



The Dressage Foundation

News

Building U.S. Dressage Through Your Generosity

2024 EDITION

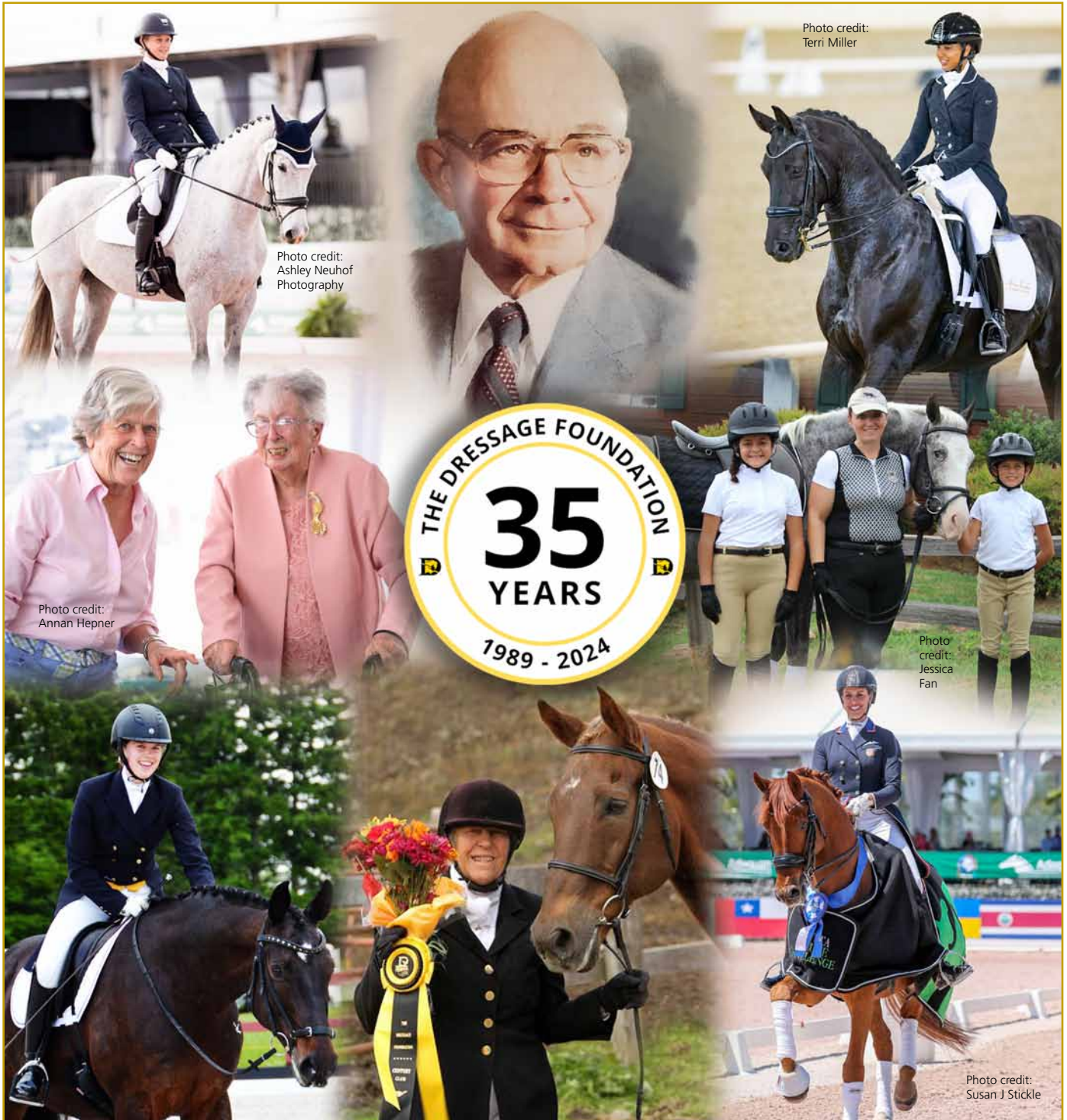


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The Dressage Foundation

News ▶

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Message From TDF President & CEO, Beth Baumert



The Dressage Foundation (TDF) is in its 35th year and stronger than ever. Our founder Lowell Boomer, seen on the front page of this newsletter, is smiling down on us. I'm quite sure he is pleased. The strength of his organization is reflected in these pages that recognize the journeys of grant recipients and the stories of the many donors who enabled those journeys and give TDF that strength.

