

# Special Edition

## Merlin's Muse

By Mary Hadsall, Executive Director

I recently gave Camelot students a homework assignment. I asked each of them to tell me in three to four sentences—no more than a paragraph—what Camelot means to them. I did so without realizing what I had done. Quickly, the responses began to arrive, and I knew that this was not mine for the keeping; but, rather, this assignment was meant to be shared. I hope you get as much pleasure reading their submissions as I did. What the results of this assignment emphasized to me is that Camelot is a patchwork, a thing composed of many different elements that are brought together to make a whole. I hope that you are as proud as I am for being involved with this most remarkable place we call Camelot. ∞



I think Camelot is  
AWKSONE I love  
getting the horses  
ready I love the people  
Camelot makes me  
happy for everlee

What I like about  
Camelot, by Halie B.

My very favorite  
thing is learning  
about the horses &  
riding.  
I love the volunteers  
and the staff.  
Going over the  
curriculum.



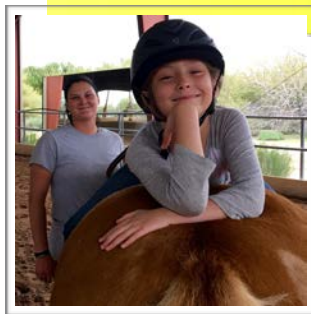
Halie and Mary share a  
laugh while grooming Cayanna

What Camelot Means To me:

Small victories that build my confidence each week, confidence to communicate with my coaches, other students, and my mount, which enables me to face the outside world, learning I am not limited by my Disability. It means feeling secure with those who instruct me because they always find techniques suited to my needs enabling me to measure my progress.

Camelot means connecting and sharing laughter with others, and sharing camaraderie.

John Beckett



Everlee riding Cayanna  
with her instructor, Kristina



Volunteer Janene lends a  
hand during John's lesson

# Remembering Josef Rivers — Teacher & Gentleman

By Eileen Szychowski, Camelot founder

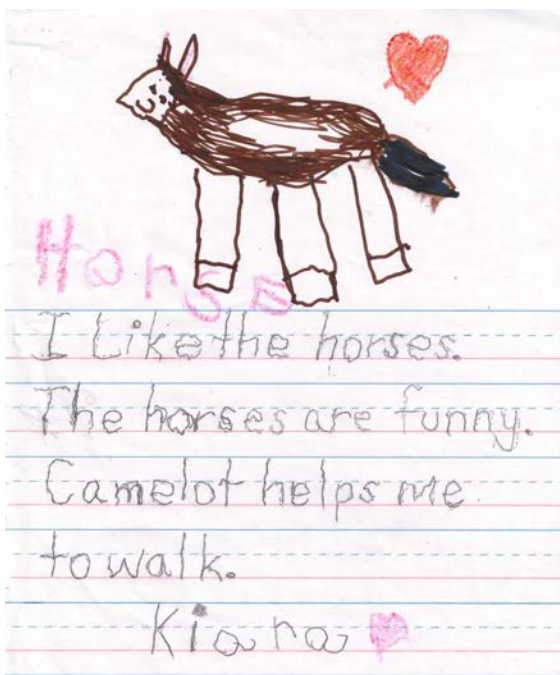
Everything I know about horses, and everything I know about how to live my best life, I learned from a man named Josef Rivers. None of you has ever met him and yet all of you know him, for he was the inspiration for Camelot, and his is the spirit that animates this magical place where we all come together to slay our dragons.

Josef Rivers passed away last December. He remains the most influential and unforgettable person I have ever known — a Teacher with a capital “T” and a true English Gentleman, with a capital “G.”

Whether you are a student, staff, volunteer or friend of Camelot, please take a moment while you are enjoying the power and serenity of this beautiful ranch and give thanks for this extraordinary man who spent his life finding and cultivating the potential in people like me, asking only that we pay it forward.

My own prayer of thanksgiving for Josef’s profound and enduring influence on my life includes a prayer for everyone in the Camelot community, past, present and future: “May each of you be so blessed as to have your life intersect with an individual who reveals to you your unique gifts and responsibilities, and may you one day pay it forward by being that individual for someone else.”

