

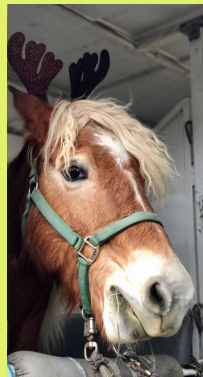


TARA'S CHANCE NEWSLETTER



HOLIDAY TRAILERING

by Cindy Howells
Program Director



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Well some of us started riding for about three weeks in November until we were closed again in December due to Covid 19 restrictions. To keep the Tara's Chance spirit soaring, we have been trailering again but some of our kids are busy back in school, learning online, and several of their other activities have resumed, so scheduling is more of a challenge this time around. We've had Individual visits for kids to see their horse, pet and feed them. Now that restrictions are lifted again, we will be able to make more individual appointments and we hope to get riding again whenever possible. We'll keep you posted! To keep in touch, we've been sending out weekly fun surprise projects like wooden horseshoes to decorate and outlines of our horses with new colors to learn. Our staff is putting in several hours a day to keep our horses fit, fed and happy. They need to move daily to keep their joints flexible so they'll be ready to ride when you return!





WE DID IT!

by Executive Director, Matt Howells

The challenges of the pandemic have continued to impact Tara's Chance. Following the Southern California stay at home order on December 6th, we paused our program but not our mission. We created our first ever Christmas Drive Thru for our riders and their families. Together 8 staff members, 8 volunteers, 2 board members, and 6 horses brought joy to our 32 riders and their families. Our riders drove through a holiday decorated ranch, saw and petted their therapy horses, grabbed a stocking, took a photo with Santa, and heard their favorite carols. The smiles and joy of our riders and their families made the event a complete success. We also created our first ever Christmas Fundraising Campaign. I would like to say a huge thank you to our staff, board, and volunteers who put the campaign together. Tara's Chance relies on community support from donors like you and we are all very grateful for your contribution. We successfully raised \$2,400 for our program! Thank you! These funds enable us to continue our mission on the road by trailing out to see our riders on a weekly basis. Based on this week's pandemic data, researchers at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health have said that we have reached the holiday peak and are heading to a better place. This is wonderful news and as soon as it is safe for our program to resume, we will be back in the saddle. Until then, stay safe.

Tara's Chance has been thankful to have the support of our community and country through both rounds of the PPP Loan distributions. We were able to continue to pay our staff and to care for our therapy horses during the early pandemic because of the first round PPP loan and community support. Our first PPP loan is pending forgiveness and we have applied for a second through US Bank. I would like to thank Francine Flores and Matt Ramirez from US Bank, Leslie Sorrells, Nancy Capel, and Amy Davis for all their hard work helping Tara's Chance receive this needed aid while programming has been paused.





BOARD BITS

by Louise Hernandez, Board President

In this new year, I hope you will open your hearts to all the possibilities of fresh beginnings. With a passionate desire to get our riders back in the saddle again, the planning never stops.

Our incredible staff and volunteers continue operating at the ranch, in anticipation of restrictions being lifted. We're ready for you and, when that time comes and you are comfortable, we can't wait to see your smiling faces. On behalf of board members Miriam Everette, Francine Flores, Carol Geisbauer, Larry Houser, Judy Metzger and Leslie Sorrells, I encourage you to let your 2021 imaginations run wild with hope and warmhearted expectation.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Kat Cazares



I was introduced to Tara's Chance by Meghan Howells. When she told me about Tara's Chance and what their mission is, I asked her how I could get involved. My first introduction to the nonprofit was through cleaning stalls. I remember meeting Meghan down at the stables and helping her out with cleaning some stalls and then that turned into helping at events, from the Gala to take pictures, helping to check people in at events, working the fireworks stand, to going Christmas caroling...I was hooked on helping out any way I could. Then I became the PR intern for Tara's Chance in my last semester of college in 2019. Then I knew I wanted to be involved in Tara's Chance in a more permanent way. When I was told there was going to be an opening at Tara's Chance as an Office Manager, I jumped at the chance, interviewed, and thankfully was hired! I am very excited to work with Tara's Chance and all the families along the way.



Waiting to get...BACK IN THE SADDLE

Priscilla Schroth



We have always treasured Priscilla's weekly horseback riding lessons. Not only does she get so much out of it physically, but emotionally as well. It's her place where she gets to truly shine as an individual, despite her disabilities. Riding day is a favorite day for Priscilla, but also for us as her parents, to see our girl's face light up on top of her faithful friend, Riley the horse. When everything shut down in March, of course it rocked all of us. But for us, it was hardest on Priscilla. She has no understanding of the words pandemic or COVID-19. All she knew is that all of her beloved activities and hobbies came to a crashing halt. So needless to say, we were ecstatic when we first heard about Cindy and the team coming out with the trailer with Riley to pay Priscilla a visit. Honestly, I had my reservations though. I was afraid that Priscilla wouldn't understand and be upset that she couldn't get on her horse. I am so glad I was wrong. She immediately hugged her horse, squealed, and the smile never left her face. Now with her most recent visit, as soon as the trailer door was opened, she started to lift up her foot to get up on the step to get a better view of her horse. Although this pandemic has been so hard, I would've never seen otherwise how Priscilla truly understands and loves her horse.

We were also so delighted to get an invite to the Christmas drive-through at the ranch. It again just provided some normalcy during these uncertain times. And of course the staff and volunteers knocked it out of the park! The horses were dressed up, everything was decorated, Priscilla got a goodie bag of things that she absolutely loved, and our family got a cute picture with Santa. This little bit of normalcy just meant so much to us all. I was fighting back tears as we drove away that day. I know a lot of hard work went into creating that safe drive through, that not only meant a lot to Priscilla, but for our whole family as well.

We are so thankful for Tara's Chance and for all they've provided for Priscilla during this time.



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No dream is
too big when
kids play.



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When kids play, they imagine a world where anything is possible. That's why U.S. Bank supports nonprofit and neighborhood-based organizations in our community. We're committed to building safe places where kids can dream big and have fun. [usbank.com/communitypossible](https://www.usbank.com/communitypossible)

U.S. Bank is proud to support Tara's Chance.



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LARA TEAM



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