



SARI's Year at a Glance – 2023

Program Highlights

- In February 2023, we welcomed the return of Susan Morel who took on the role as Interim Executive Director.
- Our 2023 Family Ambassador was Hayden a participant in our OT services program. Hayden and Heather (mom) joined us for our fundraising events and community presentations.
- On April 30th, SARI hosted Show Your Stuff where family and friends gathered to watch participants show off their abilities and skills!
- In May 2023, Alyssa Hunter stepped into the Head Instructor role.
- Program Instructor Terri-Lynne Thede successfully completed her CTRI Certification with PATH Intl!
- Karen Pratt and Sarah Bachert joined our Program Instructor team.
- We hosted 9 orientations that led to 97 additional volunteers maintaining our volunteer roster at over 225 to support our lessons and Camp SARI.
- SARI successfully piloted a new program, Big Britches: a horsemanship & life skills program for adults with and without a diagnosed special need.
- We welcomed our new Equine Manager, Ahmad Zaghloul who comes with a wealth of expertise in horse care. We are so happy to have him on our team!



Interim Executive Director Susan Morel (far right) with our 2023 Family Ambassador Hayden (Middle), mom Heather (right), with MC Steve Stax for Day at The Derby



91% of participants showed improvements in their
INDEPENDENCE

96% of participants showed improvements in their
PHYSICAL ABILITY

100% of participants showed increased
SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

85% of participants showed increased
COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Community Connections

- SARI hosted two Occupational Therapy placement students from the University of Western Ontario who supported our Summer Camp and our OT services offerings.
- In June, SARI hosted the first ever Ontario Education Day, and welcomed Therapeutic Riding Instructors and professionals from across the province for a day of networking and professional development.
- SARI was awarded the Senior's Community Grant by the Ontario Government to offer Equine Experiences for Seniors of all abilities. To date, we have hosted approximately 200 seniors from across the community and organizations including Parkwood Veterans, Mount Hope Long Term Care, McCormick Home, Crown Jewels of Canada, Hamilton Road Senior's Center.
- Valuable partnerships continued with CharterAbility, All Kids in Camp, and the WeLL Center Initiative.



SARI welcomed the Crown Jewels of Canada – Sassy Angels Chapter to experience a Senior's Equine Experience.



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SARI was featured on CTV News showing the Crown Jewels of Canada during their Equine Experience. To view the story and video:
<https://london.ctvnews.ca/provincial-grant-gives-seniors-an-equine-experience-at-sari-therapeutic-riding-facility-1.6595861>

Four-Legged Friends

- After 10 years of service, we proudly retired Wyatt our trusty Quarter Horse gelding to live out his retirement years with a close friend of SARI.
- We welcomed two new horses to our herd this year: New Forest Pony, Rocky and Connemara Horse, Evan!
- Barn Cat Chip has become a favorite at SARI. Initially skittish when she arrived, she has warmed up to participants, volunteers, and staff where she joins for morning cuddles.
- Barn cat Tommy is our extermination pro, making sure all the offices and barns are kept mice free!
- Allegro reached a milestone anniversary of a decade of service!
- Once again we celebrated a successful Adopt-a-Pony program under which all horses are adopted!



Sari Barn Cat Chip (Left) and Sari Barn Cat Tommy (Right) joining in on Artisan Auction Excitement!



Quarter Horse Wyatt (above) retired this year after 10 years of service. Allegro (right) has reached a milestone anniversary of 10 years!

Events

- Bowling for Ponies saw 62 bowlers join us at Palasad South for an afternoon of bowling, food, and prizes in support of our herd.
- Our Day at the Derby watched a hair-raising and inspiring Kentucky Derby live streamed from Churchill Downs by our host venue Paradigm Spirits Co. Attendees enjoyed live music, southern inspired appetizers and themed spirits.
- 86 golfers enjoyed a gorgeous sunny day on the links at RiverBend for the SARI Golf Tournament!
- Participants gathered at the beautiful Belvoir Estate Farm and Equestrian Centre for the 44th annual Ride-a-Thon. Riders enjoyed lunch provided by the Mount Bridges Optimists and completed a leisurely 8km trail ride!
- 193 items were up for bidding in this year's Artisan Auction, hosted once again at SARI. Guests enjoyed appetizers and drinks served by the Oakridge Optimist Club, while mingling amongst our horse stalls!
- SARI was the beneficiary of one of the London Knights 50/50 draws – a crew of staff and volunteers had a blast at the game.
- SARI participants and volunteers, along with their families and friends, enjoyed a festive afternoon at SARI for our annual Holiday Open House. In addition to visiting the SARI Herd, those in attendance could have their photo taken with Santa, Mrs. Clause, the elves, and SARI's reindeer.



Participants showed up to Palasad to support SARI's annual Bowling for Ponies Event!



Golfers enjoyed a gorgeous sunny day on the links at RiverBend for the SARI Golf Tournament!



Volunteers Deborah and Christine at our Holiday Open House getting their picture taken with Santa, Mrs. Clause, the elves, and SARI's Reindeer!

Strategic Plan

- We received a Capital Grant from the Ontario Trillium foundation to support the construction facelift of our arena in 2024 to continue to ensure we provide high quality programming.
- We made improvements to our memorial garden thanks to the volunteer work of BrickFix!
- We increased brand awareness through our collaboration of Brick House production who assisted us in creating a new and improved promotional video to use at fundraising events, presentations, etc. to showcase our programming, volunteers, horses, and participants. To view please visit: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IU1_UpBmnSU
- Collaborated with a fundraising consultant to conduct a comprehensive overview of current fundraising operations, identifying areas for improvement and fundraising strategies to help us increase our long-term funding.
- Brooklyn Einwiller, Interim Administrative Coordinator will be staying with our team as Fund Development Coordinator to help us implement fundraising suggestions and strategies as conducted by our fundraising consultant. We thank the London Community Foundation for their generous grant supporting the Fund Development Coordinator role.



Left: Shot of Horses Ally (Back), Milo (Left), and Shooter (Right) from new SARI promotional video.

Bottom left: Brooklyn Einwiller, Fund Development Coordinator.

Below: We have made new improvements to our Memory Garden thanks to BrickFix!



Fun On the Farm & Beyond



After 36 years of dedicated service to SARI, Farm Manager Ken Charron Retired from his role. Kenny was looking forward to taking on the full time role of "Gampy".



Volunteers Steve and Leone Rowland were awarded the Ann May Dingwall Care & Commitment Award!



Julia with mount Luna participating in Sari's 2022 Show Your Stuff



Welcoming Equine Manager Ahmad!



Thanks to the amazing group of volunteers who help SARI's property look beautiful everyday!



*In 2023, we welcomed two new additions to the SARI family!
In January, Administrative Coordinator Breanna Tordoff welcomed baby girl June. In March, Executive Director Janine Langley welcomed baby boy Laine.*



Instructor Terri-Lynne successfully completed her PATH Intl. CTRI certification.