Fall is on the horizon! If you have news to share, whether it is a fundraiser, a client success, or anything else that is a part of your center’s story, share it with us! We want to spread the word about the great work our PATH Intl. members are doing day in and day out. Thank you for your hard work and dedication!

-Jen Donahue and Emilie Thomason

Statewide News

State Meeting, El Reno, OK

We were happy to see so many of our Texas members at the state meeting August 5th during the Region 8 Conference. The meeting focused on what areas were our centers struggling with the most. Finding instructors was one of the main topics.

Centers in rural areas are having trouble finding PATH Intl riding instructors. It was discussed that experienced instructors are unwilling to commute or relocate to a center’s area because the monitory compensation is limited. Centers voiced their concerns about not having instructors to teach, hindering their ability to serve their clients and maintain a revenue stream. This struggle then compounds when it affects their ability to pay new hire instructors or entice applications due to a lack of funds.

One idea was posed to mentor and certify from within the rural communities and volunteer bases. While this may provide a solution in the long term, concern was raised about meeting the instructor need in the mean time. It was decided that a platform of some sort would be helpful to allow new instructors to post their work availability and the areas they could serve. The Region 8 Facebook page posts job openings for centers, and it was also mentioned that there is a Facebook page for PATH Intl. instructors as well.

The state chairs will research viable ways to reach new instructors and communicate with centers the possible new hires available in a given area.

North Texas

Born 2 Be Therapeutic Equestrian Center, Sanger

Born 2 Be hosted an open house Ice Cream Social at their new home, Jim-A-Dee Ranch early this September. Jim-A-Dee Ranch is located in Sanger, just northwest of Denton. Jim-A-Dee Ranch will be hosting an Obstacle Challenge Buckle Series benefitting Born 2 Be on October 13 &14, November 10 & 11, and December 15 & 16. These events will be riding the first day and driving the second day. Some of the obstacles include bridges, pedestals, car wash, water box, tunnel, gates and more.

www.born2betec.org (940) 595-8200
Central Texas

SIRE, Spring

SIRE, at the Spring location, was happy to welcome a new member to their team this past August. Through the generosity of Pacific Life, Asset Mark and St. Luke’s United Methodist Church, they were able to purchase a pre-owned four-horse trailer with air conditioned tack storage. SIRE had been working on upgrading vehicles to ensure their horse partners travel in comfort and safety. The addition of this trailer will assist SIRE as they travel to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Special Olympics and other horse shows.

www.sirehouston.org  (281) 356-7588

Healing with Horses Ranch, Manor

Construction has begun at Healing with Horses Ranch on new wooden stalls. HHR had been considering several pre-fab options, but settled on building wood stalls of their design. The new stall layout will consist of 15 stalls, two double and one for storage. Two stalls will have back doors for future run plans.

www.healingwithhorsesranch.org  (512) 964-0360

ROCK, Georgetown and Texas A&M Courtney Cares, College Station

ROCK Ride On Center for Kids has begun its seventh year overseeing and staffing the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine Courtneym Grimshaw Fowler Equine Therapeutic Program on campus at Texas A&M in College Station partnering with the Parsons Mounted Cavalry horses. This partnership has led the “Courtney Cares” Program to become a PATH Intl. Premier
Accredited Program.

**ROCK, Georgetown and Texas A&M Courtney Cares, College Station cont.**

In addition, the CVM (College of Vet/Med) established a course under ONE HEALTH called "Introduction to Equine Assisted Activities and Therapy". This class is now in its second semester. In attendance are Texas A&M students in Biomedical Sciences, Education, Pre-Med or Vet and Pre-Allied Health. Recently, the Texas A&M Foundation wrote an article regarding this partnership. You can read it at the following link (https://bit.ly/2MPY52f). This course is taught by the staff of ROCK and Courtney Cares.

www.ROCKride.org  (512) 930-7625
www.courtneycares.org  (936) 245-4489

**West Texas**

**7 Star Therapeutic Riding Center, Amarillo**

Thanks to the Panhandle Prairie Sharks, 7 Star received their new adaptive saddle from Independent Strides! The Independence Saddle is an adaptive saddle with adjustable and removable headrest, backrest, forearm supports, hand grips, Peacock Irons, and a Safety Release System. With this new saddle, 7 Star is excited to serve their clients in comfort and security.

www.7starhorsetherapy.org  (806) 355-4773

**East Texas**

**Runnin’ WJ Ranch, Texarkana**

At the AR-TX Regional Economic Development Incorporation launch, Runnin’ W J heard from the Governors of Texas and Arkansas. The heat caused speeches by Governors Gregg Abbott and Asa Hutchinson to be short and to the point, focusing on the future success of the area. Local bands provided music to the momentous occasion, which celebrated the joint efforts of Texas and Arkansas to bring jobs and business to Texarkana.
Runnin’ WJ Ranch cont.

Runnin’ WJ Ranch also received a grant for solar panels on their barn. They completed the installation themselves and went green the middle of March. In the first 3 months of use, they have made $6,500 worth of electricity.

www.runninwjranch.org (903) 838-3223

South Texas

The Riding Therapy Center, Victoria

Funds are being raised for The Riding Therapy Center in Victoria, Texas this August and September. A generous little boy decided that rather than getting toys and presents for his 4th birthday, he would like to raise money for The Riding Therapy Center. A saddle pad and Tractor Supply Company gift card was donated to the center. Staff could not be more thankful for this sweet act of kindness.

The Riding Therapy Center is also looking forward to a benefit playday, Rock It, Don’t Knock It. This event is to be held on September 22 in Hallettsville. All proceeds go to benefit The Riding Therapy Center. Events to be offered include; mutton’ bustin’, lead line, poles, straights, rescue race, team goat roping, and more. Champion sponsor for the playday is Kiwanis of Victoria.

www.theridingtherapycenter.org (361) 578-8182