

CAMELOT CHRONICLES

Camelot Therapeutic Horsemanship ~ Horsemanship for Physically Challenged Children and Adults

Merlin's Muse

By Mary Hadsall,
Executive Director



I am humbled by

our remarkable community, the mortar that keeps Camelot strong. We are a united front working toward a common goal, which is to change the world one ride at a time.

Our beautiful country is struggling, unemployment is high; concerns loom over the state of the economy and the availability of affordable healthcare. Nonprofit organizations have been hit hard financially, yet together we haven't lost sight of our dream of freedom and independence through horsemanship for people who have disabilities.

As I closed our 2008/2009 fiscal year, I saw the strength in our community reflected in the numbers on my financial reports. This is very encouraging and we have you, our supporters, seasoned and new, to thank for this remarkable fact. This good news tells me some important things.

First and foremost, even during the most difficult of times, our community is not afraid to support Camelot. It also tells me loud and clear that you value

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Once a Cowgirl, Always a Cowgirl

A Camelot Student Shares her Story

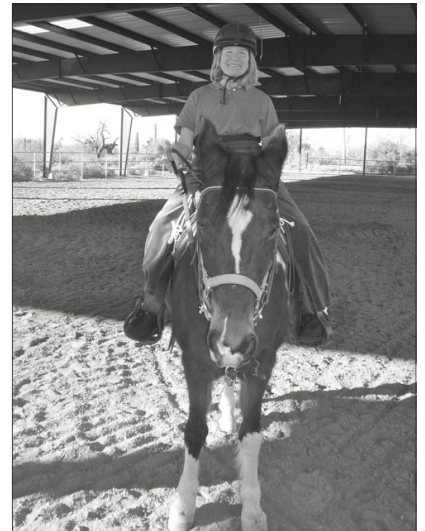
By Judy Witt,
Camelot Student

Little did I realize in spring 2007 that I would soon begin what has turned out to be the most self-satisfying experience of my wheelchair life. I have the Camelot program, facility, staff and volunteers to thank for that!

My time with horses began in Phoenix in the early '60s as I got to spend quality time with my Aunt Stonie and Uncle Buzz Sutton, and the Maricopa County Sheriff's Posse. Taking part in rodeos as a child was awesome, the West in action for this young Indiana girl! Weekend camping, riding and rodeos thrilled me.

Years later, I rode at stables and even on a cruise vacation. We owned and boarded horses in southern California for several months next to the Poway rodeo grounds. But then my three sons switched interest to sports, and I started teaching again.

So when I saw the Camelot booth at the Disability Expo held at the Phoenix Convention Center, along with all the activities available, I hesitantly asked the women at the booth if I was too old. Michelle



Judy rides Scout in Camelot's covered arena.

Bartlett, a riding instructor at Camelot, smiled and answered, "No, you're not too old," as she handed me an application. I didn't think riding would be in my future after nine years in a wheelchair.

After filling out forms, interviewing with the executive director, Mary Hadsall, and getting my go-ahead, I sat and simply cried. This was too good to be true! I read and highlighted the curriculum I was given with all kinds of information on horses, safety, tack, expectations and vocabulary.

(Continued on page 2)

All in the blue unclouded weather, Thick-jewelled shone the saddle leather, The

Merlin's Muse...

(Continued from page 1)

the power of horse therapy.

Thanks to those of you seated at the Round Table, who support us financially, we are gratefully looking forward to a very busy fall. We have a full student schedule coupled with enthusiastic volunteers and staff that are eager for another great lesson year.

This edition of *Camelot Chronicles* is dedicated to our devoted volunteers. That includes all of you who have been sharing Camelot with your friends, family and co-workers. Last winter, I asked you to turn to your own personal circles of influence to bring awareness to our programs and services, and most important, our mission. I asked you to seek financial support on our behalf, because as our circle of support grows, our strength grows exponentially.

You did just that, making it clear that now is not the time to slow our efforts. Together we are riding through this storm of economic instability and while doing so, our students can focus on what's most important: conquering their dragons of fear and doubt. Thank you for believing in Camelot.

Mary Hadsall, Executive Director



Once a Cowgirl...

(Continued from page 1)

Mary started me bareback on Paladin, a wide and gentle draft horse, in the arena to assess my stability. I had volunteers on all sides, felt breathless but safe. I even had to "sing" so Mary knew I was breathing!

My next horse was Bravo, followed by a stint in the cart with Cayanna. That was exciting and my first time "driving" since 1997. Currently, I usually ride Scout, although I love all of them. They are so gentle and patient.

My balance, arm and leg strength have improved with weekly rides. All

The Power of a Volunteer

By Chuck Johnson, Camelot Parent, Board Member & Student

In 1988, my eight-year-old daughter was diagnosed with an auto immune neuromuscular disease. The pediatric neurologist who diagnosed her disease suggested that she also had something else going on, a form of muscular dystrophy. "I just saw your father walk down the hall," he said. "I think you got it from him."