All the greatness that we see throughout these pages evolved because of donors, and gratitude abounds. However, there's more to do. Lowell Boomer couldn't have expected the stumbling blocks that we're seeing in this country. Who would think that riding schools would be having trouble surviving? Who would anticipate a country in which you might have to own a horse in order to be with one and learn to ride one? This riding school issue isn't just a grassroots problem, because it is reflected in the lack of depth at the top where there's a scarcity of Grand Prix contenders for international competitions. In Europe, people of all ages have multiple options when it comes to where they might ride dressage. So those European riding populations

are actually exponentially larger than the riding population in this very large country.

Recently your board gathered in Connecticut over three days to work on this challenge as well as others. You can find board members and staff names on this page (left), and I hope you find some people you know or wish to contact. These folks hail from California, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Virginia, Florida, Washington and of course our home base in Nebraska. We invite you to join us as we try to build on our strengths and search for solutions to our sport's challenges. It was Margaret Mead who said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." That's what we're counting on. Everyone is important—volunteers and donors large and small. Thank you for being a part of TDF's thoughtful, committed group!

Cheers,

Beth Baumert



ON THE COVER: Clockwise from top center: TDF Founder Lowell Boomer; Grant recipient Genay Vaughn; Grant recipient Cara Barker Yellott with students; Grant recipient Jennifer Williams; Century Club member Joan Shapleigh; YR Dream Program participant Anna Graves; Donors Carol Lavell and Dr. Anne Barlow Ramsay in 2019; Grant Recipient Charlotte Merle-Smith



– Celebrating 35 Years –

TDF Through the Years

As we look back on The Dressage Foundation's past 35 years, we're proud to continue the mission that Lowell Boomer put into place when he founded TDF in 1989.

Thanks to the generosity of many, TDF has consistently grown through the years, increasing the financial support that is available to those who are dedicated to dressage.

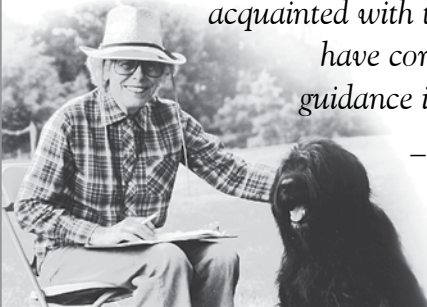
While there have been many successes in the past three-plus decades, notable achievements include:

1989 TDF was established in Lincoln, Nebraska, by Lowell Boomer.

1991 First annual meeting held in Lincoln.

1995 Violet Hopkins Fund was created to support educational events organized by USDF's nationwide Group Member Organizations.

"It is imperative for those who wish to become acquainted with the sport of riding to have correct, knowledgeable guidance in their instruction."



– Violet Hopkins, regarding her Grant Fund to support educational events

1996 Century Club was formed at the suggestion of Dr. Max Gahwyler to honor senior riders and horses, and to encourage their continuation in the sport.

2000 Michael Poulin proposed the Young Rider European Training/Education Program and the inaugural trip to Europe was held. This is now known as our Dream Program.

2003 Gifted Memorial Fund for Adult Amateurs awarded its first grants.

2008-2009 First \$25,000 Anne Barlow-Ramsay Grant for U.S.-Bred Horses and \$25,000 Carol Lavell Advanced Dressage Prize were awarded.

2010 Donations enabled TDF to purchase a permanent office space in Lincoln, Nebraska.

2017 Boomer Family Fund was established to provide future organizational support for TDF.

2018-2019 TDF expands grants to support Western dressage and para-dressage riders.

2021 \$25,000 Debbie McDonald FEI Rider Fund established.

2024 Record amount of grants will be awarded!



– Celebrating 35 Years –

Where Are They Now?

Catching Up with Past Grant Recipients



Adrienne Lyle (second from right) as part of the 2005 Young Rider trip to Europe

A Story of Success and Giving Back

Adrienne Lyle’s journey to becoming one of the top U.S. dressage riders is a story of talent, dedication, and support from the U.S. dressage community. TDF has been proud to help Adrienne at different points in her career, providing opportunities to help her succeed. Today, Adrienne not only shines as a top rider, but also knows the importance of giving back and helping others.

TDF first met Adrienne Lyle in 2005, when she was selected to participate in our Young Rider Dream Program trip to Europe. Adrienne returned from that trip with big goals and dreams.

