

Reining Horse Foundation

Thank You for an Impactful Year

The Reining Horse Foundation (RHF) cares for and honors the reining community.

Throughout 2019, people from across the reining community have helped fulfill this undertaking in many ways.

Take the Show-Entry Donation Campaign, where NRHA exhibitors at select shows contribute to benefit the charitable arm of our association. Most of these voluntary donations are \$5 or \$10 each. With a few more shows yet to report, this effort will likely raise \$20,000 this year.

Here's something to consider: If every member donated \$10 a year to RHF, the result would be nearly \$150,000. There's power in every level of involvement!

Another bright spot is the growing support we've seen from NRHA Professionals, who recommended that professionals make a \$20 annual contribution to the RHF Dale Wilkinson Memorial Crisis Fund in conjunction with their annual membership renewals. NRHA Professional Billy Williams, Professionals Committee chairman Patrick Flaherty, and a host of others supported dummy ropings to benefit RHF. These started at the National Reining Breeders Classic and followed at shows like the NRHA Derby and the AzRHA Best of the West.

This was a year of special fundraisers and people stepping up in unique ways that worked for their shows and affiliates. There's a long list of those we could thank from every event filled with people who give of their time and skills. A special hats off to Cappy Dryden for organizing the Bill Bradley Reining Classic and Colleen McQuay with the Global Reining Sport Group for her creative idea to facilitate A Night of Hidden Talent presented by Markel at the Tulsa Reining Classic.

I could go on for pages about so many initiatives—everything from Facebook birthday campaigns to a tack sale and a stick-horse show to Reining Boot Camps. I have to acknowledge the gratifying support for our major fundraiser, Sliders' Night Out presented by Toyon Ranch. For every person who supported this special evening, our appreciation is immense.

Your contributions are making an impact! A new RHF scholarship was awarded in 2019, and our top three academic/need-based award amounts were increased for the first time in nearly a decade. The Crisis Fund balance recently awarded a difference-making grant to an NRHA Professional facing a grueling health crisis, and the balance remains strong to help when more needs arise.

What's ahead? NRHyA has a re-energized, impressive restart of the Buy-A-Pro Auction this month to support youth leadership development and scholarships. And the RHF Board has a commitment to strategic plan goals that will lead to greater impact through our core programs and mission. We care for and honor our reining community, and we welcome each of you to play a part! ❖



Mark A. Blake,
RHF Board President

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