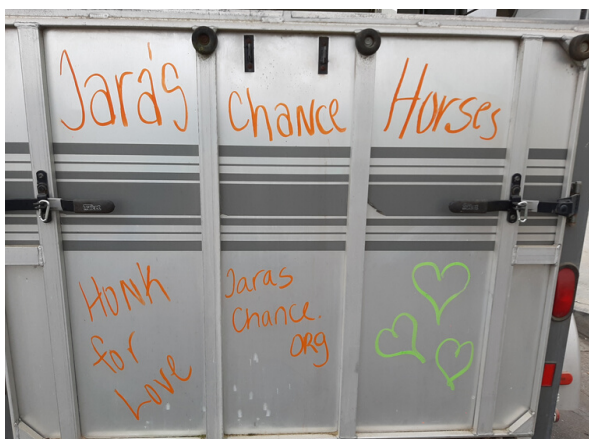




QUARTERLY NEWS

*The latest news and updates from TARA'S CHANCE
"A place where therapy feels like play"*



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BROADWAY KNIGHTS

Continuing Our Mission on the Road

by Cindy Howells, Program Director

Tara's Chance has a mission of hope, for our riders, their families, our volunteers and staff. While the pandemic changed our lives and our program at Tara's Chance, we found a new way to bring our mission of hope to our community. Many of our riders are high risk immunocompromised children so we can't have them come to the horses. So... we take the horses to the riders! We have been trailering our therapists (horses) to the children to continue our mission. We have made eight adventures to our riders' homes and brought hope and joy to over fifty families. From Claremont to Whitter, we serve them in the safest way possible. Not seeing our riders for over 4 weeks, it was a necessity that I creatively found a way to interact with them and allow them to have the fun of equine therapy and the joy of their horses, safely from their home. Horses have a way of melting away anxiety and bringing a sense of calm to all of us during this stressful time. Trailering the horses to our riders has become the highlight of my weeks since I miss them all so dearly. On behalf of the entire Tara's Chance community, let's remain hopeful and serve out our mission to the best of our ability during this unprecedented time.

JULY 2020

GREETINGS FROM OUR NEW EXECUTIVE

DIRECTOR MATT HOWELLS



I am very excited to join Tara's Chance as the new executive director! My parents purchased the horse stables when I was six years old and I grew up doing the dirty work: feeding, weeding, shoveling, and much more. I was never a true horse lover until our first ever rider, Bella, began the program. Her joy and excitement riding were inspiring, and it was a blessing to be able to help her grow each and every time she rode. As Tara's Chance grew to serve more riders, I loved watching the impact that our organization was making in the lives of so many children, parents, and volunteers.

Shortly after the program began in 2012, I enlisted in the Coast Guard and left Southern California. I served in Florida on a 210' ship doing drug and migrant interdiction in the Caribbean, went through helicopter rescue swimmer training in North Carolina, and operated facilities in New Orleans. I loved my time in the Coast Guard and it gave me many skills and assets, most importantly my amazing wife, Lindy.

After separating from the Coast Guard, I moved to Michigan to be with her and attend the University of Michigan. I graduated in April with my degree in economics and business entrepreneurship. Shortly after graduating, Lindy and I moved back to Southern California.

I am so excited to join this phenomenal organization. Our board, staff, volunteers, parents, donors, and sponsors are a fantastic community that I am thrilled to join to serve our riders. I am proud to play an important role in Tara's Chance to impact our riders, staff, and volunteers. I look forward to getting to know the Tara's Chance community better and continuing the strong relationships we have as an organization. As the executive director I will lead Tara's Chance to the best of my ability and help us as an organization to grow. My top priority is to help Tara's Chance navigate COVID-19 and serve our riders in the safest way possible at the soonest time possible. Currently, we don't know when we can ride but I can assure you I am working diligently to accomplish this and I will notify our community as soon as we have established a re-opening process.

We are looking for a name for our new Tara's Chance quarterly newsletter! Use your boundless creativity and submit your ideas for topics and/or a name, to our newsletter editor, board member Miriam Everette at office@taraschance.org. There just may be a prize for the winner!

A FEW WORDS FROM AMY...



Although it seems as if it's an end to an enormous part of my life, passing off the Executive Director baton to Matt Howells is a very exciting time for me. I have spent the past eight years with Tara's Chance, working my way through all aspects of the organization, from volunteer, instructor, Board President to Executive Director. I have no plans of going anywhere but now get to return to my first love.....helping our riders directly.

Many of my goals for Tara's Chance were met and some are still in the process. Understandably, others were recently put on hold and could possibly change with a fresh new approach. I truly believe Matt has the fire to accomplish these same goals and goals of his own, so that we can better serve all members of our special needs community. I'm looking forward to assisting and watching him take this organization to the next level. I have no doubt Matt will excel and I am grateful to have found an amazing replacement with boundless passion for our cause.



New state local guidelines will determine if our annual gala will be virtual, live, or a little of both, but be sure to mark your calendars for

October 3, 2020



STAFFER SPOTLIGHT with Mimi Woodruff

... a section for key people in our organization to communicate...



