



Message from the Executive Director

“Horses change lives. They give our young people confidence and self-esteem. They provide peace and tranquility to troubled souls, they give us hope.” Toni Robinson

This quote is exactly what RISE Therapeutic Equestrian Center home of RISE Rehab is about. The power of the horses, along with the amazing staff and volunteers at RISE make my job as the new Executive Director so joyful. Since I started as a volunteer and have a daughter who benefitted from services at RISE, I have seen the powerful impact to our clients and families that happen on the property everyday. It is a huge honor to be able to help RISE serve our clients and look to the future as we expand our impact to even more families.

A little about me, I have a BA in psychology and a Masters in Social Sciences specializing in Children and Families. In the past, I worked with families to advocate for services for their loved ones. I also had a private practice doing neurofeedback therapy in Austin for many years. When I am not working, I am at home with my husband and our many animals including five foster horses. I also love to garden and cook.

As RISE looks forward to our future, we have not lost sight of our mission of Reaching Inside Souls using Equines, or the people who continue to make that possible. Without our Board of directors, donors, volunteers and families, we would not be here. Everyone who works with and for the riders brings so much love with them and pours it into the horses and facility so we can fulfill our mission and vision. I cannot say thank you enough to everyone who keeps RISE open as we maintain our culture of love and acceptance.

Renee Bould

Mission - To provide equine assisted activities, including adaptive /therapeutic riding and hippotherapy, for individuals with cognitive, physical or emotional challenges in order to help them meet personal goals, maximize activities of daily living and improve overall function while experiencing the joy of horsemanship.

Vision - To continually improve our own abilities to provide compassionate, expert equestrian activities by partnering with like minded, similar organizations to learn and offer information in the areas of clinical care, horse management, evidenced based research and education for the sole purpose of benefiting the lives of individuals with special needs and their families.

Recently, we were offered an incredible opportunity. Karen, Gail and I were invited to California by the Donegan Burns Foundation to attend the first Donegan Burns Conference and Networking Seminar for Therapeutic Barns. Bettye Burns, the president and CEO organized the seminar for small therapeutic barns who are striving to keep operating and growing. Since they had sponsored two other therapeutic equestrian centers, REINS in Fallpoint California and TROT in Tucson Arizona, they had a wealth of experience and experts to host a day long seminar full of vital information.

REINS hosted the seminar on their beautiful property. Debbie Shinner, the REIN Executive Director, brought her team together including Canece Huber and Kaitlyn Siewart to present. We also heard from Margaux de Concini from TROT. We learned so much as well as meeting people who are working to serve their clients and care for their horses with the highest standards. We came home excited to use the information we collected.



We are already looking forward to next year's seminar!



Thank you to Bettye Burns, Deborah Humphries, Debbie Shinner, Canece Huber, Shauna Jopes for making this seminar happen.

News from the Barn



We have a new rising star at RISE! Max is one of our new equine therapists. The 17-year-old Lusitano cross gelding arrived at RISE in November of 2020. With his muscular body and traditional good looks, Max has become a barn favorite! He is gentle and patient while he stands for grooming and attention. He has an easy going trot with cute movement that makes him a joy to ride. Max loves to jump little cross rails and can bow for treats and he knickers every night when he sees dinner coming. Max is kind to every horse and loves to graze while being petted.

Thank you to our Donors!

We have so many people to thank. Our donors have really supported RISE despite the fear and uncertainty that a global pandemic brought with it. Because all of you, we were able to add two very important pieces of expensive equipment to the property- a wheelchair lift and a tractor! We were also able to add three new horses to the program- Max, Apollo and Peanut. Through your generous support we were able to care for the horses while we were closed for Covid quarantine and able to reopen with some scholarships for our families who had been affected by the pandemic. Thank you!

A Special Thank you to:

Donegan Burns Foundation

Texas Thoroughbred Association

James Gentry

Zachary K. Abraham

Bulverde Chamber of Commerce

TBM Fitness

At Home Day Care



Above: Training Remi to the new lift

Below: Showing off the new tractor



Ways you can help RISE

Support RISE while shopping:

- Sign into smile.amazon.com and select RISE Therapeutic Equestrian Center as your charity. Whenever you shop, start at smile.amazon.com and it will automatically send us donations based on your shopping with no cost to you.
- While you are on smile.amazon.com, you can also look at our wishlist. We have a variety of things listed to keep our horses cared for and our property clean.
- Purchase RISE t-shirts that are coming soon! The t-shirts are a fun fundraiser and they also spread the word about RISE for people who may not know about RISE or what therapeutic riding is.



Make a tax-deductible donation:

- General donation at riserehab.org
- Directly to our scholarship fund
- Coming soon- Sponsor A Horse.

Volunteer:

- Rise could not operate without our volunteers. We have a volunteer training scheduled for September 11th. If you would like to attend, please reach out to Gail Hughes at gail@riserehab.org.
- If a regular shift working with horses and clients is too much, keep in mind that we need help with projects around the property, gathering silent auction donations, or donate time with one of your special gifts. If this sounds like it fits you, please let Gail know what your special talents are and we will reach out.

