for me. On ~~the~~ my first day of ~~horse~~ horse camp when I went to see the horses I ~~saw~~ saw this brown horse her name is becky beautiful but then a horse Nayed behind me so I turned around and that's when I fell ~~in~~ in love with ghost he saw me and he chose me and I chose him to

# PARDS Therapeutic Programs

Each client that comes in first goes through an assessment process. We establish goals, go over any other therapy they may be undergoing, establish the physical, emotional or intellectual challenges and work out which horse would be best suited. If it turns out that a client shouldn't ride for health reasons, we work diligently to find an alternative program.

## Therapeutic Riding

Therapeutic riding is offered to clients aged 3 and up. Clients who participate in riding lessons must have a clinical diagnosis. Our therapeutic client base encompasses a wide spectrum of disabilities classified under the scope of Physical (includes riders with limited mobility, delayed fine and gross motor skills, low trunk control/core strength, undeveloped balance, etc.), Cognitive (includes riders with limited cognitive capacity, autism spectrum disorders, traumatic brain injury, etc.), Sensory (includes riders with visual, auditory or speech impairment) and Nonvisible (includes riders with learning disability, epilepsy/seizure disorder, ADD/ADHD, anxiety, a variety of psychological disorders, etc.).



## Therapeutic Cart Driving

Not everyone can ride – or wants to – but cart driving is another excellent way to access the benefits of equine therapy. Learning to work with and control a horse as the driver of a cart brings many therapeutic benefits, similar to the ones for therapeutic riding. Cart driving is where a horse or pony is hitched to a wheeled cart and is driven around an arena, an obstacle course, or out on a trail. Driving is a fabulous opportunity to make new friends, gain a sense of independence, be out in the open air (weather permitting) and have fun! Cart driving can range from a relaxing ride around our indoor arena or out on our specially designated cart trail, to thrilling competitions run by Equine Canada.



## Therapeutic Grooming

Not everyone is able to – or wants to – ride horses. We offer several programs to clients who cannot take part in horseback riding due to a disability that has a contraindication to riding or a weight in excess of industry guidelines. They are also offered to clients who are looking for a different or additional challenge. Grooming offers participants the chance to develop a relationship with a horse, learn horse care skills and benefit physically, psychologically and educationally. The benefits are actually quite similar to those of therapeutic riding.



## Youth Leadership

Youth Leadership is a ground work experiential learning program focusing on cooperation, relationship building, self-esteem and more. It's learning, without realizing you're learning.

- The client works directly with a horse partner and a volunteer mentor under the guidance of the program facilitator and a horse co-facilitator.
- The client participates in a variety of activities with their horse partner (e.g. interacting with the horse to achieve a result such as moving in a specific direction without the aid of tools or props, observing herd behaviour and dynamics, long reining as part of a group).



As co-facilitators, the horses guide and support. It's all about choices. That's our ultimate goal: having participants make the choices and evaluate those choices in the end.



MOUNTED THERAPEUTIC



YOUTH LEADERSHIP

# PARDS Inclusive Programs

## Little Pony Motricity

Little Pony Motricity is designed for ages 3 to 7 or to (maximum 48" tall and 65 lbs.). The program is set up with fun activities that incorporate fundamental skills in early ages of development while working with assisted learning through our equine partners. Little Pony Motricity is both a ground work and riding program. Lessons run in 10 week sessions, once per week for 30 minutes each week. Riders will work in pairs of two and a pony to challenge obstacle courses designed to create self learning and independence through play. The activities are proven to develop: self-confidence, enhanced fine and gross motor ability, develop and enhance communication, improved concentration and attention span, understanding and application of instructions, discovery and development of body, space and time, respect for others and animals and enhanced imagination. Benefits of this program are realized in children of all abilities.



## Critter Connections

Critter Connections provides children and youth connection with a fun, compassionate and non-judgmental animal while they develop and strengthen their fundamental literacy skills. They are given the opportunity to build their reading skills by reading to their chosen animal partner whether it be pony, horse, duck, goat or sheep. The program helps build their confidence in reading. They also play fun literacy developing games with their trusty animal partners. These games focus on letters, sounds, sight words, writing, combination sounds and much more! The participants also write a story about their animal partner throughout their session which they will take home at the end of their program.



