

Reining Horse Foundation

Reiners Find Power to Give

When you're reading this, the NRHA Derby will be over and thoughts will be turning to late-summer and autumn shows. With half the year behind us and another half full of promise ahead, it's been an incredible year of growth for your nonprofit reining charity, the Reining Horse Foundation (RHF). One of the most exciting developments is how many people are getting involved.

The examples are as diverse as our reining community. In April, NRHA Professionals Billy Williams and Patrick Flaherty organized an impromptu dummy roping to benefit RHF during the National Reining Breeders Classic in Katy, Texas. Others got behind the roping, matching entry fees, adding donations, and cheering on the friendly competition that raised more than \$1,000 for the Dale Wilkinson Memorial Crisis Fund. There's talk of another bigger dummy roping ahead, so stay tuned.

In May, the Southeast Reining Horse Association began promoting RHF at its 2019 shows. They even secured a banner to make sure RHF gets maximum visibility at each event. Several other shows have added the show-entry donation option to make it easy for exhibitors to support RHF. Small individual donations are adding up to make a great impact.

In late May, the Global Reining Youth Cup, championed by Joao Marcos, welcomed reiners and fans from around the world to become more familiar with RHF. Joao is a diehard advocate for the expansion of reining globally and also a member of the RHF Board of Directors Executive Committee. I doubt you'll find a more

passionate reining supporter and proponent of connecting our global reining community. This invitational competition in Cremona, Italy, was a tremendous boost to international awareness for RHF.

July will hold the Bill Bradley Reining Classic, a new show conducted by friends and fans of the late Bill Bradley at the Kentucky Horse Park. Inducted into the NRHA Hall of Fame in 2018, Bill made a mark on reining in several capacities, including as a founding supporter of RHF. To have so many people involved in establishing and entering this show is gratifying. Bill was known for his genuine smile, and I have to believe he'd be proud of these combined efforts from the reining community.

There are so many ways to get involved. We hear frequently just how good giving back feels, and I can attest that's right. There's a place for every supporter! Contact an RHF Board member—they're all listed at right—or RHF Executive Director Leslie Baker at lbaker@nrha.com or (405) 946-7400, ext. 106. ❖



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