



Hoof and Hearts News Quarterly

Mission Statement: Improve the quality of life for individuals with special needs

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FOURTH QUARTER, 2016

DECEMBER 30, 2016

Our Special Olympic Athletes ROCK

Over 200 Special Olympic equestrian athletes and coaches from around the state were in Gainesville, Georgia at the Chicopee Woods Agricultural Center on October 7th through the 9th for the Special Olympics Horse Show. The competition features riders in dressage, showmanship, walking trail, English and Western style riding. The Special Olympics Georgia serves more than 26,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities in over 180 programs in 120 countries. The Special Olympics athlete oath is "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

Faith Equestrian Therapeutic Center in Guyton, Georgia took eight of their students and ten of their wonderful volunteers to this amazing competition. It happened to coincide with the presence of Hurricane Matthew here in Savannah. Even though athletes and volunteers alike were wondering what might be going on at home, they kept their focus, worked hard and came home with medals galore! Competitors this year were Bryce Drew, Samantha Cheney, Musme Fernandez, Angela Jackson, Cicely McNeil, Samuel Munoz, Erin Pevey and Lauren Todd. They all worked exceptionally hard to prepare for the competition and they came

home with eight (8) Gold Medals, ten (10) Silver Medals, five (5) Bronze Medals, as well as one (1) fourth place ribbon.

Faith Equestrian would like to thank their corporate sponsors this year:

Holton Plumbing Company Inc., The McGraley Company, Doug Bean Signs, Bailey Contractors, MetalQuarters, Thomas Strickland & Sons, Blandford Elementary School, Thomas Allen Financial Group, Savannah River Mortgage,



Interstate Batteries, Murray Supply and ServPro of Savannah. We also had over 50 donors who sponsored individual athletes or simply gave to ensure our competitors could go!

We would be totally remiss without also thanking our wonderful volunteers who trained with our athletes, travelled to Gainesville and gave so freely of their time to make this possible. They are: Jackie Garman, Kristine & Jonathan Gum, Mike Holton, Lori Lang, Rehan McNeil, Kirk Meals, Pam Moore, Hallie Myers, Amy Pevey, and April Todd.

Way to go SOGA Team—you make us so very proud!

Jackie Garman Becomes Certified!!

.Anyone who has spent much time here are acquainted with Miss Jackie, She has been a faithful volunteer with us since 2011. It's been a bit of a family affair since the beginning. Her husband Scott is an electrician and has helped us out with our electrical needs too many times to mention. Her children have both attended Horse Camp and her daughter has moved beyond participating as a camper to the position of camp side walker / helper.



Jackie has been training under the supervision of Bonnie Rachael and Hallie Myers for the past several months, as well as beginner instruction with our special needs students. She relates exceptionally well to our students and has a passion for helping others. She recently attended a PATH International Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor Workshop. It was a grueling few days but she sailed through and passed with flying colors.

- Working with these students wiggle into your heart, as evidenced by her beginning as a volunteer five years ago.
- We are extremely proud of Jackie and so glad to have her as part of our team.

This is another example of our continued growth and ability to meet the needs of a growing number of students.

Thank you Jackie, volunteers, students, parents, everyone !

Reminders

Kroger Community Rewards: Go to their website Kroger.com and under the community rewards tab choose Faith Equestrian Therapeutic Center to receive their charitable donation, based upon your purchases. Costs you nothing, benefits us greatly. Must be renewed yearly, but such an easy way to help out!

In-Kind Donations: Things always needed either at the Education Center or the Barn that you can drop off anytime are: paper towels, toilet paper, printer ink, gift cards for Tractor Supply, laundry detergent, AA batteries, copy paper, file folders, coffee k-cups.

Volunteer Opportunities: The ways in which you can help are many. One is someone to commit to cleaning the Education Center top to bottom weekly. Another might act as our resident historian—we have numerous articles, pictures, etc. that needs organization for preservation. Be fun way to learn about us and see how far we've come!

The Gala is right around the corner. Buy your tickets. Sell more tickets!! Any questions, call the office at 728-3728

Faith to Hold Hearts for Healing Gala—Get Your Tickets Now

Get ready to enjoy a wonderful evening of gourmet dining, dancing, silent auction and more! Faith Equestrian Therapeutic Center is having its First Annual "Hearts for Healing Valentine's Gala" coming February 14th, 2017. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information!

This will be a night to remember and the proceeds will benefit Faith Equestrian Therapeutic Center's program for individuals with disabilities!

\$125 per person early love birds. \$150 per person starting 1/14/17

Suggested Attire: Black Tie

Thank you to our amazing event partners and sponsors: Tybee Island Wedding Chapel, Cha Bella and Earth to Table Catering, Live Music lead by the brilliant John Brackett, Savannah's Hall of Cakes, Whitmarsh Beverage, Rancho Tent Rentals and First City Events.

Several levels of sponsorships are available. For more information, please visit our Facebook page, website www.faihetc.org, or call the office at 728-3728.



Volunteer Spotlight: Elias Torres

By April Todd, FETC's Volunteer Coordinator

This is a new idea that was created to shine appreciation on our volunteers in a unique way. The chosen volunteer for the winter session is Elias Torres. Elias initially came to us through a United Way/Gulfstream work group and enjoyed the day so much that he put in a volunteer application. His first official volunteer date was May 21, 2016. He participates as a side-walker with our Saturday riders and always displays a positive attitude no matter what he is asked to do, even if it is cleaning stalls! He is also part of our Sunday barn crew. He also spreads the word about us to his co-workers at Gulfstream, where he works with computers. One thing he loves about volunteering here is that it gets him out from behind the screen into nature for a while. Even so, he has still been known to give us some help in the technology department when we were in need! Being tech savvy around FETC helps when you have a few tech challenged people, no names mentioned! Most recently he donated some office ware and office equipment to the center. Thank you so much Elias for everything!



Visit us on the web at www.faihetc.org



**United Way Agency
of the Coastal Empire**



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Business Spotlight: B & S Feed & Farm Supply

B & S Feed have supported us since we opened our doors in 2006 with great pricing and warm, friendly service. They donate feed for our annual Special Olympics competition and are annual givers through our Annual Appeal!

The owner is State Representative Jon Burns. Renee is warm and friendly and always there when we buy feed. Also want to send a shout out to the strong men who load the feed in the truck for us!

They are located at 1750 GA Highway 21 North, Springfield, Ga. Their phone is (912) 754-3439.