Yours in Chivalry,  
Eileen Szychowski,  
A Dragonslayer  
Founder, Camelot Therapeutic Horsemanship, Inc.



Kiara and her sister, Kylie, holding Camelot’s therapy chicken, Emma.



## *In Memory Of*

Coughdrop  
Karen Dawson  
Winston Howell  
John A. Linda, Sr.  
Dr. Ted Albert Loomis  
Reflex  
Josef Rivers  
Scout

## *In Honor Of*

Rico Francisco  
Kevin Hurley  
Caroline Lassetter  
Curt & Gerry Pindler  
Edna Pindler  
Kayla Rotella  
Eileen Szychowski  
Bonnie Trowbridge’s birthday  
Lynn Wright’s birthday

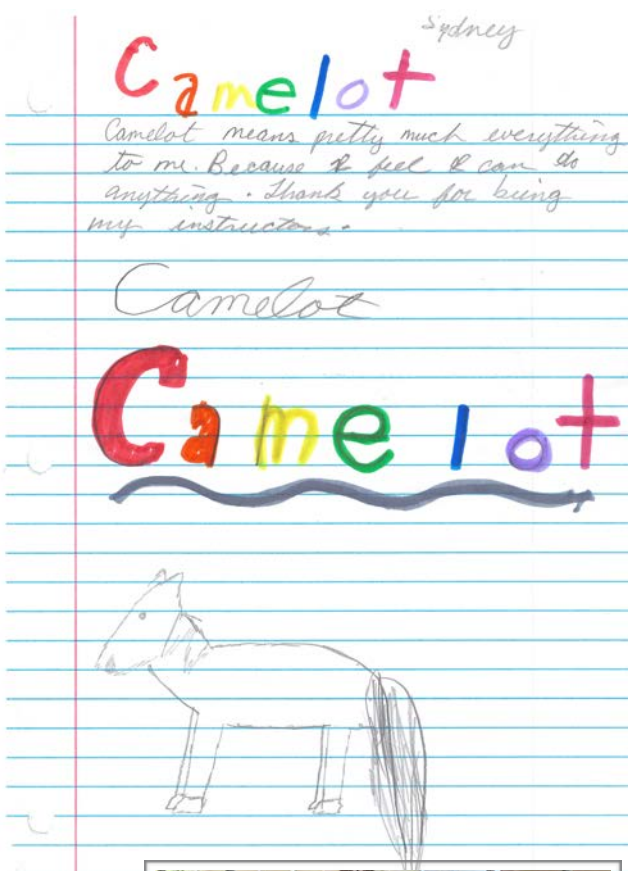
*Memorial gifts in any amount are a beautiful way to honor a beloved friend or family member—be they human or otherwise. We also welcome gifts in honor of birthdays or other special occasions. All such donations are acknowledged with a special card or email and a mention in our newsletter.*

*When sending in your gift, please include a brief note designating whom it is memorializing, and in which category you are submitting it. If you would like an acknowledgment card sent, please include the recipient’s address.*

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**Publisher:** Mary Hadsall  
**Editor:** Shirley A. Lowman





Sydney helps Kristina feed the horses dinner



Camelot is where I go to strengthen my core, improve my posture and work on my balance. It's where I go to have fun with an amazing and inspiring group of riders, volunteers, and professionals. It's where I've learned to focus on what i can do — which includes controlling a 1000 pound animal!—Rather than what I can't do!

By Cheryl R.

Cheryl riding Barbara in the covered arena



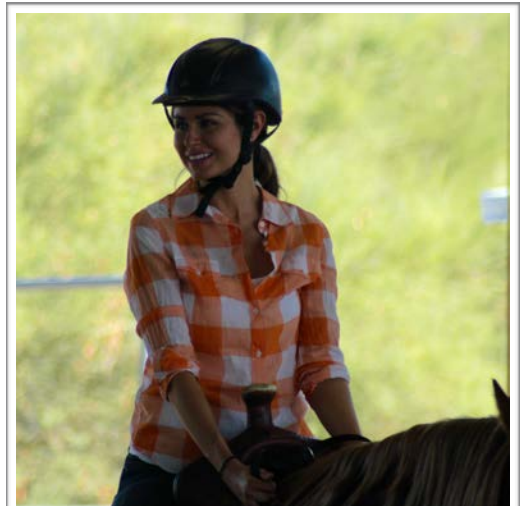
What Camelot means to me:

