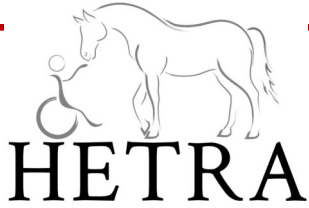


Heartland Equine Therapeutic Riding Academy presents

# Heartland Hoof Beat

*HETRA's mission is to improve the quality of life both physically and emotionally of adults and children of all ability levels through equine assisted activities.*



## Upcoming 2019 Dates

### Course B

April 1 – June 30  
(April 24-30 No sessions)

### The International Omaha

April 4-7

### Easter

Sunday, April 21  
(No sessions)

### Blue Jeans & Dreams

Saturday, April 27  
5-11 pm

### Mother's Day

Sunday, May 12  
(No sessions)

### Omaha Gives!

Wednesday, May 22

### Veterans Experience

Friday, May 24



## Meet Jim!

### Volunteer Highlight

For one and a half years now Jim has been a regular fixture at HETRA. He learned about volunteering on a bulletin board at the QC Supply Store in Elkhorn.

While currently a certified Blue horse leader, Sidewalker, Groomer and Tacker, this past year he was most active in assisting with the weekly Life Skills and Equine Assisted Learning Programs. Jim also assisted with our monthly Equine Services for Veterans events.

Other HETRA involvement includes assisting with the Miniature Horse Camps, Mini's Off-Site appearances, Blue Jeans and Dreams, Holiday Gift Boutique, Autism Action booth and Skyline Ranches Cross Country Run benefitting HETRA.

**It should be no surprise that Jim was recently named 2018 Special Program Volunteer of the Year! Congratulations, Jim!**

Volunteers like Jim are invaluable to HETRA. He and others like him make it possible for HETRA to serve 130 plus participants per week. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer, please contact Rachelle Tidwell at [rtidwell@hetra.org](mailto:rtidwell@hetra.org) or 402.359.8830.



## Adorable Scout

### Herd Highlight

Scout is a 16-year old pinto pony that joined the HETRA herd in August of 2018. He is 13.3 hands high, which makes him perfect for some of our smaller participants. His smaller stature makes him less intimidating to beginners, as well as allowing some of our shorter instructors, therapists and volunteers to have easier hands -on access to their participants.

Scout is kind, fun, and has a curious disposition. He is a happy pony and enjoys being the center of attention both in and out of the arena. Before Scout came to HETRA, he enjoyed life as a lesson horse and special trail riding partner with his owner. He is currently being used in our Adaptive Riding and Therapy Services programs. Scout will continue his training, as all HETRA horses do, and we are very excited about his future and where it may lead!

**Want to sponsor Scout or another HETRA horse? Contact Lisa at [Lisashk@HETRA.org](mailto:Lisashk@HETRA.org).**

The **HETRA Horse Sponsorship** program provides the necessary funds to support the cost of caring for our herd. Learn more about Horse Sponsorships at [www.hetra.org/horses/](http://www.hetra.org/horses/)



Get Social and  
Connect with HETRA



YouTube

## **Congratulations Dr. Amy Cook** *HETRA Veterinarian Wins Regional Award*



We would like to officially congratulate Dr. Amy Cook of Nebraska Equine Veterinary Clinic for being named the Region 7 PATH International Veterinarian of the Year. Dr. Cook has given outstanding care to our very special

HETRA herd. We value her commitment to the equine industry and the veterinarian community. Congratulations Dr. Cook!

## **HETRA Welcomes Board Member** *Lisa Glidden*



HETRA is proud to welcome new board member, Lisa Glidden.

Lisa has been in Human Resources for over 20 years. She is a Recruiting Consultant at Securities America, Inc. and has been around HETRA since her daughter started riding horses there nearly ten years ago.

She has volunteered for several HETRA events including Little Britches, Blue Jeans and Dreams, and has also assisted in the HETRA office.

Lisa has been heavily involved in volunteering with her children's sports and school activities for over sixteen years. Now that her children have moved on to their jobs and college, Lisa wants to continue volunteering and supporting an organization she believes in.

HETRA has four Board Officers and 12 general Board Members. Please help HETRA welcome Lisa Glidden!

**A Special Thank You To Our Quarterly Donors**  
may be viewed in our online newsletter found at  
<https://hetra.org/about-us/hetra-newsletters/>

## **2018 Volunteer Appreciation Awards**

How do you adequately express gratitude to over 300 people who rally around your mission week in and week out to make your organization successful? We do our best year-round to make sure they know that their contributions make a difference to our programs and our families. Once per year, however, we gather together to make sure they truly understand the critical role they play in making our participants lives, and our community a much better place to live and grow.