The extent to which COVID-19 has been able to alter every area of life has been unbelievable. This being considered, I was incredibly privileged to be able to accompany Cindy, Riley, and Ryan Jr. to visit some of our riders at their homes. One thing I have been missing more than anything is being able to work with all of Tara's Chance's delightful riders. I was also so grateful to be able to talk to the parents I saw since I have been constantly wondering how everyone has been doing. Being met by all the excited faces as the horses arrived at each stop was an insurmountable joy. Smiles like those have been a rare commodity since the quarantine orders have been issued. Seeing the kids greet the horses, and us, so warmly filled my heart completely! I've missed them all so much and absolutely adore that Cindy decided to undertake the task of bringing the horses to the Tara's Chance families. This experience has given me something truly beautiful to reflect on in these strange times. I know all of us here at Tara's Chance are eagerly awaiting the day when your children's smiles can become a regular part of our week again!

Even Though
WE'RE APART



You're in
MY HEART

BOARD BITS FROM PRESIDENT LOUISE HERNANDEZ

Our Executive Director, Amy Davis, has hung up her "Out of the Office" sign and has moved on to other exciting adventures with Tara's Chance. As Board President, I will miss our communications regarding administration and can't thank her enough for her dedication to serving our special needs community. I am very pleased to welcome and introduce Amy's replacement, Matt Howells. Matt comes to us with an extremely impressive resume and has already jumped in with both feet to assume the duties of Executive Director. All is well at the Ranch.

We continue to abide by the guidelines of the State of California and Orange County regarding Covid-19. Decisions about re-opening can only be made with our heads and not our hearts. We take our riding program very seriously. On behalf of the members of the board-Carol Geisbauer, Miriam Everette, Larry Houser, Judy Metzger and Leslie Sorrells-we look forward to seeing you when we receive the green light to reopen the barn doors.

Support Tara's Chance this Fourth of July!

In the market for safe & sane fireworks this holiday?

Please consider purchasing them from Tara's Chance and support our mission at the same time!

Tara's Chance was one of (15) non-profit organizations to be awarded a firework stand in the City of Fullerton.

Get the posse together, saddle up and head on over!



COME PURCHASE YOUR FIREWORKS & SUPPORT



July 1st: Noon - 10PM

July 2nd: Noon - 10PM

July 3rd: Noon - 10PM

July 4th: 10AM - 9PM

Floor & Decor parking lot

202 IMPERIAL HIGHWAY, FULLERTON, CA 92835
HARBOR AND IMPERIAL HIGHWAY

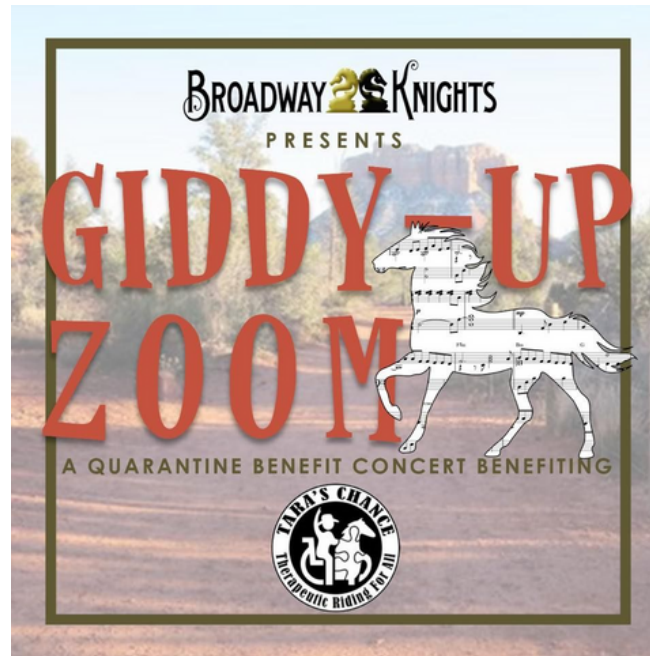




Sarah, Jean-Luc, and James Eakins

A Special Visit

Having a child with special needs can be a challenge - factor in COVID19, weekly zoom meetings, taking over our children's educational, speech, and physical therapy full time. Any break would be much appreciated. Our son Jean-Luc has a rare genetic condition called Prader-Willi syndrome marked in part by low muscle tone and speech delay. We had heard of equine therapy before but had no idea what a difference it would make in our family's lives. Jean-Luc started with Tara's Chance in 2019. After just two months, we saw dramatic improvements in strength and balance, and his speech began growing steadily, talking about his horse Riley, became his new favorite subject. As if any parent could ask for more, there was the talented and caring staff. During the shutdown, while we found ourselves missing the pool, parks, and favorite restaurants (I can't wait to eat a whole chartreuse plate at Let it Brie), it was JL's weekly rides, and seeing our friends at Tara's is what we have missed most. Thankfully Cindy and her team are rockstars and surprised us by bringing a wagon of happy horses and friends to us - twice! Our little street in Fullerton was quite the hubbub of activity and fun! Petting and feeding our favorite horses at home, on our very own street was pure joy. We are forever grateful to Tara's Chance for the genuine care and love of their calling. We can't wait to dust this year off and start riding again.



Tara's Chance was honored in May to be selected as a worthy organization to partner with Broadway Knights in a series of FREE Facebook live benefit concerts. The Giddy Up Zoom concerts featuring artists from all over the United States and as far away as Australia, provided great entertainment and a much needed break from Netflix while sheltering in place. A big shout out and thanks to Rob Krueger and Amy Melendrez and all the amazing artists for sharing your talents from your homes in support of our mission at Tara's Chance.

Broadway Knights is a professional organization specializing in producing the finest Broadway entertainment in Orange County.