Camelot to me is a magical place that removes the daily barriers I face in the world around me. Camelot is a place I can escape to where I am able to get lost in the moment and feel independent again. Every time I go to Camelot I am able to learn something new - not only do I learn the fundamentals of horsemanship but I learn the fundamentals of humanity. The volunteers consistently display leadership, acceptance, strength, passion, unselfishness, and pure kindness. Camelot has given me confidence again and when I walk out of the barn to go home after my lesson, I always leave feeling empowered. It has given me a purpose and an energy that I haven't felt within myself in a long time.

Thank you!! ❤️

Erika Schilling

Erika riding Frisco



Caring & Challenging  
Accepting  
Mentoring  
Encouraging  
Laughter-filled  
Over-the-top  
Teaching



The people and horses of Camelot provide an atmosphere of idyllic happiness where my strengths are emphasized and I'm encouraged to push myself. At Camelot I am valued, respected and accepted. For a couple of hours a week I am blessed to be immersed in this place.

Photo collage by Leslie



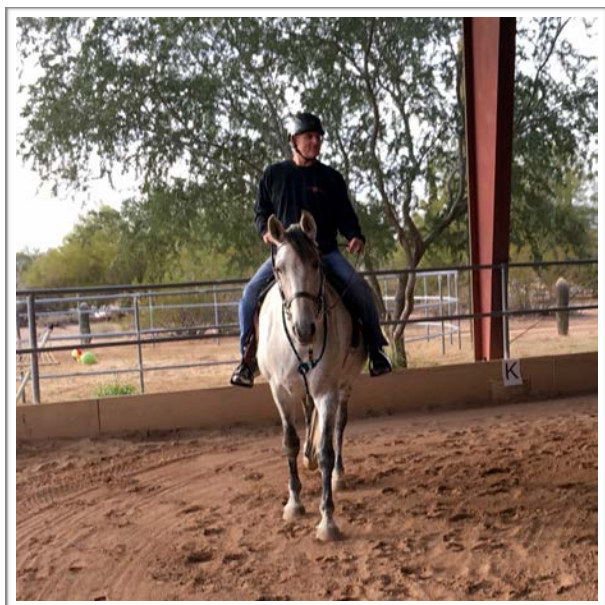
Horse therapy at Camelot means the world to me. It has taken a very long time to attain a "new normal". Camelot has been a very important part of that transition. I love all animals and being able to ride and attend to the horses is a joy for me. It is the highlight of my week! I am very independent and like to do things without help. Camelot encourages me to do as much as possible by myself both riding and in caring for the horses. It has helped me develop my core, increase the muscles in my right leg and helps with my balance and coordination. Riding at Camelot gives me hope and provides a challenge. It refreshes me, fills my life and revives my soul.

An excerpt from a letter to Camelot written by Pamela Contu-Owen on Paolo's behalf. Reproduced with permission by Paolo.



*Paolo grooming Scout*

*Richard riding Barbara in the covered arena*



Camelot is my peaceful, tranquil and joyous slice of paradise, my weekly escape from the hectic life I love yet struggle to keep in check. Each midweek visit resets my mind, nourishes my soul and allows my body to escape the binds of paralysis and experience freedoms I previously took for granted. Developing trusted bonds with each horse meets an intrinsic need to be in touch with nature. Learning to ride provides a sense of accomplishment and the opportunity to challenge myself physically. Having the friendships, support and love always revives my spirit and feeds my need to connect. Camelot represents the best of what this world has to offer and I cherish my time being involved and the memories every visit creates.

Thank you Mary. I realize there are many volunteers that make the program work but your hard work and dedication to establishing standards, following the mission and ensuring every participant gets the most out of their participation is appreciated and applauded. You are leading the way for so many and I can never thank you enough for allowing me to be involved. Thanks for all you do...