So began our introduction to the world of disability. That journey led us to one of the most wonderful places on Earth for persons with disabilities and for the volunteers without whom Camelot could not exist.

Camelot is a healing place of therapy for persons with physical disabilities that allows people who need help to walk or see to enjoy the freedom that can only be experienced on the back of a horse.

Camelot's ranch is a 14.2 acre nature oasis in the Sonoran Desert, filled with Gambel's Quail, jackrabbits, cottontails, lizards and roadrunners, and eight horses. Once located "out in the desert" when it was built, it is now in the middle of housing developments built during the past 10 years within 100 feet of Camelot's boundaries.

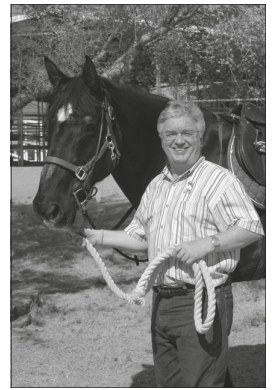
The program is funded 100% by donations; no fees are charged to students, who "pay" for their lessons by giving back to their community.

Volunteers make Camelot possible. From mucking out stalls (it's even worse than it sounds, but the horses surely appreciate it), to working with students, each volunteer is an integral member of the teaching team at Camelot, where students not only learn to ride but

also are instructed in all aspects of equine care and riding. Camelot teaches self reliance; each volunteer models what that means throughout the person-to-person contact with the students. Camelot volunteers are also valued contributors to that necessary bane of non-profit endeavors: fund raising.

Each year, Camelot hosts its Hooves & Heroes fundraiser. Volunteers solicit auction items, prepare those items to be presented at the event, spruce up the ranch, serve as photographers, determine winning bids, collect donations, entertain guests, and conduct the post-event clean up. Hooves & Heroes, and those photo-captured priceless moments, are not only appreciated by us parents, but are oh-so-useful in our year-round fund raising efforts. And, Camelot can always rely on our volunteers' financial generosity as well as their time and talents.

Five years ago, I joined the Camelot board of directors. And, three years ago, that pediatric neurologist's 1988 diagnosis of my own muscular dystrophy resulted in one of those blessings which often appear disguised as tragedy: I became a student at Camelot. As a parent of a former student, a longtime volunteer, a board member, and now as a student myself, words cannot express the gratitude I have for the volunteers of Camelot.



Chuck Johnson with Paladin.

my doctors noted significant improvements in my physical health in 2008 in comparison to 2007. Being outside in the fresh air and the warm sun, enjoying the horses, caring adult instructors and volunteers has make a

difference not to only my physical health, but also my mental and spiritual health.

Camelot gets my appreciation and support for all the programs it offers!

helmet and the helmet-feather, Burned like one burning flame together,



NIFTY BITS

News From the Ranch

SAVE THE DATE! Pampered Chef Fundraiser and cooking demonstration at Camelot on Sept. 11, 2009 at 6:30 p.m., following our volunteer training. Don't worry if you can't make it out to the ranch because beginning Sept. 1 you can order online at www.pamperedchef.biz/judykittoe or visit Camelot's website at www.camelot-th.org for the link. A portion of all proceeds benefit Camelot! For questions contact Judy Kittoe at judykittoe@cox.net or (602) 867 4675.

Welcome to our newest volunteers! Louise DeSanti, Jerry Ford, Ciro Giunta, Bobbie Gordon, Stacy McAbee, Susan Malloy, Carly Morgan, Janis Pacciorini & Leslie Zelisko.

Welcome to our newest students: Sara Larson, Yale & Evan Richardson and returning student George Bohnert!

Thank you to all our summer volunteers who braved the heat to take care of the Camelot equine staff! We are all grateful for your support!

Congratulations to our high school graduates Marissa Boone, Katelyn Mac Intyre & Andrea Syvrud, Class of 2009! Make every moment count, make every dream come true. We are so proud of you!

Thank you, Jack Reeves, for donating computers, a color printer and office furniture. Staff especially appreciates the ongoing tech support you provide!

Welcome to Sophie, our newest equine instructor! She is a six-year-old western pleasure mare. She is a double registered Quarter Horse Paint.

Congratulations to Shirley Lowman who celebrated her retirement with the Maricopa

Community Colleges District Office in May of 2009. In lieu of gifts, she asked that donations be made to Camelot. Thank you for always thinking of us Shirley and we hope you enjoy this next chapter in your life.

THANK YOU to Camelot's 2009 Horse Sponsors!

