

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

## SARI THERAPEUTIC RIDING 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



2020 SARI Ambassador Abigail Costa is shown here riding her favourite pony, Wyatt. Riding at SARI since 2018, Abigail's Mom shared with us that she has grown leaps and bounds as she has learned to love and care for the horses of SARI. She writes: "Abigail has shown improvements not only in her physical strength, endurance and balance, but also in her determination and confidence. The SARI team of staff and volunteers has forever changed Abigail's life with their warmth, kindness and ability to create a community of acceptance and possibilities. There are no stigmas – only open minds and open hearts." SARI extends our thanks to Abigail and her family for their service as 2020 Ambassadors.

### SARI's Mission

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

### SARI's Values

SARI is a caring community of volunteers, donors, board members, parents, staff and horses working interdependently to serve people with special needs and others. We provide a supportive atmosphere conducive to networking, sharing and learning. We value and celebrate the wonderful diversity represented in this community and through our actions, words and representations we promote the fundamental dignity of all. We seek to create and maintain a stimulating environment and foster the distinct contributions of all individuals within the SARI community.

# Executive Director's Message

The year 2020 will forever be etched into our memories.

On March 18<sup>th</sup> we closed our doors at the direction of federal, provincial and local health authorities as our community began the fight against COVID-19. While many businesses turned out their lights to begin quarantine, the equine industry came to a scary crossroads; their four legged “staff” could not be so easily sent home. With our herd of 20 horses remaining our top priority, an essential “skeleton staff” of four ensured their ongoing care and conditioning while balancing the ever-changing protocols implemented on our world and their impact on our organization. We faced major financial risk as our programs and fundraisers were put on hold; we focused on asking for help.

**Our community answered the call.** An outpouring of support came from treasured donors, new donors, neighbours, volunteers, Board Members past and present, long-time friends and perfect strangers. This support came in many forms: donations of dollars and items, shares/likes on social media, emails of encouragement to staff, attendance at events and eventually as volunteers were able to return, as barn help. The power of our SARI community will forever stand out as the highlight of 2020; Jeanne and Syd Greenberg’s legacy continues to run deep in the DNA of all who get involved. As a result of community support through uncharted territory, SARI remains in a financially stable position.

After 3 ½ uncertain months, staff were recalled and together we began a phased re-opening to our beloved participants. Nearly 50 parents and caregivers were trained to provide essential physical support to their participants to limit interactions between social circles. Over the latter half of the year, our ridership slowly grew to 60% of our “pre-COVID” capacity. It was such a delight to welcome our participants back; they brought life and laughter into the arena once again as they reunited with cherished friends in our horses, volunteers and instructors. To put it simply – our participants brought the wind back to our sails!

Although new programming and planned growth was halted, progress was made on our strategic plan: marketing materials and strategies were updated, creative online fundraising solutions were successfully implemented, over 60 policies were updated in a step toward centre accreditation, we began harnessing the potential of a new database to manage our day-to-day programming, and began the early stages of planning for capital improvements looming on the horizon.

We saw revolutionary changes to our fundraisers as each event committee dealt with major curveballs as a result of the pandemic. Bowling for Ponies squeaked in under the wire before our world changed and hosted an energetic and successful event! Day at the Derby was rescheduled and pivoted to a “stay-at-home” event featuring a southern-inspired meal delivery and a live-stream from the SARI barn.



Dozens of participants sent notes and pictures to their volunteers and thanked the staff who remained in place to care for the herd!

## Executive Director's Message

Despite changes to its format and limitations on guest numbers, our Golf Tournament sold out and golfers enjoyed a sunny day on the links. With only two weeks notice to its participants, Ride-a-Thon was forced to go virtual; we loved receiving photos of participants riding on their own properties instead! And finally, the Artisan Auction used a virtual bidding platform to showcase 85 artisanal items and impressively surpassed their fundraising goal.

Our horses enjoyed a silver lining of the pandemic: well-deserved rest. We celebrated throughout the year as we received sponsorships through our Adopt-a-Pony program – enough for every single horse to be adopted! Tinker and Belle were a highlight at the Hyde Park Santa Clause Parade. Glory, Ben and Vixen reached a rare milestone in the therapeutic riding industry as they each celebrated a decade of service! Sadly in October, our team together made the difficult decision to lay Vixen to rest after the sudden onset of an unknown neurological issue. The thousands of lessons she shared with our participants will not soon be forgotten.