Richard Vietor



Camelot means  
at last I have  
my own horse to care  
for. Camelot means on  
Mondays, waking up with a huge  
Smile. Camelot means a  
brave willing heart to try  
new things and overcome fears.  
Camelot means saying "Goodbye"  
to beloved horse friends (Coughdrop) and  
saying "Hello" to new horse friends  
(Barbara). "Camelot" means a fun adventure  
on horseback that you don't want  
to end.

Stephanie Edwards

Horseshoe Camelot

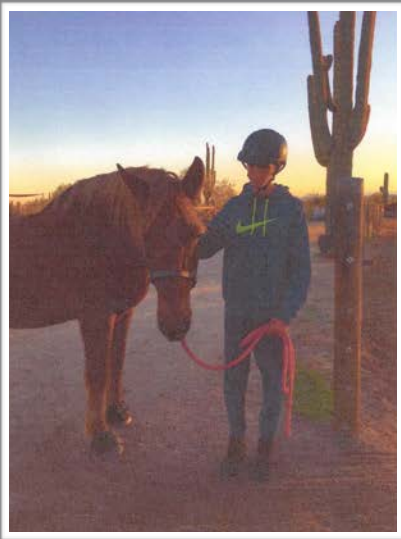


*Jeanne, a volunteer, lends Steffi a hand grooming Barbara*



Learning about horses and how to ride them is fun. I like the way I learn to take care of them. I brush their mane and body. When I ride a horse like Frisco all by myself, I feel important and better about me. I'm happy to go to Camelot every week.

Najib leading Frisco back to the pasture



Sena Larson

What Camelot means to me... how do I put in this... wonderful teachers, learning new things, accepting challenges (ARIA) a ~~the~~ place to learn, to teach (sign language) breaking old habits (too many to count!)

What Camelot means to me is the opportunity to experience closeness with my father since he has passed away Camelot also means not only having a relationship with just a horse but a friend. It also means to go outside yourself in order to learn how to care and love The horse in the best way possible and lastly it also means fun because caring for the horse is not only work but fun!

Katie Griffith



Katie learns the parts of a horse in a ground lesson

Diego  
Camelot is a wonder  
Full of love & if I won't  
be hearten I can't  
ride horses.  
This is a great place.

Diego and volunteer, Alicia, in the "Chicken Hilton" petting a baby duck





## WHAT CAMELOT MEANS TO ME

Camelot is the highlight of my week! I love going to slay my dragon every week with the help of all the staff with their words of encouragement, and everyone including volunteers are always smiling! I really like loving on all our Therapy horses with each of their different personalities. Camelot is my Own personal Zen space, it helps me to stay focused, calm, and happy as I continue to improve on My physical journey in life!

Lynne LoCascio



Barbara checking out her reflection in the arena mirror during a lesson with Lynne

One of my <sup>jesse</sup> favorite things about Camelot is riding horses. I also like the bump up play. The trail rides around the lake.



Jesse displaying Rusty's sponsorship plaque with Sharon, a volunteer



Heidi riding Cayanna in the outdoor dressage arena

What Does Camelot Mean to Me...

Camelot means the world to me, I mean that in every sense of the word. If it weren't for Camelot I wouldn't be able to ride a horse and feel so free, so able body-strong, it's my favorite day of the week. It's my therapy - both physical and emotional. I would like to thank everyone who makes Camelot possible for me, from the sponsors to the incredible volunteers. Thank You Heidi Miller



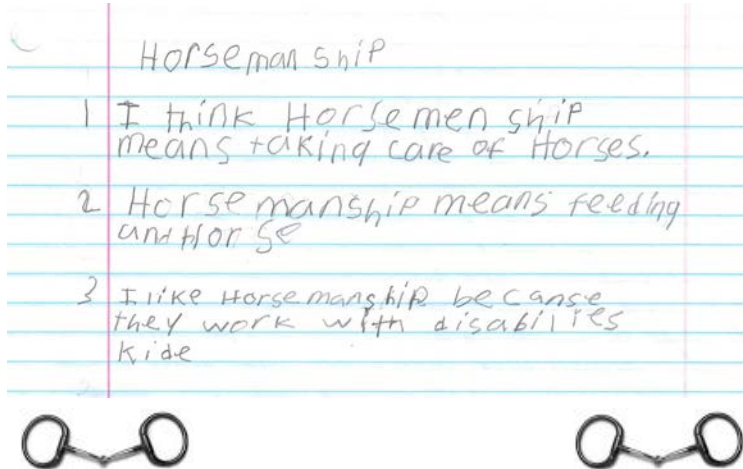




Garrett riding Cliff in the arena during a lesson with Kristina



Marion returning from a property trail ride riding Cayanna with Kim followed by Steffi riding Barbara