### **We Are 300 Strong**

That's right! There are 300 dedicated volunteers that have chosen to make HETRA their nonprofit of choice. We are grateful for these individuals and for their commitment to our mission. It takes hundreds of volunteers and volunteer hours to adequately staff sessions for over 130 participants each week. Our programs and participants are growing in numbers and without the help of these caring individuals, we could not deliver the best-in-class service that our families and our community have come to know and expect.

### **Annual Appreciation Awards**

This year, the following Volunteer of the Year categories were recognized, along with service years of 5, 10, 15, and 20, and 100+ hours served.

New Volunteer - Katie Adkison  
Youth Volunteer - Ashley Blakely  
Family Volunteers - David and Carter Reynolds  
Special Programs Volunteer - Jim Opitz  
Substitute Volunteer - Deborah Bean  
Conditioning Volunteer - Heidi McKenna  
Barn Maintenance Volunteer - Amy Reinert  
Adult Volunteer - Megan Gillam

## **Staggering Statistics**

**300** Volunteers contributed over **24,000** service hours in 2018.  
**24,000** service hours equates to **\$592,560** (independent sector study).  
**26,208** times per year the herd is fed.  
**7,540** times per year the herd is tacked.  
**10,220** times per year the stalls are cleaned.

The next time you see a HETRA Volunteer, please thank them. They are the heart of our mission, and we simply could not provide our services without them!

**Changing Lives One Stride At A Time**

# 30 HETRA

1989 • Heartland Equine Therapeutic Riding Academy • 2019

## 30 Years of Excellence

We've come a long way thanks to you and many others like you in our community. Now, in our 30<sup>th</sup> year, we celebrate recent milestones and reflect back upon our humble beginnings. We invite you to walk down memory lane as we recount an incredible journey made possible by your support.

### **The end is really just the beginning.**

While this year marks our 30<sup>th</sup> year of service to the Omaha and surrounding community, our location is still very new. It was in June of 2014 that we took possession of this incredible facility in Gretna, NE. Not only did we have a permanent home, we were finally able to merge two locations into one. Equally rewarding was this past December when we made the final payment on the property, making us true owners. These most recent milestones are now part of HETRA's history and we have never been better positioned for growth.

### **We could not have done this without the support of our community.**

With expanding programs and a growing staff, HETRA continues on a swift upward trajectory. In 2018 we added a year-round Life Skills program, an Equine Assisted Learning program for at-risk youth, and hosted several pilot programs which are coming to fruition in 2019. One is our Respite Caregivers Retreat. It's designed to introduce Equine Assisted Learning to parents, caregivers, and families who spend their lives providing care and well-being for individuals who face numerous challenges.

### **Home is Where the Heart Is—A Look Back**

Over the past three decades HETRA has had numerous homes. It all started in 1989 in a small pasture in Bennington. That little pasture was HETRA's home for the first two years of its 30-year journey. The next two years – 1990-1991- were spent in another barn in Bellevue enabling program growth and awareness. From 1992 – 2014 HETRA found a long-term facility in Valley, during which time the program experienced exponential growth and another barn was needed to accommodate the rise in participants. In 2005, HETRA began operating a second program in West Omaha to fulfill the overflow from Valley. Finally, in 2014, the horses, participants, volunteers, and staff working at the two barns merged as one at our permanent facility in Gretna.

Our new facility sits on 25 acres of land with space for more than 30 horses. The large indoor arena allows us to serve up to six riders or one carriage driver at a time. Thanks to grants, fundraising, and the elbow-grease of countless volunteers and staff, HETRA has been able to make substantial alterations to the facility by adding wheel chair accessible restrooms, a therapy clinic and gym, a viewing room for families, a conference and classroom, heating and insulation for the indoor arena, large fans, and improved ventilation in the stall barn. The larger facility also allows HETRA full control of programming which has enabled us to serve more participants and add new programs.



**We've come a long way. Happy Anniversary, HETRA!**

EVENT SPONSORS

EVENT SPONSORS

LOU AND KATHI  
ROTELLA



HENRY AND  
ALETA  
NEUHAUS

SATURDAY  
APRIL 27, 2019

DOORS OPEN  
AT 5 P.M.

HETRA  
PRESENTS  
BLUE JEANS  
AND  
DREAMS



COCKTAILS

BBQ  
DINNER

HETRA HORSES  
MEET & GREET

FEATURE PRESENTATION  
& LIVE AUCTION

RAFFLE

LINE  
DANCING

HOST COUPLE  
DARREN & JENNIFER OSTEN  
HONORARY HOST COUPLE  
TIA & JOHN MCLAUGHLIN

RESERVED SEAT: \$100  
RESERVED TABLE OF 8: \$750  
RSVP AT HETRA.ORG

## Exciting Auction Format Change This Year!

### The Silent Auction Is Moving Entirely Online!



This year there will be no mobile bidding on-site. The silent auction will take place entirely online from **8:00 am Thursday, April 11**

**through 5:00 pm Friday, April 26.** All winning bidders will be notified by email on Friday, and package pick up will take place at Blue Jeans and Dreams on Saturday, April 27 at the conclusion of the featured program that evening.

