



Nickers & News

GET READY FOR FALL SESSION



Bits & Pieces

Autumn is my favorite season. It's a time when our pace picks up. At Free Rein Center that's certainly the case. We have so many exciting events scheduled, I encourage you to put them on your calendar so you don't miss a single one. We're working hard to provide fun, new volunteer opportunities so check out our Facebook page, and website for details. We're always looking for stories to share about our program so please share yours with us. We're proud to be featured this month in the Regional PATH newsletter. Lots of good things are happening. I look forward to partnering with you.



Lelia Duncan, *Interim Executive Director*

Notes from the Hayloft...

Our horses have moved back to the barn and are eager for the Fall Session, which runs from Sept. 10 through Nov. 3. It's a busy time of year. Our Volunteer Coordinator is scheduling lessons, students are registering and instructors are meeting with parents to develop individualized lesson plans.

In preparation for this session, our wonderful volunteers attended a refresher course that included getting on our new rain barrel horse named Pokey Joe. Whoa, Nellie! Last month I mentioned that our return to the Rockbrook barn and covered arena would mean we could reach new students. I am happy to report that we were able to do just that the first week of school. It's a new program and partnership you'll read about more in this issue.



Don't forget our annual Fundraiser Gala, The Mane Event which will be held on October 13 in the newly remodeled Connestee Falls clubhouse. Details are in this newsletter. It's a fun evening with GREAT food. Beyond that, you will be supporting Free Rein and all those we serve.

Peace,
Bill Buchler, *Board Chair*

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join Free Rein in congratulating two of our long-time staff as they move into new positions. Brittany McCathern is our new Program Director. Brittany has served Free Rein for eight years as an instructor and barn manager. She brings to the position her connection to our riders, their families, her knowledge of horse care, and her commitment to our organization.



Brittany McCathern

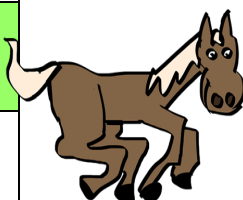


Rachel Evans

Rachel Evans steps into the new role of Program Administrator. Rachel will continue as an instructor and will add duties in marketing, events and communication. With these additions to our staff, Free Rein will be able to grow our programs and serve the community better. Rachel is featured as Instructor of the Month in this month's Regional PATH newsletter. She has been with Free Rein for 4 years.

Upcoming Events

SEPT 10	Fall Classes Start
SEPT 11	Transylvania County's Business After Hours hosted by Free Rein
OCT 1	First Monday Music Porter Center at Brevard College
OCT 13	Mane Event Fall Gala (plan now to attend!!)
DEC TBA	Holiday Barn



We're rounding up everyone for a galloping good time! Free Rein is grillin' & chillin' to show our appreciation for our wonderful & amazing Herd of Volunteers.

Annual Volunteer Appreciation Party
Friday, November 9th
at Free Rein Center from 6pm until 8pm

STAY IN TOUCH

Phone (828) 883 3375 Email us at info@freereincenter.com
Check out our website www.freereincenter.com

Spiff up your cowboy boots, don your hats and join the "Trail Ride" at Free Rein's annual gala on Saturday, Oct. 13. "The Mane Event" begins at 6 p.m. and runs to 10 p.m. at the newly renovated Connestee Falls Overlook Clubhouse in Brevard. Besides food, drink, music and live and silent auctions, friends of Free Rein will share their stories about how they have benefited from our program. Tickets cost \$75 and may be purchased online at <http://freereincenter.com/news-and-events/themaneevent/>.



Gala co-chairs and board members Donna Hunter, Dr. Denise Stretcher and Nancy Wacławek promise an evening of fun, much as last year's when the crowd raised \$500 to bail out "accused horse thief" Brevard Mayor Jimmy Harris. This year, "we hope it's still more fun – with the accent on still. You'll just have to come out and see what we mean by that," the organizers said.

Live auctioneers Duke Says Sold! of Hendersonville will be back to rev up the crowd for the live auction "experience prizes" and help "Fund the Herd" defray costs for Free Rein's 11 therapy horses. Among the live auction items are a fishing trip with Woody Platt of the Steep Canyon Rangers, the French Broad Dinner Cruise thanks to (Connestee Falls Clubhouse, Headwaters Outfitters and Duckpond Pottery) and rounds of golf at Lake Toxaway Country Club."

Mane Street Shopping" will feature a Chuck Wagon of restaurant certificates, the Cork Corral wine pull, handmade crafts, local art and even more "experience" packages. Music will be provided by members of Pretty Little Goat as well as Madeline Dierauf on fiddle and Lillian Chase on guitar and banjo. The "Mane Event" gala is one of the first events scheduled in the newly renovated Connestee Falls Clubhouse in Connestee Falls, off Greenville Highway in Brevard. Work started in spring to update the facilities, including major changes to the lounge, grill and dining room areas to enhance the picturesque views of the golf course and surrounding mountains.



Annual Haunted Barn

There's nothing more fun than a good old fashioned Halloween celebration. The Free Rein Center is hosting it's annual Haunted Barn on Sunday afternoon, October 28. It's family friendly!!!! Come enjoy seeing our Horses and volunteers all decked out for the season. Here some of our favorite photos from last year.