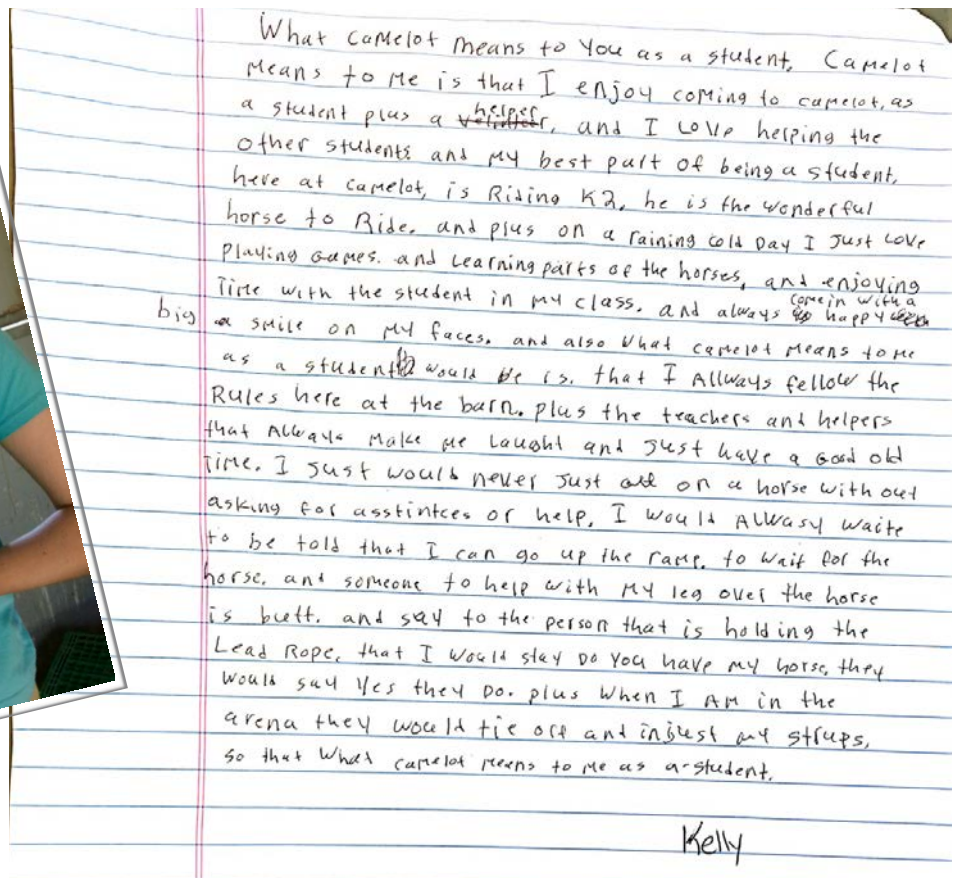
### What Camelot Means To Me

To me, Camelot is a place where lots of amazing things happen. I make new friends. I get an amazing bond with our unique animals. It improves my health, such as my coordination, posture, and balance. Camelot is a place where dreams come true.

Marion T.



Kelly in the "Chicken Hilton" holding a baby duck



## What Camelot Means To Me

Being chronically ill for more than 20 years then adding an avalanche of new medical diagnoses in the past couple years have pushed my health to physical disability. As I try to adjust to having dreams taken away and not being able to do simple things that most people take for granted, Camelot means a great deal to me because it's something that I can do. Camelot empowers me to safely push my limits with the help and assistance of the wonderful staff and volunteers. It gives me something to be excited about and look forward to each week, which helps me to set aside my worries and physical pain. I don't feel disabled when I'm riding a horse at Camelot and that means the world to me.

Amanda Raeth



Amanda and Rusty working in the covered arena



Jesse leading Barbara back to her stall

I am Jesse Soto.  
The opportunity to  
Remember how to  
Ride a Horse.



