



Talbot Special Riders

DECEMBER 2016

36th Year And A New Beginning!

MAJOR NEWS!

Talbot Special Riders has a new beginning after 35 years with our move to Timber Grove Farm (TGF) in Preston, Maryland. The move was necessary as Glendale Riding School could not offer any additional days and times for TSR to expand our program. A mutual agreement was reached to make the move.

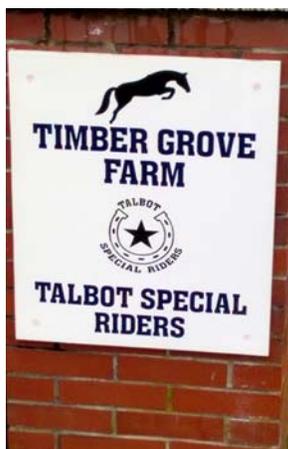
TGF is owned by Kim Hopkins and her daughter, Ashley Hopkins. Kim has been a TSR certified PATH instructor for over 12 years and now has been hired as the Executive Director and Head Instructor for TSR. Ashley is the Equine Manager at TGF.

The move entailed obtaining new horses and tack, obtaining a new office space, moving all our equipment, building new stalls and a tack room, constructing a new outdoor riding ring and converting a covered ring for inclement weather.

The results are 6 great new TSR horses pictured later in the newsletter, a beautiful 54 foot paneled trailer to serve as our office and client changing room and equipped with a handicapped bathroom. Thanks to Bosch Construction and the hard work of many TSR volunteers over the very hot summer we have the new large outdoor riding ring and lots more. All this required a major financial commitment from the TSR Board of Directors.

The Fall 2016 session began in September with TSR already expanding for clients to 4 days instead of the previous 2 days a week. Kim is working on expanding our client base to include Saturdays and other time slots in a year-round program. We look forward to TSR's future.

Please stop by to see our new facility!



New sign post



Office trailer



New outdoor riding ring



Covered riding ring



New stalls and tack room



Entrance to TGF

New Unpaid Therapists



Reds

Pumpkin Patch

Bella

Lakota

Merry

Memories

Parent



Three and a half year old Bradley arrives at Talbot Special Riders' Hippo-Therapy riding program, smiling, chatting, eager to ride his pony. He climbs on the red bareback pad, ready for stretching exercises, kneeling and “around the world.” He reaches for rings and balls to pass or throw. Then comes the best part, urging Isaac to “trot on”. Bradley is working on his core strength, balance, reach and focus. Mom notes “he is much more stable now; walking and running are better. It's made a huge difference.” Kathleen Santilli

Another Parent



Talbot Special Riders at Timber Grove Farm is a therapeutic riding academy where special needs men and women, boys and girls, bond with horses and learn equestrian skills from a talented instructor, Kim Hopkins.

My daughter Lisa loves therapeutic riding and has been part of the program for several years. She continues to learn riding skills and is learning confidence building techniques and, in addition, is learning how to groom horses! Since entering the program her balance and strength have greatly improved.

I would like to take an opportunity to acknowledge the value of the volunteers who work closely with Lisa and the other riders to ensure safe riding sessions. New riders are assisted by two side walkers who walk alongside the horse and one lead walker who walks in front of the horse.

My daughter's goal is to ride without the two side walkers this year and ultimately ride without the assistance of the lead walker! Aggressive goals, yes! Achievable goals, yes! Let's ride! Arlene Serio

President

WOW! The last six months have been fantastic and as I look back, my heart, mind and soul sing Thank You", but how inadequate mere words are.

Last spring the Board of Directors took a 'leap of faith' and voted to expand our program to a five day a week, all year long program. Glendale Farm's "dance card" was too full to accommodate our expansion, so we went in search of a new place. We found Timber Grove Farm was the perfect place and they welcomed us with open arms. Kim Hopkins, owner, has been teaching the Tuesday afternoon TSR riders for many years, and her daughter, Ashley, who is in charge of their barn, joined us in this " leap of faith. So the fun began! It is absolutely amazing what has been accomplished since June. We have acquired wonderful horses, perfect for therapy, have built lovely stalls for them and a tack room and bought a trailer which has a large room for our clients to put on their hats, boots and safety belts, a handicapped bathroom and an office/PT-OT room. Our wonderful volunteers put their "shoulders to the wheel" - they painted, trimmed trees, put up shelving, packed and unpacked - and all with big smiles!

We hired Kim as our executive director and she has hit the ground running. Her enthusiasm for the program, the joy she finds in working with our clients and volunteers and all aspects of her job, makes Talbot Special Riders at Timber Grove Farm a fun, inspiring and happy place to be.

