

Bowling for Ponies	Day at the Derby	Golf Tournament	Ride-a-Thon	Artisan Auction
				

SARI THERAPEUTIC RIDING 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Remembering Jeanne 1922—2018

Mission

We provide opportunity for people with special needs to move towards greater independence and freedom through their connection with horses.

Vision

A community where individuals realize their potential.

Executive Director's Message

In reflecting on 2018, I am filled with a sense of pride and accomplishment, largely around the significant steps forward for SARI's longer-term plan of growth and development. Any contented thoughts are tempered with the loss of Jeanne on August 1st but even so, I know she recognized the gravity of what she had started and closed the circle of her life fulfilled.

Early in 2018, we learned that SARI was the fortunate recipient of a capital grant through the Ontario Trillium Foundation. This was significant in allowing us to move forward on developing the new land purchased in 2017. The grant was approved to cover the cost of fencing for four new paddocks, a new well and electricity to automate the waterers for cold weather use. Add to this the following grants and initiatives that moved us forward to have horses in the new fields by June of 2019:

- Sylvite Agri-Services donated enough pasture mix to cover 8 acres
- The Walter J. Blackburn Foundation donated funds for run-in sheds for the paddocks
- The Jack & Barbara Hay Foundation made possible the purchase of a Gator for quick and easy access to the new acreage
- The Ontario Commercial Arborists Association represented by 5 arborist companies and 20 arborists removed trees and stumps, trimmed trees and chipped all of it for paths

In May of 2018, SARI hosted a wonderful celebration at the Lamplighter Inn to commemorate its 40th Anniversary. Having riders, donors, volunteers and employees past and present in attendance was testament to the far-reaching impact this organization has had on so many people.

SARI's programs were at or near capacity throughout the year, with the Riding Program continuing to be the most sought after with a growing waitlist. A pilot initiative with Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy was carried out in the summer and feedback from guardians was very positive. As a result it was implemented as a regular program offering, providing a few additional spots for those on the waitlist. SARI hired a P/T and an O/T on a part-time basis; both therapists being former SARI employees who had gone on to obtain professional therapeutic designations as well as training in Hippotherapy, both relevant to this new program.

In the fall of 2018, the SARI Board of Directors and the Staff Team came together for a day of strategic planning. Together we formulated some long-term strategic directions out of which the relevant committees will formulate specific goals for the next 3-5 years. The strategic directions will address:

- Establishment of an overall Fund Development Plan
- Analysis of technology requirements to support fundraising
- Rationalizing financial structures (review various funds currently in place and establish reserve fund policy)
- Maximizing earned revenue (review fee for service programs)
- Analysing options for new build/reconfiguration
- Examining organizational effectiveness (Look at staffing from a risk management perspective, review individual staff roles and responsibilities, review job descriptions)
- Examining quality of work (Review instructor evaluation frequency and process)
- Understanding stakeholder perspectives (Consult with stakeholders for feedback)
- Strengthening Organization Sustainability (Develop succession plan for key positions)
- Accessibility (Ensure programs are financially accessible)

With a strong stakeholder support network, a stable financial position, an ambitious and dedicated Board of Directors and Staff Team, SARI is poised for success in 2019 and beyond.



Diane Blackall
Executive Director

President's Message

2018 has been another successful year at SARI Therapeutic Riding, thanks to the support of donors, our dedicated staff and volunteers, and the families we serve. This Annual Report will showcase all the excellent work being done at SARI and the reasons why 2018 was another outstanding year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our 2018 Board Members for their caring dedication and generous support of SARI. In particular I would like to thank outgoing Board Members, Sarah Kirshin-Nelians, Amanda Margison, Randy Telford, Tracy Lawrence and Lindsay Abercrombie for their enthusiastic commitment to the organization. A special thank you goes out to Sarah who has been with us for seven years and served as a Director, Secretary, President and most recently finishing up as Past President. She was also Chair of the HR and Governance Committees. We are going to miss her for sure.

What would SARI be without this group of dedicated individuals! Our lesson volunteers and volunteer instructors, who help with the riding, driving and grooming, Hippotherapy and Summer Camp programs are vital to SARI. Not only do they become an important part of the experience for our participants, but they also make the unique programming offered at SARI financially feasible. Our lesson volunteers logged 13,618 hours in 2018, which would equate to over \$190,000 in wages. In addition, the success of SARI's fundraising events and many other aspects of SARI's governance and operations depend largely on the time and dedication given by our volunteers. In short, we could not run such an exceptional organization without the commitment of our volunteers, week after week, month after month and in many cases, year after year.

I would like to thank our kind and capable staff team for the passion they bring to work at SARI for the benefit of our participants. I would like to thank our Executive Director, Diane Blackall, for her leadership and dedication. She is a true champion of SARI and we are fortunate to have her to represent the organization in such a professional manner throughout the community.

