

Foundation Makes a Difference for Youth



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SECRETARY/TREASURER, BECKY JORDAN

Our family’s awareness of the Reining Horse Foundation’s work started back around 2001 when our daughter, Lyndsey Jordan, was showing in Youth 13 & Under reining. Coming from the Thoroughbred world we were inexperienced with showing and knew very few people. The Foundation’s youth programs were new to us. Interestingly, the National Reining Horse Youth Association, NRHyA, was formed this same year.

We were pleasantly surprised and impressed to discover there were dedicated adults making sure youth participating in the affiliate regional tournaments were successful, and that every team member received a really nice prize regardless of their placings. I remember, Mrs. Raymond, Shannon Rafacz’s mother, collecting a room full of donated prizes to benefit the youth.

During those days, we met Mike Hancock who was—and still is—active with the Foundation youth programs. Mike was the epitome of graciousness and kindness, offering to help us in any way. He was always volunteering his time to benefit reining youth and has chaired the scholarship committee many years.

As Lyndsey advanced to showing in the Youth 14 to 18 classes, she became eligible for scholarships awarded through the Foundation. When she graduated high school and attended Auburn University on an NCAA Equestrian team full scholarship, she had \$5,000 accumulated from NRHA team tournaments to use for qualifying expenses.

Scholarship, leadership and organizational support for NRHyA is made possible through fundraisers like the annual raffle and the Buy A Pro program. Donations, memorials and honorariums also play a role. Reed Harris of Arkansas even mans a snow cone stand with proceeds going to the Foundation. Think about a way you can support our youth.

I decided after learning more about the Foundation and its many valuable programs that I would volunteer in order to give back. The Foundation made such a positive impact on our family. Lyndsey is now married to a young equine veterinarian and continues to show, and I enjoy tagging along and volunteering for the Foundation at many major NRHA events.

The youth program with its scholarships and leadership training is but one important way the Reining Horse Foundation benefits our NRHA family. Our family is proud of our association with the reining community, the NRHA and its Foundation.

Becky

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