**Come one, come all to see our amazing Horses
and their costumes for Halloween fun!
All ages are welcome! Trick-or-Treat the Horse way!**

WHO: Anyone who wants to Trick-or-Treat & enjoy Horses in costume.

WHEN: Sunday Afternoon, October 28, 2018 from 3-5pm
Corporate Sponsors from 2-3pm

WHERE: Rockbrook Camp Barn, 3460 Greenville Hwy, Brevard

Say Whoa to Bullying!

We're very excited about a new program that Free Rein can now provide thanks to a grant from the Sasser Foundation. We partnered with another local non-profit, Rise and Shine, which provides after school programming for disadvantaged youth to offer an amazing learning experience.

Volunteers spent two days in the classroom teaching students about horses – their body parts, what they eat, how they're groomed, how they behave and used that to gently interweave lessons about bullying. It's a precursor to a city wide program we will roll out in January called, "Say Whoa to Bullying".

Kids learn that the way they treat horses is a great way to treat one another. They learn about respect, conflict and build confidence. Our introductory class culminated at the barn with 40 kids preparing and serving our horses pizza made with rice cakes, molasses and carrots. For over half of the students, it was the first time, they had the opportunity to get up close and personal with a horse. We love having the opportunity to expand their world and open hearts and minds.



A Parent's Pride

"Greyson has made tremendous progress since he began riding at Free Rein when he was 3. When we began he was non verbal, easily agitated, unaware of his environment or his place in his environment. He has come so very far in the last five years. Greyson made his preference to be with Brittany and Skip known to us last year. Brittany understood Greyson and his needs on a natural level that compares to a mother's intuition. The first time she let him off of his lead was only last summer. He had just started using reins and when he weaved the cones alone by following her there was no moment more astounding or emotional to me in all of his time riding.

Greyson has made amazing headway not only riding with the program but by advancing his vocabulary, gaining spatial and environmental awareness, learning to focus on tasks, opening up to other people, and even improving his balance and bringing him into a functioning state. Greyson also developed a deep connection with Skip. In the past, he barely remembered the horse's name but with Skip it's a different story. He always had one or two sidewalkers but this summer session he's been riding Skip for the first time -all on his own. The sidewalkers are still near but Britany gives him opportunities to be independent which allows us to see how smart and mature he is. There have been some bad days but Britany and Skip accept Greyson where he's at. That acceptance has built his trust and as a result he's flourished. This has been the first semester where he's had many more good days than difficult ones.

Greyson has made a great deal of progress using his reins but he isn't just learning how to guide Skip. Our son is learning how to follow instructions, engage with other people and care for others. Greyson has always had a lot of love in his heart but he's learning how to show affection and understanding to others. We are so pleased with our time at Free Rein and blessed to have Brittany and Skip in our lives. We're also very thankful for the volunteer sidewalkers who have helped us and all who love Greyson."

Thank you,
Mary and Larry Laughter



Become a Stable Supporter!

Free Rein Center is a qualified 501(c)(3) public charity. Gifts and donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by current tax law. Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 919-814-5400. The license is not an endorsement by the State."



We invite you to in our growing herd of Stable Supporters. This is a group of people who are supporting Free Rein Center with a monthly gift. Your monthly gift of as little as \$10 will provide a sustainable foundation that directly supports our programs and the many people they serve.

Look for more details at www.freereincenter.com/donate-now/stable-supporters.

Giving appreciated securities instead of cash can help you, too. Ask your financial advisor about how this can assist your financial circumstances. We are happy to provide details on how to donate your appreciated stock directly to

Example Tax Impacts of Options for Donating \$5,000 to Free Rein

	Cash	Donate Appreciated Securities (1)
Charitable Deduction	\$5,000	\$5,000
Income Tax Deduction (assuming 35% tax rate) (2)	(\$1,750)	(\$1,750)
Capital Gains Tax Savings (15% X \$3,000 Gain)	\$0	(\$450)
Your Net Cost of Gift	\$3,250	\$2,800

(1) Assumes you have stock valued at \$5,000 today that you paid \$2,000 for more than 12 months ago.

(2) Some taxpayers are limited in the amount of charitable deductions they may deduct - consult your financial advisor to see how this affects you.

Sponsor's Corner

We thank our sponsors for their investment in our programs & those we serve.

Diamond Level



Gold Level



Free Rein Center's Board of Directors

Bill Buchler
Donna Hunter
Nancy Waclawek
Elisabeth Ilg-Reyes
At Large
Carter Heyward
Ron Schleich
Denise Strecher

Board Chair
Vice Chair
Secretary
Treasurer

Al McCoubrey
Porsha Smith
Doug Poad

Silver Level



Staff

Lelia Duncan
Jennifer Rouse
Brittany McCathern
Rachel Evans
Amberly Ralston
Kara Franks
Nancy Buchler

Interim Executive Director
Office Manager
Program Director
Program Administrator
Barn Coordinator
Instructor
Volunteer Coordinator

Copper Level