2018 was a year full of accomplishments, many of which you will learn more about in the Annual Report. It was a year of both celebration and reflection as SARI celebrated its 40th Anniversary and lost our incredible founder, Jeanne Greenberg. Jeanne and Syd have left behind an amazing 40 year legacy and one that the staff, volunteers, and Board members are proud to continue to grow and prosper over the next 40 years

2019 holds much promise for SARI and I look forward to continuing to work with such a fantastic group of people, both continuing and new board members, staff and volunteers. Thank you all for your continued support.

Arnie Lindquist

Board President



Nicholas, Volunteer Christine and Zack at the 40th Anniversary Gala, Lamplighter Inn

Our Riders Succeed!

Our participants range in age from four to >seventy years old, each with unique special needs. While there is a wide spectrum of special needs represented at SARI, the most common diagnoses are Developmental/Intellectual Disability, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Cerebral Palsy and Down Syndrome.

Registrations in 2018 were:

Therapeutic Riding/Driving/Grooming— 155 individuals

Summer Camp— 74 children

Little Britches— 26 children

Outcome Measurement for Riding Program

At the start of the riding year in September, 2017, guardians/participants were asked to identify goals on which to focus for the riding year of September to June, 2018. Areas of focus included Communication, Social Skills, Independence, and Physical Activity. Riders were evaluated in September and then again in June. They were rated on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being 'Does Not Do' and 5 being 'Does Very Well'.

Pre and Post scores of a sample 24 riders were compared and the following outcomes were noted:

79% of riders who chose a communication goal demonstrated an increase

85% of riders who chose a social skills goal demonstrated an increase

83% of riders who chose a physical activity goal demonstrated an increase

77% of riders who chose an independence goal demonstrated an increase



2018 Parent Feedback

Our parents have shared some of the ways in which SARI has helped their children grow and develop in 2018.

- *Gaining confidence, feeling proud of being "good" at something, being excited to learn and get better.*
- *My son has benefited hugely from his involvement at SARI since age 6. He is almost 25 now, is confident, capable, and loves riding!!*
- *a sense of independence a sense of confidence a sense of pride social interaction.*
- *New experiences can cause anxiety. SARI experiences build confidence and reduce anxiety.*
- *We couldn't ask for anything more, it's just like the comforts of home.*
- *it's because of SARI [my daughter] was able to have the confidence to get her diploma, move out on her own and find a full time job.*



I do want to say how very much we appreciate all the wonderful staff, horses, volunteers and fellow parents we have met at SARI over the years. This is an incredible organization and it's given Allison wonderful strength, balance, some patience and lots of joy. The opportunity to connect with other caregivers has been a source of monumental hope and relief for me, just knowing that we are not alone. So thank you, from the bottom of my heart.

- A SARI Parent

2018 SARI Ambassadors—Morgan and Liam Phillips

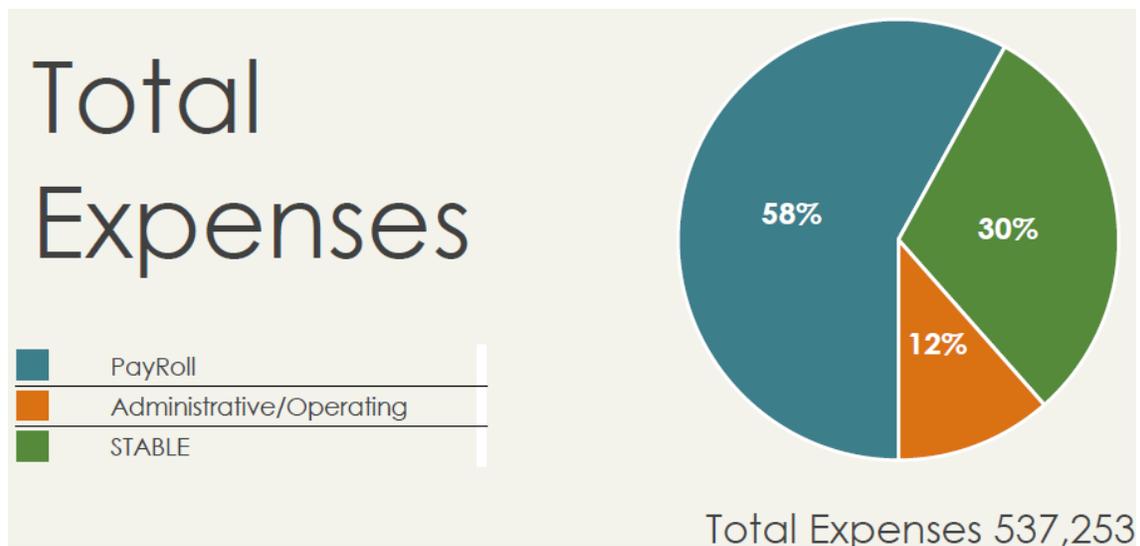
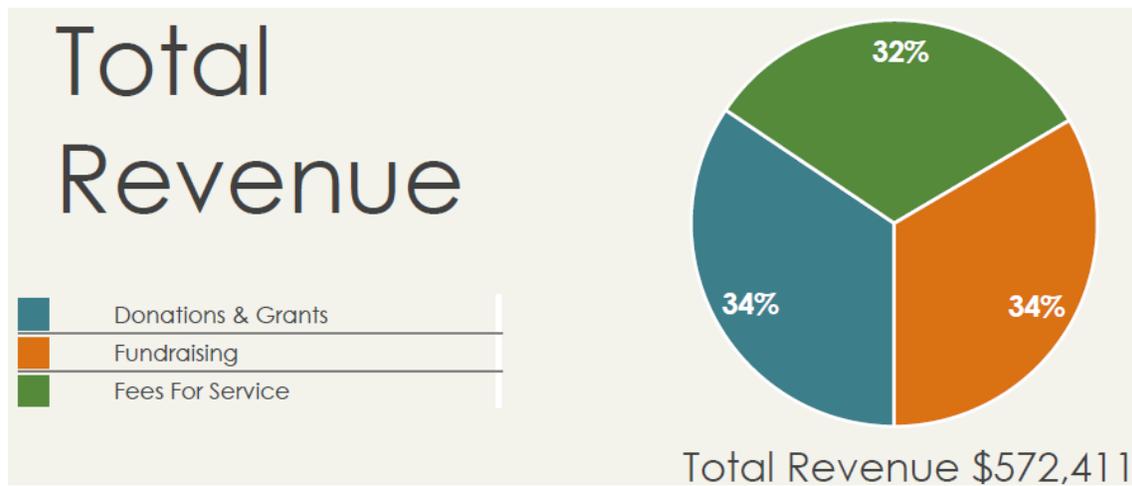