## Inclusive Youth Day Camp

Inclusive Youth Day Camp is open to children between the ages of 6 (as of January 1 of camp year) and 14, of all abilities. Campers spend each day practicing and learning the basics of horse care and horsemanship through activities, lessons and hands-on learning. It's a fantastic way to learn the basics of horse care, riding, horsemanship, cart driving and much more. Youth Leadership activities are also incorporated into the daily camp schedule along with games, group activities and crafts. PARDS summer camps provide an inclusive environment where children and youth 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.



# PARDS Public Programs

## P'tit Trot

P'tit Trot is an exciting program for children ages 5 years old and up, who love horses and want to learn more about the equestrian world. The P'tit Trot program is devoted solely to the initiation of equitation and general horsemanship, allowing children to discover the pleasures of English & Western disciplines as well as an introduction to developing proper knowledge on how to care for the horse. The P'tit Trot sessions are divided into 4 levels – Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum with each chapter building on the previous skill set. This program is a fantastic stepping stone to beginner riding lessons.



## Public Riding Lessons

Our Public Riding Lessons are for anyone aged 7 and older. The lessons are geared toward many skill levels, from riders with little or no experience with horses to more advanced novice riders. Lessons are facilitated by qualified instructors, and are designed to help riders become comfortable with riding basics enabling progress to an intermediate novice riding level. We run 3 – 10 week Public Riding Sessions that mirror the traditional school year. The programs are personalized to each rider's abilities, giving you the choice of participating in any or all of the three, 10-week sessions. Throughout your session, our goal is to help you progress, perfect your techniques and most importantly, have fun!



## 2021 Horse of the Year



In 2002, the Encana corporation supported PARDS with the funds to purchase a new horse for the PARDS program. With this sponsorship lined up, PARDS sent a long time instructor out to meet a young Norwegian Fjord horse and tried him for the very first time in the middle of a pasture with no saddle, and nothing but a halter. This horse has a way of winning over the hearts of anyone that meets him and this first meeting was no exception. The arrangements were made for him to come to PARDS and join the team. When he arrived at the PARDS barn, he took in his new surroundings and settled in like it is where he was always meant to be. This horse is now a barn favourite and is named after the company that sponsored him and is known to all as, Encana!

Encana is a registered Norwegian Fjord gelding, his registered name is "Brambers Zeus". Born in 1998, he came to us as a young horse only 4 years old. Prior to joining the herd at PARDS, Encana worked a season in the

mountains as a pack horse with very little experience being ridden. With his kind eyes and warm temperament there was never a doubt in anyone's mind that he would be anything but an extraordinary therapeutic riding horse for the PARDS program.

A therapy horse is an exceptional horse that must be steady in mind and body, accepting and willing of new situations, and love working with people. Encana easily met all of these requirements, and was put into training right away to become a PARDS lesson horse. Becoming a PARDS lesson horse is no simple task, the horses that work in our programs are exposed to a variety of props including toys, pool noodles, wheelchairs, and other mobility aids; as well as many different situations. All of PARDS programs are adapted to suit the needs of each rider and the horses are exposed to a wide variety of circumstances to determine how well they will handle the different needs of the riders they work with. Not every horse is suitable for every rider and careful consideration is made when scheduling horses and riders together. Over the many years that Encana has worked in the PARDS program he has become a go-to for riders of all types. Whether riders require the lift to mount their horse from their wheelchair, attending their riding session for the therapeutic benefit of his walking gait, or taking a rider that's learning their basics to advanced levels of riding, Encana continues to be a willing companion for riders all of the unique riders that participate in our programs.

Encana is always the first horse to come greet you at the fence and peeking his nose over his stall door looking for attention. He is a steady riding mount, a willing partner, and a friend to all that meet him. It is a special horse that settles into life as a lesson pony, and an exceptional one that has a career for as long as Encana has - 20 years and counting!! With his many years of service and loving personality, it was no surprise that he was at the top of mind for PARDS' 2021 Horse of the Year.

~Amanda Udey, Program Coordinator

## Care & Feed Sponsors



Jennifer Howard



Lorne & Ann McLeod  
and family



Sean Sargent



# 2021 Dine & Dance

## "Mane" Event Sponsor



Hammerhead Resources is a leading Upstream Alberta-based, growth-oriented, private-equity owned energy company committed to delivering strong and sustainable corporate, operational, environmental, and financial performance. Hammerhead promotes day-to-day innovation and upholds the corporate values of accountability, innovation, debate, and respect. We are a tight-knit community made up of strong technical and innovative minds with 141 employees and contractors across our operations in northern Alberta, our field office in Grande Prairie, and our head office in Calgary. We are committed to meeting and exceeding regulatory compliance measures, focusing on reducing emissions through new technologies, and working to improve efficiencies and resiliency while adding value for our stakeholders and producing responsible, reliable, and sustainable energy needed to meet society's energy demands.