For me personally, this is a dream come true! Margaret Mead once said, "Believe that a few caring people can change the world." That is what our wonderful volunteers and their spouses, who generously share their time and talent with us, the United Fund of Talbot County and our faithful supporters, have done for our "special" riders. With all my heart, I thank you. You all ARE the awesome TEAM TSR ! God bless. Sandy King

New Old Volunteers

I think what has impressed me the most after being absent for so many years is the total organizational improvement. Each new horse has its own labeled tack; each rider has his own helmet and boots, and everyone has a specific job. Everyone seems happier! The new facility is wonderful; more working space for everyone, and the volunteers are the best as always! It has been a treat to be able to help again and you all should feel proud of your continued service for the community as well as TSR's accomplishments. I previously volunteered from 1994 - 1999. Mimi Starke

Talbot Special Riders has a special place in my heart and memory. My mother, Vonnie Rust, was one of the founding members many years ago. When she passed away, I moved to Maryland to be with my Dad and soon became involved with TSR. It was an easy, perfect fit for me, but had to leave due to a full time job.

Now I am involved with TSR again at Timber Grove Farm. Kim Hopkins's farm is fantastic and her enthusiasm is infectious and Ashley is always there to help, direct and answer crazy questions. The new horses are gentle, sturdy and incredible with horse leaders, side walkers and especially the riders. The entire experience at Kim's farm is completely rewarding. But mostly puts a smile on my face every time I see the riders smiling, laughing, singing, yelling for joy, improving their skills.....on top of their beloved horses. Bonner Rust

**The singing Bonner is referring to comes from Volunteer Jack Lewis - Cowboy Jack!
He leads the afternoon riders with the following song, it may be familiar to some of you!**

**Happy trails to you, until we meet again.
Happy trails to you, keep smiling until then.
Who cares about the clouds when we're together.
Just sing a song and bring on sunny weather.
So, Happy trails to you, until we meet again!**

**We are fortunate to have been dealt 3 Jacks!
Jack Meyerhoff, Jack Kirk and Jack Lewis.**

TSR Board Of Directors

Sandra King, President - Vincent Radosta, Treasurer/Editor - Margaret Worrall, Secretary
Jessie Browne, Dr. Elizabeth Callahan, Jack Kirk, Barbara MacInnes, Jack Meyerhoff,
Jennie Roman, Martha Russell, Susan Shortall, Dr. Graham Slaughter, Meg Stein

TSR Spring Classic

Wow! Not what we had hoped for!

The 4th annual TSR Spring Classic bike ride fundraiser was held on April 9, 2016.

For those of you who don't recall that Saturday, it snowed, hailed, rained and was cold and windy. Nevertheless, a dedicated group of volunteers braved the elements and were out at the Easton Middle School and the 3 rest stops. We had close to 300 bike riders registered despite

the predicted weather and remarkably, over 100 still showed up to brave the elements and ride.

Many did the short 25 mile route, but a few brave souls did the 50 mile or the metric century routes. Our SAG drivers were very busy picking up soaked riders! Thankfully, there were no accidents except for some mild hypothermia and many were glad that we had arranged for the riders to use the

Easton YMCA at no cost to shower and warm up. (Thank you Y!)

Needless to say the hot cream of crab soup and hot chocolate we provided were big hits.

Many thanks to all the Sponsors, Volunteers and Riders who made the 4th TSR Spring Classic a huge success despite the weather.

Check the TSR Spring Classic web site for info and pictures - www.TSRSpringClassic.Homestead.com



The TSR Bike Committee is hoping the **5th annual TSR Spring Classic on April 8, 2017** will have some better weather!

The start/finish is at Easton Middle School with full rider support, rest stop provisions, souvenir T-shirts, other goodies and an after ride lunch. Offered rides are 25 and 50 miles and a Metric Century (62 miles).

Registration:

<https://endurancecui.active.com/event-reg/select-race?e=35501652>



Our Many Sponsors Made The 2016 TSR Spring Classic A Success!

<p>GOLD SPONSORS</p> <p>Caloris Engineering Chesapeake Publishing Choptank Partners, Inc Out of the Fire The Wawa Foundation Wintersell Farm</p> <p>SILVER SPONSORS</p> <p>Northeast Foods Queenstown Bank Shore Boys Soups The Orthopedic Center Tidewater Physical Therapy</p> <p>BRONZE SPONSORS</p> <p>Chesapeake Bay Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Choptank Transport Easton Lodge # 1622 BPO Elks Fellows, Helfenbien & Newman Five Gables Inn & Spa Giant Food - Landover RBC Wealth Management Sandra King Solid Tops Wye Financial & Trust</p>	<p>PATRON SPONSORS</p> <p>Appliance Source Aqua Pools & Spas Bartlett Pear Inn Bartlett Tree Experts Carrion Home Repairs Charles Leaver Chick fil A - Coupons Choptank Electric Cooperative Cianci Chiropractic Center Cindy Chirumbole Comfort Inn/Holiday Inn Express Community Animal Hospital Dr. John V. Louis DMD Earth Origins Market 06 Eastern Springs Water Easton Cycle & Sport Eglseder Wealth Management Group Graul's Harman's Septic Care Hill's Drug Store Jessie Browne Kim Gauthier Llandaff Family Foundation Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy Pampered Pets Pixel Print & Post Roberto's Pizza</p>	<p>Shannahan Artesian Wells Sherman Severson Talbot Bank The Whalen Company Total Home Performance Walgreens #9967 Wilderness Voyageurs</p> <p>SUPPORTING SPONSORS</p> <p>Acme American Legion Post 70 BJ'S Club 322 Bullock's Deli Ema Bailey Food Lion Goetze Candy Hopkins Sales Co. Joe's Bagel Café Latitude 38 Lowe's Market Street Public House Sharper Graphics Target Teddy Bear Fresh Tricycle & Run YMCA of the Chesapeake</p>
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Wish List

Along with the new TSR facility comes a lot of new expenses.