"When I ride, my heart gallops through the sky!"

- Morgan



Finances



2018 Fundraising Results

Adopt-A-Pony	\$ 37,980
Artisan Auction \$ Dinner	\$ 10,043
Bowling For Ponies	\$ 30,973
Car Parking	\$ 10,085
Golf Tournament	\$ 53,273
Day at the Derby	\$ 19,104
Ride-A-Thon	\$ 16,251

Save the Date 2019

- Bowling for Ponies March 3, 2019
- Day at the Derby May 4, 2019
- Golf Tournament June 20, 2019
- Ride-A-Thon Date TBD
- Artisan Auction & Dinner November 14, 2019

SARI Therapeutic Riding is a Registered Charity; Charitable Business Number 119159283 RR0001

SARI receives approximately 11% of its annual operating budget from United Way Elgin Middlesex

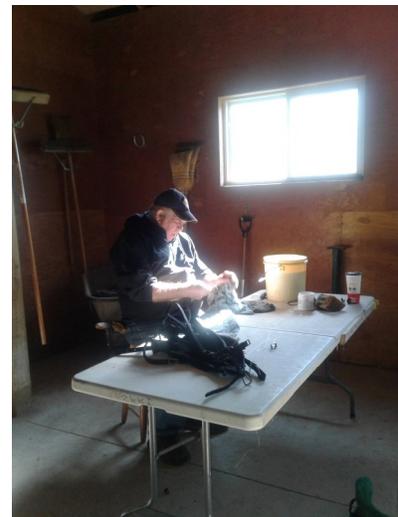
SARI's 40th Anniversary

To honour it's 40 years as a therapeutic riding centre, on May 26th 2018 SARI hosted a Gala at the Lamplighter Inn in London. Guests were greeted by our independent riders in their dressage wear, enjoyed a cocktail hour, browsed our historic timeline, dined on a delicious meal and danced the night away. Speakers included Paralympic Equestrian Jody Schloss, SARI's 2018 Ambassador Family The Phillips, our MP Bev Shipley and Sari Greenberg's sister Kassie. A special candy buffet was featured in memory of founder Syd "The Candy Man" Greenberg.

On Saturday June 16th, 2018, we celebrated our 40th anniversary again! Guests enjoyed tours of our barn and sensory trail, browsed our historic timeline, had some family fun with face painting and games, danced to the sound of a steel drummer, mingled with the herd, enjoyed some yummy birthday cake, and watched the burial of our 2018 time capsule - to be opened in 2058!

Dedicated Volunteers

Without our dedicated volunteers SARI would not exist. Our therapeutic riding programs are dependent upon the support provided by our many dedicated volunteers: in 2018 our lesson volunteers alone provided the equivalent of approximately 8 full-time positions! Add to this the over 2,300 hours provided by our camp volunteers, the hundreds of hours each year dedicated to exercising and training the horses, dozens of hours each week by volunteer instructors planning and executing their lessons, the volunteer time devoted fundraising and event planning, the innumerable hours dedicated by Board members to their various committee responsibilities. The impact of these volunteers is beyond measure and THANK YOU does not seem sufficient. Fortunately these volunteers are able to witness the impact of their contributions each time they enter the doors at SARI.



**13,618 hours contributed
by
lesson volunteers in 2018!**

Volunteer Driving Instructor Gerry cleaning harness (above) and celebrating a win (below) with Driver Kerry.