Over the next several years, Adrienne worked hard to hone her skills and rise to the top of the sport, which led to her being selected for Team USA at the 2012 Olympic Games. Then TDF had the opportunity to help Adrienne in 2018 with a grant from our Dr. Anne Barlow-Ramsay Fund for U.S. Bred Horses. With that financial

support, she trained and competed Harmony’s Duval in Europe.

These opportunities helped expand Adrienne’s knowledge, giving her the experience needed to compete successfully on the dressage world’s biggest stages. Now, twice within the past three years, we’ve been proud to cheer for Adrienne as a member of two U.S. Olympic Teams.

The story doesn’t stop there, because Adrienne recognizes the importance of paying it forward to help others. One way that she gives back to the dressage community is by donating her time to our Young Rider Dream Program, the same program she participated in nearly two decades ago.

Adrienne said, “The Dressage Foundation is truly a game changer for many aspiring riders! Their generous grants help bridge the gap from dreams to reality. TDF has helped me tremendously in my career, giving me the opportunity to experience first-hand, top international dressage in Europe, which opened my eyes to what exactly my goals and aspirations were. Thank you, TDF!”

We are proud of grant recipients like Adrienne, who work hard to reach their own goals, then help others do the same.



Adrienne Lyle with the 2024 Young Rider Dream Program in Wellington





– Celebrating 35 Years –

Where Are They Now?

Catching Up with Past Grant Recipients

Advancing Through Education

When Sarah Geikie applied for TDF's Major Anders Lindgren Grant in 2011, she was already a successful Grand Prix dressage rider, popular instructor/trainer, and FEI judge. Even with that success, Sarah knew the importance of continuing her education to not only help her students, but to reach her personal goals.

Sarah said, "I was shocked and excited beyond belief when I was awarded the grant to further my education. At that time, I had an active farm with many clients and horses that I was responsible for. In addition, I had a family. It was the support of my wonderful husband and clients that made it possible for me to travel to Florida for the training. I knew that the knowledge I gained from this experience would be transferred to my students and horses."

Thanks to the funding from TDF, Sarah was able to train with Kathy Connelly in Florida for six weeks. She said, "The opportunity to train intensively, without the distractions of normal daily life at home was just what I needed. In Florida, I was able to really concentrate only on my horse and myself.

"Almost every day, I would spend time watching some of the other lessons that Kathy would teach. Debbie McDonald was also based at the farm, so I was able to watch Debbie work with other riders and horses. There was so much to learn just by opening my eyes and ears.

"That was a fantastic trip for me. I went home excited about riding and training, and felt like I had a new lease on my career."


Now, years after Sarah received the TDF grant, she remains as committed as ever to the education of riders across the country. She



Sarah Geikie (center) judging at the 2024 Festival of Champions

is currently co-chair of the USDF Instructor/Trainer Development Program Committee, a USDF Certified Instructor, a USEF 'S' judge, and Level 3 FEI judge. As an instructor, she's taught thousands of riders across the country. As a judge, she's traveled the world.

Sarah's dedication to the dressage community continues in other ways, too. As another way to give back, Sarah joined the Board of Directors of The Dressage Foundation in 2015 and has been part of the organization since then.

"Continuing education is so important to any professional," Sarah recently said. "When you stop learning, you stop growing. I have found throughout my career that as I continued to learn and improve, I not only expanded my skills and communication ability, but also attracted additional clients and students. In a sense, the more you grow through education, the more you are essentially reinventing yourself." 

Where Are They Now?

Catching Up with Past Grant Recipients

THEN AND NOW

Kristi Wysocki (WA) – 2001 USDF Certified Instructor Scholarship recipient

THEN – “I would like to thank The Dressage Foundation for providing the Certified Instructor Scholarship Program. I greatly appreciate the support from the Foundation to further my education as a dressage trainer. I will use these funds to help defray expenses to train in California with Hilda Gurney this spring. I also appreciate the acknowledgement and support from the committee that evaluated the applications and chose me as a recipient. Thanks again for your avid support to continually improve this sport through further education.”

NOW – “One of my greatest passions in life is learning. That, with my love of horses, makes for a perfect match. Every day I get to learn more with these amazing animals. Spending quality time with one of the best horsewomen out there, Hilda Gurney, was a lifetime opportunity. She has taught me so much about riding, training, teaching, and judging. TDF has countless grant opportunities for individuals to seek financial support. There is almost always something out there for everyone!”