To make a heavy year a little lighter, I am pleased to share the news of a significant estate distribution received in November from the late Jane Marie Howarth. This guardian angel left just over \$100,000 to SARI; we look forward to honouring Jane's legacy through capital expansion in years to come.

Finally, I wish to sincerely commend the incredible engine that keeps us going – our SARI staff team. In the face of adversity in 2020 they remained flexible, embraced new procedures to keep our visitors safe, and shared their skillsets to support others in order to keep the wheels turning. There is great strength and resilience within each member of our team, who individually share a passion for service and together are unstoppable.

With our community network of support, a dedicated volunteer base, and a passionate staff and Board, SARI is ready for any challenge that comes our way and remains poised for success into the future.



Janine Langley  
Executive Director



Our wonderful full-time team remained flexible and in good spirits all year despite being apart for some of it!

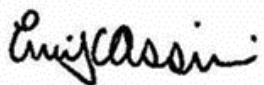
## President's Message

Despite the unexpected challenges of 2020, thanks to the unwavering support of our donors, our dedicated staff and volunteers, and our ever present participants and families, 2020 has been a successful year at SARI. Under the guidance of our Executive Director, Janine Langley, SARI has faced these unexpected challenges and emerged strong in 2021. Perhaps most importantly, through the support of our community, SARI was able to keep our precious herd healthy and happy.

SARI depends on the dedication of its staff and volunteers to operate. Despite everything that 2020 brought, SARI's staff and volunteers remained committed to ensuring the safety and stability of SARI. With participants eager to return to program, staff, volunteers, and parents and caregivers came together to re-work program requirements to ensure the safety of everyone involved.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our 2020 Board Members for their dedication and support of SARI throughout this challenging year. In particular, our outgoing Board Members, Arnie Lindquist, Mary Pat Pegg, Sahand Izad, and Norm Verrinder, who are all long-standing members of the Board and have spent years supporting the organization through direction, leadership, and sponsorship. I have a feeling that this will not be the last we hear from Arnie, Mary Pat, Sahand, and Norm!

Despite the challenges of 2020, SARI has had a year full of accomplishments which you will read more about in this report. Despite having to pivot to new and uncharted formats, four of our fundraisers raised more money in 2020 and every one of our horses were connected with a donor through our Adopt-a-Pony program. Again, the generosity of SARI's community was evident throughout 2020. As we look into the new year and welcome back our participants and families, we are poised to take on challenges with a renewed energy. We thank all of our supporters for standing by our side during 2020.



Emily Assini

Board President

# 2019-2020 Outcome Measurements for Therapeutic Riding Program

Each program year (September to June) at SARI our instructors set individualized goals that are designed to meet the unique needs of each participant in the Therapeutic Riding Program.

In September 2019, participants/caregivers were asked to collaborate with instructors and/or program therapists to identify areas of focus in four categories: communication, social skills, independence and physical activity.

Participants were evaluated in the fall and then again in spring after our COVID closure. This meant a shorter time frame for study of course. Ratings on each goal were scored on a scale of 1-5, where 1 represents "Does Not Do" and 5 represented "Does Very Well".

The following scores represent the notable improvements:

- 83% of riders who chose a communication goal demonstrated an increase
- 87% of riders who chose a physical activity goal demonstrated an increase
- 90% of riders who chose an independence goal demonstrated an increase
- 96% of riders who chose a social skills goal demonstrated an increase

## Participant Stats

- 56% of participants are children
- Youngest participant is age 4; eldest is 68
- Most prevalent diagnoses are: Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Developmental Delay and Down Syndrome
- Longest participation in the SARI program is over 30 years!
- 69 applicants on the waitlist for programming

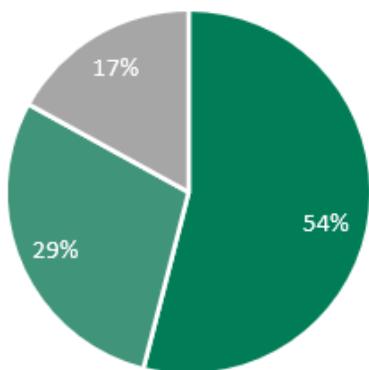
## Horse Updates

- 19 horses on the farm, average age 18 years old
- Youngest horse is 11, eldest is 23
- Smallest herd member stands 37" tall, tallest herd member is 16.2hh tall
- Glory and Ben are the longest serving herd members
- For the first time, every horse was adopted through our Adopt-a-Pony program by year-end!
- In October we laid our beloved Vixen to rest (pictured at right) after a decade of loyal service and thousands of lessons. She will be missed for years to come but remembered forever on a brick in our memorial garden.