We are honored to partner with PARDS to support their outstanding programs that positively impact so many families in so many ways.

## Thank You

Thank you to all of our generous donors and sponsors for your continued support. We would like to extend a special thank you to the following individuals and businesses for your commitment in making PARDS 23rd Annual Dine & Dance a huge success:

## Hearts, Hooves and Courage Sponsors



Dew-Line Enterprises is proud to be a long time supporter of PARDS riders! We encourage you to bid on the Mexico and Fairmont trips we have donated to tonight's Live Auction.



Big Stick Rentals is pleased to be a returning sponsor of this year's Dine & Dance fundraiser. In the years we have become involved with and supported 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.



Onsite 3D is proud to be a sponsor of the PARDS 23rd Annual Dine & Dance.

## Great "Neigh"bour Sponsors



## A Special Thank You

RECEPTION  
SPONSOR

MUSIC  
SPONSORS



## 13 Bottles To Go Auction

Trip for Two to Anywhere  
Westjet Flies

Complete with a Digital Camera!  
Donated by:



A Special Thank You... Wine donated by: WINDSOR FORD

Shirley Weiss  
Original Artwork  
"Reaching Out"  
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Shirley  
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## Ring Box Raffle

White Gold Fashion Ring  
generously donated by:



## Table Sponsors

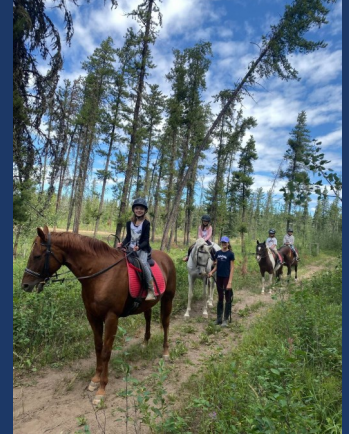


## Dollars and Drinks Raffle

Sponsored by:



# PARDS Summer Camps



PARDS offered Summer programs at full capacity this year following guidelines set out by AHS with regards to COVID-19. Youth day camp is open to children between the ages of 6 and 14, of all abilities. Campers spend each day practicing and learning the basics of horse care and horsemanship through activities, lessons and hands-on learning. Youth Leadership activities are also incorporated into the daily camp schedule along with games, group activities and crafts. PARDS summer camps provide an inclusive environment where children and youth 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. We also offered our Little Pony Motricity Half Day Camps. Camp is set up with fun activities that incorporate fundamental skills in early ages of development while working with our miniature ponies. Riding, groundwork and horse care skills are taught.

Both programs offered diverse opportunities working both on the ground and mounted, incorporating other PARDS programs such as Youth Leadership and Critter Connections Literacy. Campers also learned about barn maintenance, horse care, built friendships and had fun!

We would like to thank the following summer students who joined us for summer camp to make it a memorable experience or everyone: Jaiden Russell-Sperling, Chloe Keglowsch and Bailey Pilgrim.



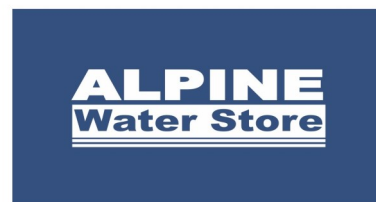
## Facility Sponsors

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.



Canada



## Need For Feed Campaign Sponsors

2021 presented some significant challenges when it came to feeding our herd. High temperatures and minimal moisture resulted in a devastating growing season. There was very little hay available and what there was came at a premium price. We are so thankful to the following partners that really came through for PARDS by donating hay, donating transportation of hay or lowering the cost of their bales as much as possible so we could feed our hungry herd for the year.



### Hay donation

Grant Evaskevich  
Ken Drysdale

### Trucking partners

RB Oilfield Hauling Inc      T-Rucking Oilfield Service  
Brandt Tractor Ltd.      Regulators Oilfield Hauling  
Trident Oilfield Services Ltd.

### Hay partial donation

Rango Feeds  
Lillian & Doug Burchill, Burchill Farms



# *Celebrating Our Volunteers!*

## 2021 PARDS Volunteer of the Year: Teaghan Keddy

People choose to volunteer for a variety of reasons. For some it offers the chance to give something back to the community, for others it provides an opportunity to develop new skills or build on existing experience and knowledge. Regardless of the motivation, what unites them all is the giving of their time, a true gift in itself!