Liz Austin (MA) – 2006 Michael Poulin Dressage Fund Grant recipient

THEN – “Receiving the Michael Poulin Fund Grant in 2006 was such a hugely pivotal moment in my career. After winning the

inaugural Brentina Cup on my home-bred, home-trained stallion, Olivier, I was invited to Europe to work with then U.S. Coach Klaus Balkenhol. I had no idea how I would come up with the money (as a 22-year-old!) and so many people stepped in to help and encouraged me

to go for that once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. To receive the support from TDF to fuel what became a phenomenal international career for a home-bred horse was pretty special.”

NOW – “Since then, I’ve coached students to CDI wins, the US Dressage Finals, and many regional awards, as well as having multiple students in the Emerging Athlete, Young Rider, and Young Horse programs. But for me, the biggest reward is showing up every day for my students and teaching them to be better horsemen. I absolutely credit experiences made possible through TDF for a strong barometer of right and wrong in the training and care of horses.”



Liz Austin at the 2006 Brentina Cup



– Celebrating 35 Years –

Where Are They Now?

Catching Up with Past Grant Recipients



2012 Fort Worth Dressage Club camp participants

Fort Worth Dressage Club (TX) – 2006 Violet Hopkins Fund Grant recipient

THEN – “This camp was very successful for our first attempt. The instructor was fantastic and taught lots of theory and explained the Training Pyramid. Next year we need two instructors because several riders were on the waiting list!”

NOW – “The support from TDF has enabled many members to attend our annual camp for nearly 20 years now. With the help of TDF, we have been able to bring in nationally known clinicians and have been able to keep the cost low enough for many of our members to attend. Having three days of instruction has been so beneficial for many of our members, who cannot afford higher-cost events. FWDC is very grateful to TDF for helping us to continue to hold this camp.”

Deborah Howard (VA) – 2009 Gifted Fund Grant for Adult Amateurs recipient

THEN – “I received a grant in 2009 to train with Debbie Rodriguez, a USEF ‘S’ judge. I still smile thinking of that wonderful break in motherhood to pursue my riding skills with Debbie. The Gifted Fund grant was huge for someone like me, who always longed for a horse, but could not afford one until I was 36 years old.

What a great delight and honor that week of training was to me.”

NOW – “I currently have a 19-year-old Morgan and a 9-year-old Andalusian and am planning to compete at

First and Training Levels this year. My Morgan got us into the Training Level winners circle two years ago at the USDF Region 1 Colonel Bengt Ljungquist Memorial Dressage Championships. Between the generous Gifted Fund grant in 2009 and that glorious recent event in 2022, my three children graduated from college and married, and I survived Stage 3 ovarian cancer with the kind support of my husband, Lee. I just cannot thank The Dressage Foundation enough for the support. Please know what a happy difference you make in people’s lives.”



– Celebrating 35 Years –

Decades of Dedication

Longtime donors – those who have supported TDF for decades – have been an integral part of all that we do. Their kindness has helped thousands of dressage enthusiasts across the country and will continue to make a difference for many years. We wouldn't be where we are today without their support!

“The first USDF convention I attended was in 1984. I was introduced to Lowell Boomer who took me under his wing and introduced me to officers and committee members all around the room at the first night's welcome party. When I learned that he was starting The Dressage Foundation in 1989, I thought, ‘That is another good Lowell Boomer idea.’ I think I have been a contributor to TDF pretty much ever since.”
– Alice Martin (IL)



“Lowell Boomer is smiling down on the incredible progress of helping dressage enthusiasts fulfill their dreams. TDF is the epitome of grant/fund giving. Their boundless work has helped dressage to progress light years in a short period of time. An imaginative spark 35 years ago, which kindled into a flame of reality, and will hopefully burn for millennium. Thanks, TDF, for allowing us all to be part of the journey.”
– Bess Bruton (TX)



“The California Dressage Society is proud to be a benefactor to The Dressage Foundation since 1996. CDS appreciates the shared goal of helping the dressage community be supported in their journey to be more educated and enriched riders, trainers, and judges.”



