



Term: Spring | Issue 1 | Date: May 1, 2019

CHECKING IN...

...with Evelyn Jones, Spirit's Founder and Executive Director:



Spring has arrived in its full color and glory as have our inspiring riders who bring amazing energy back to the arena. Our horses are ready to join up with their riders and take them to new heights of physical and emotional growth. It is important to Evelyn that "we always honor our herd, appreciating their willingness to partner with us, their generosity of spirit."

During our interview Evelyn reflects on past successes, its an honor when students graduate from our program and have gained the strength, life skills and knowledge to move on to bigger challenges. At the end of last year we were thrilled by the return of a past student who had ridden as a youth with a traumatic brain injury.



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HORSE HIGHLIGHT: MEET "DUB"

Standing over 16 hands tall Dub is a giant gentleman. He was generously donated to Spirit TRC by a community member in 2011 and turns 19 years old this year. What many do not know about Dub is that although he is a solid bay color he is actually a registered American Paint Horse! Before his current career as a therapeutic riding horse Dub was a ranch roping horse.

Dub has a quiet, kind disposition and he builds the confidence of the shyest rider as well as the newest volunteers. Dub has served riders from the ages of 3 to 63 with many disabilities including autism, traumatic brain injury, stroke recovery and more.



He seems to know what the rider needs and will make slight changes to help his riders succeed. For instance, if he knows his rider may need a little more help mounting, he may slightly lean in to aid the rider in getting their foot in the stirrup.

We are so thankful for the gifts Dub brings to Spirit Therapeutic Riding Center.



KEY DATES/UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, May 3rd: CWU Unheard Voices Concert
5-7PM at Rotary Pavilion, free to attend

Saturday, May 4th:
Nonprofit Day at the Kittitas County Farmer's Market Opening Day

Friday-Saturday, May 10th-11th
Friday: Dinner and Rusty Cage at Cave B
Saturday: Cave B Wine Prize Ride
Registration open online at Spirittrc.com

Saturday, June 1st
Gard Vintners Glass Baby Fundraiser

Friday-Sunday, June 14th-16th
Luke Mezich Memorial Roping
Kittitas County Rodeo Arena

Friday-Saturday, June 14th-16th
Luke Mezich Memorial Team Roping and Barrel Race at the Ellensburg Rodeo Arena
Free to attend

Tuesday, July 30th
Iron Horse Brewery Pint Night 5-8 PM
.50c of all pints sold donated to Spirit TRC

Saturday, September 28th
Capture the Spirit Dinner and Auction 5PM Spirit TRC Arena

CHECKING IN WITH EVELYN, CONT'D...

He returned not to ride himself, but to lead his old horse for another student in the arena, being able to pass on his own experience and inspire other riders. This is why Spirit TRC “has always, and will always focus on capabilities rather than disabilities... that’s exactly why we do what we do.”

In the spirit of honoring the partners that make our program possible, Evelyn also stresses the gratitude that she feels for our community, volunteers, riders and families that continue to support our mission. “Without your help and support, Spirit wouldn’t be where it is today.” We look forward to partnering with all of you: horses, riders, families, volunteers and community. Thank you for your support, we look forward to seeing you at the barn.

Evelyn and the Spirit TRC Team



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: KEIKO WALSH



Keiko was first connected with Spirit through Evelyn when they were coworkers at Anderson Hay and Grain. She remembers asking Evelyn what Therapeutic Riding was about. Evelyn explained what it was and asked her if she would like to volunteer. Worried because she felt she had no experience to rely on, Keiko expressed her hesitancy to volunteer and Evelyn responded “in her soft and reassuring voice, ‘Keiko, I think you will make a good volunteer.’”

Spirit TRC, at that time, only had an outdoor arena and a feed barn, which was the location of the very first volunteer training. Keiko attended that first training 12 years ago and volunteered with our very first student. She has since spent many hours leading and supporting her riders as well as promoting Spirit TRC by riding with Spirit riders in the Labor Day Parade, attending fundraisers and recruiting her friends to volunteer.

Her most challenging job within Spirit TRC has been learning to become a horse leader. Twelve years ago Keiko was not as comfortable being with the horses as she is today. She stepped up and learned to lead when Spirit TRC was in need of more people who could lead horses. She attended our horse leading clinics and is committed to applying what she has learned. Today, she is one of our most confident horse leaders and is encouraging new horse leaders to follow her example.

When asked to describe Spirit in one word she says “Possibilities.” During her time at the barn she has been witness to little moments that have had big impacts. “When you sign up to be a regular with a specific rider, you notice the subtlest change in the rider.” It is a wonderful feeling to see riders grow and gain so much from their Equine partners.

Keiko has had the opportunity to see our herd change and grow, and though each equine at Spirit holds special gifts Keiko says “I just love Lad.” We don’t blame her for that and we are so thankful for Keiko!



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



A sincere thank you to our local Super One Foods and Safeway for donating food for our volunteer trainings. We appreciate your support of our amazing volunteers.