Comments we hear from PARDS volunteers when asked, why PARDS?

- ♦ the love of horses
- ♦ making a difference in the lives of others
- ♦ the opportunity to give something back to an organisation that has impacted my life, directly and indirectly
- ♦ to gain confidence and self-esteem while feeling valued for what I have to offer

This year's volunteer has expressed and demonstrated all of these. We first met Teaghan at PARDS previous facility when she came in to visit the horses. Teaghan shared she used to own horses; so during her visit we shared information on volunteer and lesson opportunities. It was discussed that being on the Autism Spectrum she would qualify for our Therapeutic programs which seemed to instantly bring a smile to Teaghan's face.

In the summer of 2019 she registered in our Adult Therapeutic Skills Camp and realized the love of reconnecting with her love of horses and learning as much as she could; and Teaghan's journey with PARDS began. That fall she registered in our Therapeutic Cart program and during her first session she came to a volunteer orientation and began helping as a volunteer in the barn and to visit with the horses, staff, and other volunteers. Teaghan was always eager to do more. As her confidence built, new skills learned and a feeling of belonging, we asked if she would be interested in helping in different needs in the barn. Horses needed to be brought in, groomed and tacked, ready for lessons and as she had expressed, "I love just being around the horses!"

Overtime, seeing her growth in taking on responsibility and confidence, we asked if would be interested in helping in lessons. With her kind nature, soft spoken voice she fit right in with our younger riders in the Little Pony Motricity Program, leading and sidewalking.

While visiting with staff and volunteers we learned other interests and talents of Teaghan's. She has a love of trucks and drawing both by hand and digitally and has donated a picture the past 2 years to our Dine & Dance silent auction.

Teaghan shared she loves being at PARDS as it provides her a judgement free environment and cart driving and working around the horses is therapeutic and peaceful for her. Volunteering at PARDS has also been a great way to increase her knowledge in horse care and we can't thank Teaghan enough for the help in lessons. We are excited to see how Teaghan will be involved in PARDS in the future and grow her knowledge in everything PARDS!

*Jennifer Wolf-Volunteer Coordinator*



# 2021 Campaigns and Community Events



We had a great time working with the committee again this year, it was fabulous to be back! PARDS partnered with the Stampede to host the event's morning pancake breakfasts. Volunteers had a blast working together and feeding some very hungry and appreciative folks.



Thank you 2day FM for organizing the Pumpkin Plummet for PARDS. Community members brought their pumpkins and watched them get smashed as they were dropped from a 19-foot lift supplied by Diggity Do Rentals! All pumpkin remains and cash donations were donated to PARDS for the horses and critters.



## ~ Cars For Christmas ~

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



## ~ Christmas Blue Bow ~

Thank you to everyone for your donations and answering the wish list letters of our horses.



## ~ Dime at a Time Bottle Donations ~

Thank you to the Sawmill Prime Rib & Steakhouse, Brown's Social House and Bar Burrito for choosing to give PARDS their recyclables. Thank you as well to Wade Mayer and Don Roubos for picking up these donations each week and to all community members for contributing your recyclables throughout the year.



Thank you to Your Sugar Momma for running an ongoing charity campaign for PARDS. Cakes were ordered and all that was asked was for the costs to be covered and a donation be made to PARDS



Thank you to Diggity Do Rentals for hosting a BBQ at their open house with proceeds generously donated to PARDS.



# 2021 Donors

Throughout 2021 PARDS has been the recipient of incredible generosity from individuals and companies. We sincerely thank all of those who stepped forward and donated from their hearts because, as one donor said, "I really believe what you do matters."