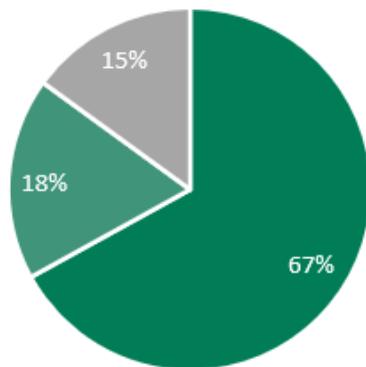


# Finances

## Revenue



## Expenses



■ Donations/Grants ■ Fundraising ■ Fee for Service

■ Payroll ■ Administration/Operating ■ Stable

### Did You Know...

- SARI received substantial government support of over \$60,000 through Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and Canada Summer Jobs Program to support essential payroll.
- While most businesses were able to cut costs during the pandemic by laying off staff and locking up shop, our expenses remained the same as our stable continued operating.

### Fundraising Event Results 2020 (\*higher than previous year!)

Bowling for Ponies	\$35,196.24*
Day at the Derby	\$16,113.74*
Golf Tournament	\$44,814.34
Ride-a-Thon	\$29,163.60*
Artisan Auction	\$13,246.95*

### 2021 Save the Dates

Bowling for Ponies	Throughout March
Day at the Derby	May 1
Golf Tournament	June 17
Ride-a-Thon	TBD
Artisan Auction	TBD

# 2020 Highlights



Despite going virtual, the Ride-a-Thon allowed horse owners to have their own trail ride—including most of the SARI horses themselves!



Carter Mecheske, brother of rider Gage, ran his own fundraiser to support the horses of SARI during the pandemic through sales of greeting cards!



The winners of the “Barnie” Trophy at Bowling for Ponies was Highland Green Stables, who enjoyed a day at Palasad South in support of SARI programs!



Despite changing both date and format to adapt to COVID restrictions, our Golf Tournament proceeded with 70 golfers in attendance, including the one and only Sari Greenberg’s brother Dr. David Greenberg, pictured here.

# 2020 Highlights



After 6 years of service to the SARI Board of Directors, Past President Arnie Lindquist was selected as the recipient of the 2020 Ann May Dingwall Care & Commitment Award!



A surprise reunion when volunteer Faye and rider Julia re-connected after their first meeting at SARI 30 years ago!

## Testimonials

- *"Still familiar, warm and welcoming! COVID is at the top of many people's mind but when you follow the rules in place, it's the best place to be. Every step has been taken to assure everyone's safety and health is taken seriously. Most importantly everyone is still the same great heart and familiar joy to be with. Thank you for going above and beyond to deliver the excellent benefits therapeutic riding gives to so many students and families."*
- *"Thank you for your work at this time, I know this feels like an impossible situation to navigate and I appreciate your thoughtfulness and creativity in finding solutions!"*
- *"SARI makes an incredible difference in [my daughter's] mental and physical well-being!"*
- *"I am the one who should be saying thank you to all of you for bringing some life and purpose back to my world. What you have done for me I can't begin to share. You are all the most amazing and awesome group I have ever met and had the pleasure to work with!!!! I feel very fortunate to be a volunteer at SARI."*



## Acknowledging the Generous Support of Our 2020 Donors

### Platinum Level Donors

Alpha Door Systems Inc./King Materials Handling  
The Alva Foundation  
Anonymous  
CIBC Children's Foundation  
Donna Root  
Estate of Jane Marie Howarth

London Hunt Kennels  
Lucan District Lions Club  
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Tom and Sue Allan Family Fund – *a fund within the LCF\**  
The Canada Life Assurance Company  
United Way Elgin Middlesex

### Gold Level Donors

Agape Foundation of London  
Allan and Susan Edwards Family Fund - *a fund within the LCF\**  
The Baratta Family  
Deanna Barry  
Susan Carrothers Fund  
Byron Corner & Pat Robertson-Corner  
Estate of Imogen Strike  
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Mary O'Brien  
Milton and Jeanne Broderick Charitable Fund - *a fund within the LCF\**  
Dyann Mogan  
Rose Marie & Clyde Walton  
Tim Hortons London & Area Owners

### Silver Level Donors

Jared Alger  
Arva Animal Hospital  
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Halina Bain  
Penny Batherson  
Faye Black  
Dr. Desi Brownstone & Dr. Kandice McKee  
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Rahim Charania – The Realty Firm  
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United Way Winnipeg  
Beth Wilker