ADONIS - Sponsored by John & Sharon Ames

BRAVO - Sponsored by Shirley A. Lowman

CAYANNA - Sponsored by The Strickstein Grandchildren, Larry, Emma, Nora, Seth, Kiera & Jacob

CLIFFY- sponsored by Ray Klein

NICK - Sponsored by The Bartlett family

PALADIN - Sponsored by The Moore family

SCOUT- Sponsored by Phoenix Rotary 100

SOPHIE -Sponsored by The Goldman, Karp and Kellman families

THANK YOU to Camelot's 2009 Student Sponsors!

Ginger & Ron Barry
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THANK YOU to Camelot's Major Donors!

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Lynn Wright

CAMELOT REMEMBERS

Gloria Bitsoff
Steven Brady
Morris Hazan
Natalie Rose Jones
Lynn Martinka

Memorial gifts in any amount are a beautiful way to honor a beloved friend or family member, be they human or otherwise. We also welcome gifts in honor of birthdays or other special events. All such donations are acknowledged with a special card and a mention in our newsletter.

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Mary Hadsall

Editors
Michelle Bartlett & Mary Westheimer



Cliffy gives Cayanna a neck rub to cheer her up.

A special thank

you to Dr. Vicki Baumler and Dr. Jamie Foley for all of the amazing care they have given Cayanna during her healing process!

Cayanna was diagnosed with laminitis in June and has been under the watchful care of her doctors, staff, volunteers and fellow equine

instructors. Although healing is slow, we are seeing improvement.

This little mare is famous around Camelot for her big personality, long beautiful golden mane and tail and especially for her versatility. She helps teach driving, vaulting, English and Western riding to Camelot students. This little horse does a big job and has an even bigger responsibility to make horse dreams come true!



As he rode down to Camelot. ~ Tennyson

Heroes' Hero Tami Butler



Tami Butler, grooming Scout.

is a student, volunteer and Camelot supporter who embodies the philosophies of our program. She has been a Camelot rider since 2003 and has volunteered in various capacities for nearly as long, choosing Camelot as her outlet to give back to the community. She is part of the circle of giving, and her gifts are reflected in lives she has touched.

For the past several years, Tami has worked alongside other students after her own lessons, mentoring young riders in horse skills and outdoor education. She has also been instrumental during our Hooves & Heroes events, enlisting support from her family, especially her husband, John, who brought Starbucks on board as a Hooves & Heroes contributor.

Starbucks provides great coffee and tea, and Starbucks employees also volunteer their valuable time at the event. They donate all the proceeds from their sales to our program.

Thank you, Tami, for all you have done for Camelot and the community!

"What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others." ~ Pericles



"Take up your sword against the dragon within...the voice that says, 'I can't.'"



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Camelot is a nonprofit charitable organization.

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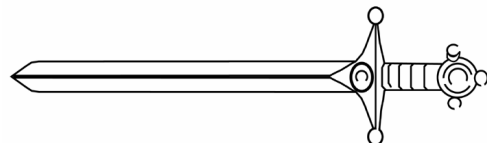
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*Please feel free to call (480) 515-1542 with your credit card information.
A receipt will follow for your tax records.*

*"You have reminded us
that the strength of the
kingdom is not based on
the strength of the king,
but on the strength of
it's people."*

King Arthur

in the Quest for Camelot



Thank you for being

more than our

supporters...

you are our believers!

~ Mary Hadsall,

Executive Director

Last year, many of you helped us raise nearly \$3,000 through United Way!
THANK YOU
for your support!



“Continuity gives us roots; change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights.

-Pauline R. Kezer



WHAT CAN I TELL FRIENDS ABOUT CAMELOT?

For the past **26 years**, Camelot's mission has been to improve the quality of life for children and adults with disabilities through programs of horsemanship and outdoor education, which develop self-worth, independence and active participation in the community.

IS CAMELOT A MEMBER OF UNITED WAY?

Camelot is not a member agency, which means we do not receive United Way funds, but qualified nonmember agencies have the opportunity to receive donations from you, through the Donor Choice Program.

CAMELOT & 2009 UNITED WAY



Every penny truly makes a difference, especially in the operation of small grass roots programs like Camelot. One way to lend a helping hand is through the United Way Donor Choice Program that begins in September.

This is an easy way for you to have a donation deducted regularly from your paycheck to be given to your favorite charitable organization. **And remember, no amount is too small to make a big difference!**



Jaden Harrison gets horse kisses from Cayanna.

Even Small Change Makes a BIG Make a Difference!

camelot-th.org



HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Our Valley of the Sun United Way
Agency Number is 1003642

OUR ADDRESS

Camelot Therapeutic Horsemanship
PMB 259
23623 North Scottsdale Road, #D3
Scottsdale, Arizona 85255

For those of you who are not in the Phoenix area and wish to have Camelot as your Designated Donor Choice recipient, you can receive

more information about signing up from your United Way staff member or local United Way agency. Camelot is a 501c3 organization. **Our tax identification number is 86 0444470.**

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THANK YOU for helping!**