*We are all so thankful for the support shown by all our donors .*

1055793 Alberta Ltd., Josh Pino	Government of Alberta	Perkins, John & Linda
911 Industrial Response Ltd.	GP 100	Pratt, Gordon
914175 AB Ltd.	Hedge And Burrow Consulting Ltd.	Primetime Hunting & Fishing
Accu-Tech	Henry, Jill	Rintamaki, Craig & Elizabeth
Alberta Blue Cross-Hearts Of Blue	Hughes, Gerald	Royal Spirits
Alberta Equestrian Federation	Ingram, Nancy	Ruskin Construction
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Alstad, Allan	Kaidak Energy Services Inc.	Sawmill Prime Rib & Steakhouse
Aquatera	Keddies Tack & Western Wear	Scribner, Karen
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Bear Creek Animal Clinic	Kuntz, Dean	Smith, Janet
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Coney, Kelly	Mayer, Gayle	Tina Berge Equine Therapy
Costley, Sharon	Mayer, Wade	Tire Pro Inc.
Country Pump Out	McCabe, Carell	Total Safety Services
County of Grande Prairie #1	McClelland, William J	Trident Oilfield Services
Crazy Spinners FB Group	McDonald, Agnes	Tru Grit Excavating Ltd
CWB Financial Group	McGoverns RV & Marine	T-Ruckin Oilfield Services Ltd.
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Double J Equine	Meyaard, Jake	Ultimate Well Control Supervision Ltd.
Driedger, Anne	Morris Financial Group	Valard Construction LP
Empire Oilfield Solutions Inc.	Mr. Mikes Steakhouse Casual	Wall-Side Exteriors LT
Energetic Services Inc.	Nelson, Christina	Warren, Lexie
Energy Transfer Canada ULC	Neufeld, Nolan	Whiteford, Donald
FCSSGP	Nevada Bob's Golf	Wiebe, Adam
Finch, Robert & Ruth	New Horizon Co-op	Wild West Oilfield Rentals Ltd.
Fleetwood, Margery	Nitrogen Technologies Of Canada Ltd	Wolf, Jennifer
Government of Canada	Paslowski, Monica	Wren, Esther



## 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

## 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Executive

Chairperson  
Christina Balcom  
Vice Chair  
Tyla Savard  
Secretary  
Adrea Simmons  
Treasurer  
Stacey Longson

### Directors

Raymond Binks, Past Chair  
Todd Perks  
Jim Rawlek  
Ellen Archibald  
Colleen Millsap

### Volunteer Advisor

Fletcher Bootle

## 2021 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

### Facility Committee

James Rawlek (Chair)  
Christina Balcom  
Raymond Binks  
Fletcher Bootle  
Jennifer Douglas  
Enos Kyle

## 2021 STAFF

Jennifer Douglas  
Executive Director  
Amanda Udey  
Deputy Director  
Gayle Mayer  
Office Manager  
Jennifer Wolf  
Volunteer Coordinator/  
Administrative Assistant  
Liz Rintamaki  
Community Liaison

Jessica Cann  
Program Coordinator/  
Instructor/Youth Leadership  
Robyn Boudreau  
Instructor Mentor/Para  
Equestrian Competition  
Instructor  
McKayla Van Nieuwkerk  
Barn Coordinator/Instructor  
Abelone Petersen  
Instructor

Kacie Vandemark  
Instructor  
Arris Trotter  
Instructor  
Laurie Prichuk  
Volunteer Instructor  
Nik Diesel  
Barn Support  
Justeen Schneider  
Weekend Staff

*Thank you to these wonderful individuals who were a valuable part of PARDS in 2021. Wishing you all the best in your future endeavors.*

Eve van de Beek  
Kayla Euchner  
Hunter Walker  
Arris Trotter  
Kasandra Hudson

## 2021 EQUINE STAFF

Encana, Norwegian Fjord  
Holly, Belgian Fjord  
Montney, Quarter Horse  
Tim-Br, Percheron X  
Risley, Morgan/Quarter Horse  
Molson, Canadian  
Chance, Quarter Horse  
Peppermint, Paint/Quarter Horse X

Alberez, Quarter Horse  
Brandt, Quarter Horse  
Windsor, Anglo Arabian  
Becky, Quarter Horse  
Ace, Quarter Horse  
North, Shetland Pony X  
Chip, Appaloosa  
Cowboy, Quarter Horse  
Maisy, Morgan Cross

Petunia, Miniature  
Tory, Miniature  
Hot Wheels, Miniature  
Chevy, Miniature  
Swancy, Miniature  
Frodo, Miniature  
***Our Resident Mousers***  
Smokie, Mango & Artemis

### ***And Our Critter Connection Crew***

Ducks ~ Johnnie & June  
Goats ~ BamBam & Fred  
Sheep ~ Leo & Luna  
Guinea Pigs ~ Milk & Butter ~ Chino & Stoic  
Donkeys ~ Ruskin & Harker  
Llama ~ Ralph

## PARDS WELCOMED IN 2021...

*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.*



**TEQUILA (TIKI)**



**NORTHSTAR**



**COWBOY**



**ODYSSEY**



# PARDS

THERAPEUTIC CENTRE



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COUNTY of GRANDE PRAIRIE #1, AB T8W 5A7