## Bronze Level Donors

Arva Grain Corp.  
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London Awnings  
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Promechanical Truck Repairs Inc.  
Dr. Ruth Pugh  
Reis Design & Build  
Geoff Richey  
Rick Goodhew Medicine Professional Corporation  
Riverstone Design & Build

## Bronze Level Donors continued

Rob Sanderson Re/Max Advantage Realty Ltd.	Curtis Temple
Rotary Club of London-Lambeth	Evelyn ten Cate
Scott Petrie LLP Law Firm	Texo Terra Contracting Ltd.
Selectpath Benefits & Financial Inc.	Jill Thomson
Sheffar Potter Muchan Inc.	TRS Components Ltd.
Theresa Sherwood	Amy Van Schie
Siskinds The Law Firm	Wasko Developments Inc.
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Paula Smith	Gudrun Weinstein
Spencer Dentistry	West Elgin Mutual Insurance – Matt Ross
Jill Steele	DJ Williams
Alexander Stephen	Kristen Wise
Margaret Stephenson	Women Lawyers at McKenzie Lake
Stinson Security	Beverly Woolford
Ann Stubbins	Zee Electric
Sutton Group Select Realty – Ashley Winder	ZTR Control Systems
Karen Synesael	

\* London Community Foundation

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### Special Thanks

*SARI wishes to acknowledge Jane Marie Howarth for her generous estate contribution and lasting legacy.*

*SARI thanks Belvoir Estate Farm & Equestrian Centre for their ongoing support of our fundraising efforts.*

*SARI is grateful to Dr. Lisa Marchuk and the team at Scholl Animal Hospital for their exceptional care, donated in-kind, of our barn cat Medway.*

*SARI is grateful for donations made in memory of Michele Adair, Bill Adcock, Blake Bennett, Doug Bocking, Alwyn Devine, "Drummer", Lillian Howlett, Maria Litsas, M. McQueen, John Munn, Norma Jean Rodrigues, Wayne Sanders, Willem Schilder, Roy & Mac Scott, Kris Sharma, "Simon", Imogen Strike, Jamie Temple, Ken Veldhuis, "Vixen", Robert Watson and Deb Wilson.*

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*SARI Therapeutic Riding endeavours to ensure the accuracy of the donor list and regrets any oversights that may have occurred. Please contact [office@sari.ca](mailto:office@sari.ca) if changes are necessary.*



## 2020 Heritage Club Donors

The SARI Heritage Club recognizes donors who have contributed to SARI for 5 or more years.

We welcome the following members to their anniversary year:

### 5 YEARS

<i>Emily Assini</i>	<i>Barb Higgins</i>	<i>Jane Mettham</i>
<i>Douglas Awde</i>	<i>Penny Jurchuk</i>	<i>Nicole Niddam</i>
<i>Roberta Day</i>	<i>Alison Kidnew</i>	<i>Mary O'Brien</i>
<i>DLS Electric</i>	<i>Janine Langley</i>	<i>Mary Pat Pegg</i>
<i>Shereen Goodhew</i>	<i>Catherine Lynch</i>	<i>Rob Sanderson Re/Max Advantage</i>
<i>Michele Halliday</i>	<i>MaryLou McAlpine</i>	<i>Ann Smith</i>
<i>Brenda Halton</i>	<i>Paul Mahon</i>	<i>Anna Szczurko</i>
<i>Laura Herbert</i>	<i>McKenzie Lake Lawyers LLP</i>	<i>Randy Telford</i>

### 10 YEARS

<i>Margaret Allan</i>	<i>David Brownstone</i>	<i>Anne Lyddiatt</i>
<i>Herb Ballantyne</i>	<i>Byron Tire &amp; Auto Repair Ltd.</i>	<i>London Awnings</i>
<i>Indar Bhola</i>	<i>Jane Campbell</i>	<i>Selectpath Benefits &amp; Financial</i>
<i>Brockman &amp; Associates</i>	<i>Jody Goldhawk</i>	<i>Christine Wilson</i>

### 15 YEARS

<i>Susan Buckle</i>	<i>Susan Carrothers</i>	<i>Peter Tichbourne Farrier Service</i>
<i>Canada Life Assurance Company</i>	<i>CIBC Children's Foundation</i>	<i>TRS Components Ltd.</i>
	<i>Linda Parry</i>	

### 20 YEARS

<i>Anne &amp; Randy Donkervoort</i>	<i>London Community Foundation</i>
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