Chelsea on her first lesson grooming Cayanna with help from Marsha, a volunteer

camelot makes me happy  
and joyful. I feel self control  
when I balance on my horse.  
To me camelot is freedom.

chelsea

**Hooves & Heroes**  
Camelot Therapeutic  
Horsemanship's  
16th Annual Fundraiser  
& Open House  
Saturday, April 22, 2017  
6250 E Jomax Rd  
Scottsdale, AZ 85266  
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
**Free Admission!**  
Please join us for our fundraiser  
and open house. The event will  
feature four student riding  
demonstrations!  
Come see for yourself the magic  
that is Camelot!

Camelot Therapeutic Horsemanship  
23623 N Scottsdale Rd D3, PMB 259  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85255

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# Donation Form



Walk \$25\_\_\_\_ Trot \$50\_\_\_\_ Canter \$100\_\_\_\_ Gallop \$150\_\_\_\_  
Other \$\_\_\_\_\_  
Please notify me annually on \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ (month/day)

\$\_\_\_\_ A partial contribution is enclosed.  
Please send me a reminder for the balance due on \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

## Please help us keep our records current!

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name & Address (only if there are changes)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone Cell Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

☐ Please add me to your email distribution list.

## Charge my credit card, please.

Visa MasterCard American Express

\$\_\_\_\_\_  
Amount

\_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card Number Exp. Date 3 Digit Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name As It Appears on Card Billing Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Or feel free to call 480-515-1542 with credit card information.

Every dollar makes a difference, especially during challenging economic times. **One way to lend a helping hand is through the United Way Donor Choice Program that begins every September.** This fall consider having your charitable donation deducted regularly from your paycheck. Remember, no amount is too small to make a big difference!

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Is Camelot a United Way member?

Camelot is not a member agency, which means we do not receive United Way funds, but we are a qualified nonmember agency.

### What is Camelot's Valley of the Sun United Way number?

Camelot's agency number is 1003642.

### What is Camelot's mailing address?

See below.

### What is Camelot's Tax ID number?

Our 501(c)3 tax designation number is 86-0444470.

### Can family members out of state donate to Camelot through United Way?

For those not in the Phoenix/Scottsdale area who wish to have Camelot as their designated donor choice recipient, you can receive more information about signing up from your local United Way staff member or local United Way agency.

**Last year many of you helped us raise more than \$1,600 by donating to Camelot through United Way!**



Camelot Therapeutic Horsemanship, Inc.

23623 N. Scottsdale Road, Suite D3, PMB 259, Scottsdale, AZ 85255, p: 480-515-1542



**Camelot Therapeutic Horsemanship supporters, you have until April 15th, 2017 (or when you file your taxes) to donate to a Qualifying Organization under the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit.**

With the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit, you can donate up to \$800 to Camelot Therapeutic Horsemanship and get all of it back in your Arizona tax refund. Camelot is a qualifying organization under the list of qualifying charitable organizations. It's easy and makes a huge difference!

If you are a resident of Arizona, you may be eligible to direct your tax dollars to benefit Camelot. You can receive a dollar—for—dollar state tax credit for your donation to Camelot Therapeutic Horsemanship, up to \$400 individually or \$800 if you file jointly or married. You can still receive this credit for your 2016 tax period if you have not filed your taxes or your donation can go towards your 2017 taxes.

All donations will directly benefit the youth and adults that participate in our weekly therapeutic horseback riding programs. You will receive a donation letter and receipt from Camelot with our tax ID number to indicate your donation to a Qualifying Charitable Organization for 2016 or, 2017.

To donate online please go to our website: [www.CamelotAZ.org](http://www.CamelotAZ.org)

To mail your tax deductible donation:

Camelot Therapeutic Horsemanship

23623 N Scottsdale Rd, Suite D3, Post Mail Box 259, Scottsdale, AZ 85255

*A list of organizations that qualify for each Type of Credit can be found at:*

*<https://www.azdor.gov/TaxCredits/QualifyingCharitableOrganizations.aspx>*

*Please consult a qualified tax advisor for personal tax advice.*

*You can get additional information by visiting the Arizona Department of Revenue website.*