



A Journey to Giving

Most of us in the horse industry have been told, “It’s a marathon not a sprint,” or “It’s the journey not the destination.” These were lessons I had to learn quickly as I immersed myself in a community that changed my life in more ways than I ever imagined.

The wonderful experiences, memories and new friends that showing reiners has given me is what inspired my journey to giving.

I didn’t start riding horses until I was almost 50 years old. My husband, Gary, had ridden and shown reined cow horses for years, and we owned horses, but I was too busy to ride. Gary insisted I first learn about care and horsemanship before riding. And so began my love of horses!

A few months after I got my first reiner, I had an accident requiring two surgeries, then I had another accident on the same horse. Next, I got a nice older gelding who took care of me and taught me to take things a little slower, and each horse became a teacher.

I could have given up after my accidents; however, the love of horses, people and the sport was already part of me. I began to see, understand and respect the commitment and sacrifices people make to stay in reining and care for their horses.

I started giving to the Reining Horse Foundation (RHF) and supporting the industry a few years before I became a board member. I saw it as a way to interact with people who share

the same passion and to continue growing within the sport.

The Foundation’s commitment to helping NRHA members in times of need with the Dale Wilkinson Crisis Fund, the youth scholarships, and honoring people and horses through the NRHA Hall of Fame are all integral parts of promoting reining. I look at it as contributing to a community rather than donating to an organization.

When we give to our favorite charities, we want to have faith that our contributions are truly making a difference. I’ve personally witnessed the lives changed by the RHF, and I want to help communicate what your gifts mean. This way, everyone can know what they give is impacting reiners.

In an industry so vast, we have all either been affected in some way or know someone in need of a helping hand, and that is what the RHF is here for!



Debbie Conway
RHF Board Member

To donate, visit reiningfoundation.com, email rhf@nrha.com or contact RHF Executive Director Leslie Baker at 405-946-7400, ext. 106. You can also donate by texting “RHF” to 405-300-5919.

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