Please help with your generous donations!

Donations towards the following items will be recognized with plaques at TGF as appropriate:

- | | |
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| <p>Tractor w/front end loader- \$15,000
Lights for new arena - \$5,000
Cost to board 6 horses - \$2,700 a month
Cost of one new riding helmet and boots - \$100
Sewage tank for handicap bathroom - \$350
Bucket heater - \$25
Professional Choice SMX girths in 40", 44", 48", 52", 54", 56" sizes - \$40 each
Leather halters in pony, cob, and horse sizes - \$30 each
Safety stirrups in various sizes, including extra wide - \$30 pair
Gift cards for any of the following businesses - Dover Saddlery, Chick's Harness Supply</p> | <p>Horse trailer - \$10,000
Cost to board one horse - \$450 a month
Cost for a full scholarship for one client - \$400
Therapy table - \$150
Thin Line pads (4) - \$100 each
Fly spray - \$25 gallon</p> |
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Executive Director/ Head Instructor

I would like to thank all involved with Talbot Special Riders for putting their unwavering faith in me and my daughter, Ashley, by allowing us to steer TSR in a new, more productive direction. We have already seen growth in our roster and new programs are in the works for victims of trauma/sexual abuse, as well as various camps for students with special needs and at risk youth.

This change has not been possible without the support of our entire TSR crew - our very dedicated Board members, our steadfast volunteers, the current riders and their families who have all embraced the changes of our program and, of course, our rock steady new program horses and ponies!

As we allow our creative juices to flow to create all these wonderful and beneficial new programs, we will need to increase our volunteer base to assist with our students for mounted and unmounted activities. We are asking for your help in this effort of volunteer recruitment by donating your time or sharing our need with anyone you think may be interested in joining our great team.

Our other need is, of course, funding. As you can imagine, this move came at a great cost, and continues to cost monthly. Needless to say, horse ownership is not cheap and we have incurred some unexpected vet costs in addition to regular maintenance.

As the new Executive Director, I pledge to do all in my power to see that this program will reach many more folks who can benefit from Equine Therapy and Hippotherapy and I am asking for your help in this effort. Thank you! Kim Hopkins



Special Thanks

At the conclusion of the Spring session our riders were again recognized with medals. This was the 9th year of the TSR Rider Recognition Program and many of the riders eagerly look forward to this event.

A big thank you to Deborah Urry for making this event happen.

On June 9 the annual volunteer appreciation picnic was again held at the home of volunteer Rita Connolly and her husband Paul. The weather was perfect that night as was the food from Catering by Jamie that was enjoyed by the 75 volunteers and friends in attendance.

Thank you Rita and Paul for hosting TSR!

A big thank you also to our Public Relations Volunteer, Barbara MacInnes, for keeping TSR in the media explaining the need for volunteers and promoting our program and complying with all the various requirements for some grant programs.

Do you know that most of our riders need 3 volunteers - a horse leader and 2 side walkers? This is to ensure the safety of the rider.

Our volunteer coordinators - Nancy Radosta and Gloria Gibson - work tirelessly to ensure we have enough volunteers present to safely run our program. We always need more help, especially men. Our volunteers range in age from 14 to the 80's. **Contact them for information at 410-604-2290 or 410-745-9762 respectively.**

Occupational Therapist

A new home for TSR! With great excitement I arrived the first day to meet the horses and see the handsome new buildings. Years ago I had ridden "Tom" at Timber Grove Farm and knew Kim to be a wonderful instructor. (In my 60's she coached me through my first and only horse show. Tom & I won ribbons!) I was wondering how it was all going to fit together.

Then I met Lakota and Merry – perfect for children receiving hippotherapy, my speciality. Lakota has turned out to be super calm, balanced, and very tolerant of kids turning around, riding upside down, stopping and starting. Merry had a foot injury, so was replaced by steady William. Bella, the newest horse, looked just too tall for my riders. However, seeing that one of my riders, Brady, riding with me for the past 8 years, looked a bit too big for Lakota, we decided to try him on Bella. Wow! A perfect fit. I know he will learn to trust her as a solid base for his hippotherapy exercises. An exciting future is ahead for us and I am proud to be part of the team.

Deborah Colborn

Some Of Our Many Friends - We Appreciate Every One Of Them!

James Adams &
Anne McCormick
Rebecca Addy
David Anderson,
Appliance Source
Elizabeth Baer
Mr&Mrs J.Lee Bailey
Christy Bartlett
Christopher &
Nancy Bartlett
Mr&Mrs Thomas Bliss
Rita & Paul Connelly
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Laura & Jason Chance,
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Natalie Costanzo,
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Dorian Cummings
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Ann Jacobs,
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Comfort Inn
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Solid Tops
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