### Super Silent Auction - Paper Bidding On Site

Our Volunteers are incredible in more ways than one. Each year, they create exclusive and exciting packages for Blue Jeans and Dreams. These packages are ALWAYS top-notch and come with an incredible value! Come prepared to do some good old-fashioned paper bidding on these featured SUPER SILENT packages.



# Blue Jeans and Dreams 2019 —What You Can Expect!

## Raffle Tickets for YOUR CHOICE OF LIVE AUCTION ITEM

NEW this year! Patrons have the opportunity to purchase a raffle ticket good for their pick of any LIVE auction item!

The guest with the winning raffle ticket, which will be drawn just prior to the LIVE auction, wins their choice of one LIVE auction item! **MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!**

**Raffle tickets are LIMITED to 200.**

**Raffle tickets sold at event and on the reservation**

**website at <https://www.classy.org/event/2019-blue-jeans-and-dreams/e222919>**

## LIVE Auction SNEAK PEEK

- Park City, Utah—A Week With Majestic Views
- Memphis Escape at The Peabody Hotel
- Lucky Las Vegas at the Orleans Hotel and Casino
- Husker Season Parking Pass, and Game Tickets
- Processed Pig + Freezer
- Michael Jordan Autographed Bulls Jersey
- Shrimp Boil and Lake Cruise for 12
- ... And MORE!

## Designer Cake Dessert Auction

The talented pastry chefs at Hy-Vee have created INCREDIBLE cake designs, all for the fun and enjoyment of your table! View the cakes prior to dinner, then get your table going on some live auction bidding for the cake of your choice!



## Horse Open House

Meet the HETRA horses from 5-6:30pm.

## Wine Toss

Grab a drink and get in line! Toss a ring onto the neck of a wine bottle and its yours to keep! \$25 buys three tosses. That's three bottles if you can ring them all!



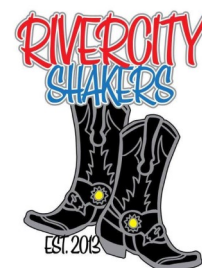
## Gift Card Games

Which will you choose -- **Plinko or Spin The Wheel?**

Come prepared to drop a chip in the Plinko board or Spin The Wheel to select your gift card - all valued at \$25 or more!

## Line Dancing

Get ready to step, stomp, and stride it out with the popular River City Shakers!



## Selfie Wall

Take a pic with Stormy, our beloved miniature horse, who is featured on the HETRA selfie wall. As you're in line for dinner, volunteers will be on hand to take your selfie with Stormy. Post it, Tag us, Like it!

## Thank You To Our 2019 Event Sponsors!



Henry & Aleta  
Neuhaus

Lou & Kathi  
Rotella



**Please Join Us. Make Your Reservation Now!**

<https://www.classy.org/event/2019-blue-jeans-and-dreams/e222919>

**Sponsorships Still Available!**

Contact Lisa Shkolnick at [lisashk@hetra.org](mailto:lisashk@hetra.org) or 402.359.8830  
View all our sponsors at [www.HETRA.org](http://www.HETRA.org)

Lucy aspires to become PATH Int'l certified and we are delighted to have her on board at HETRA. Please help us welcome Lucy Finocchiaro to the HETRA family.

A former HETRA Volunteer, Lucy brings with her a wealth of knowledge. She has experience as an Agricultural Center Assistant, Veterinary Assistant, and was Student Program Coordinator at K-State.

We are excited to announce that Lucy Finocchiaro has recently joined the HETRA staff as Development Specialist. Ms. Finocchiaro is a 2014 graduate of Kansas State University where she obtained a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, Equine Certificate. She is will finish her Master of Public Health in May of 2019 at UNMC.



## HETRA Welcomes Staff Member Lucy Finocchiaro, Development Specialist

*Visit [www.HETRA.org](http://www.HETRA.org) to learn more.*

**PROGRAMS INCLUDE:**  
 Adaptive Riding  
 Therapy Services  
 Adaptive Carriage Driving  
 Year Round Life Skills  
 Horse Academy 101  
 Horse Academy 102  
 Miniature Horse Summer Camps  
 Equine Services for Veterans  
 Equine Assisted Learning  
 for Corporate Groups  
 Volunteer Opportunities  
 Group Barn Tours  
 College Internships

HETRA serves a variety of participants including children and adults with disabilities such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida, muscular dystrophy, cystic fibrosis, brain tumors, head or spinal cord injuries, visual impairment, autism, development delays and strokes.

402-359-8830



## HETRA Programs and Services Contact Us To See If We Are A Fit For You



**Heartland Equine Therapeutic Riding Academy**  
 10130 S. 222nd Street  
 Gretna, NE 68028

Save The Date!  
 Saturday, April 27