“I have many fond memories of my association with TDF which began in late 1997. It was at the annual meeting of the Nebraska Dressage Association (NDA) that Lowell Boomer approached me, introduced me to his son, John, and asked me to join the Board of TDF. I had known Lowell for several years through his work with NDA. I was extremely honored to join the Board of TDF and to become associated with some of the greatest members of the equestrian community. The highlight of my association with TDF was being selected to serve as President and CEO in 2010. I continued serving TDF in that role till my retirement in 2012. I was especially pleased to assist in creating the Dancing Horse Fund and to secure Platinum Performance's sponsorship of the Century Club. My compliments to Jenny Johnson and the TDF staff members and the current TDF Board for a job well done!” – Clay Teske (NE)



TDF Board members in 2010 – left to right – Barbara Cadwell, Clay Teske, Vivien Bobo, Judith Noone, Maryal Barnett, Lowell Boomer, Michael Matson, Eliza Sydnor-Romm, Major General Jonathan Burton, John Boomer



– Celebrating 35 Years –

TDF's Top Lifetime Donors

The donors listed below have an extraordinary distinction among our supporters; they are The Dressage Foundation's top lifetime donors. Their incredible generosity, past and present, has a lasting ripple effect, ensuring that U.S. dressage thrives for years to come.

TDF's Top Lifetime Donors (listed alphabetically)

Lois Arnold*
 Estate of Cynthia Aspden*
 Dr. Anne L. Barlow-Ramsay*
 Maryal Barnett
 Beth and Alan Baumert
 Lowell Boomer*
 Gordon and May Cadwgan Foundation*
 Ralph and Freddie Dreitzler
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 Carol and Tom Lavell*
 Jane C. MacElree Family Foundation
 Deena McClain
 Mary Anne and Walter McPhail
 Margaret Meeker
 O.D. Fisher Charitable Foundation
 Oregon Dressage Society
 Lynn Palm

Karin Reid-Offield
 Rhett Savoie
 Joseph Tate
 Jean Vinios
 Zacharie and Louis Vinios
 Estate of Ronald Anthony Woodcock*
 Martha Wolfson*
 Anonymous

**Honored Posthumously*

“Since the beginning, TDF has always been there for the riders of our sport to help them in their educational endeavors, and will always do so. It is a pleasure to support this organization.”

– Ralph Dreitzler (WA)



– Celebrating 35 Years –

The Incredible Titleist: *From Gifted Fund to Century Club*

IN 2012, Cean Embrey (TX) received TDF's Gifted Memorial Fund for Adult Amateurs Grant to support training for her and her then



12-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding, Titleist. Titleist was not just any horse; he was literally born into Cean's arms. Cean recalls, "Titleist's momma gave birth to him standing up. I caught him in mid-air, falling backwards, and

the weight of this slimy newborn foal pinned me to the ground. When this adorable, wet, trembling foal lying heavy across my chest looked into my eyes, it was love at first sight. We immediately bonded deeply."

Under the guidance of Cean's longtime trainer, Carol Schmickrath, Cean raised, trained, and competed with Titleist through the levels. From Training Level through Fourth Level, the pair consistently ranked in the top 20 for Adult Amateurs in the country. Then, with the support of TDF's Gifted Memorial Fund grant in 2012, Cean and Titleist trained intensively to prepare for their Prix St. Georges debut. Their debut was both a learning experience and a success, with Cean pleased by their score of 63.7%.

Titleist and Cean continued progressing up to Grand Prix, and in 2019, they achieved their USDF gold medal. When it was time for Titleist to retire from the show ring, he went to live with Carol, where he became a beloved schoolmaster. Carol describes her relationship with Titleist

as embodying "the very essence of dressage, one of paying it forward."

For a final hurrah, on a beautiful June 2024 evening, Titleist carried Carol through a Grand Prix test to join the Century Club together. The ride was part of a larger event, "Starlight Symphony with a Side of Dressage," where a packed arena enjoyed live symphony music and multiple dressage performances. Cean said, "Carol and Titleist were graceful, elegant, beautiful, relaxed, happy, and the whole Grand Prix ride flowed so peacefully and freely."

After the ride, Cean said, "A crowd gathered at the gate as Carol and Titleist exited the arena, showering them with compliments and asking for photos. Kids wanted to pet Titleist's nose, and everyone was smiling." For Cean, Carol, and many others, it was a magical night and an opportunity to celebrate a truly special horse.

Just a month after that unforgettable evening, Cean and Carol discovered that Titleist had passed away peacefully overnight. In his 24 years, Titleist left a lasting impact on everyone who knew and loved him. He was the horse of a lifetime.



Cean and Carol
with Titleist



- Celebrating 35 Years -

All About the Century Club

SINCE 1996, TDF’s Century Club hasn’t just honored the senior riders and horses of our sport—it has celebrated wisdom, experience, and love of horses.

The Century Club is special because it welcomes riders and horses with various backgrounds and experiences. Some members have been riding their whole lives, while others took their first riding lesson in their 70s. Some have spent years working to master dressage, while others ride down the centerline for the very first time to join the Club.

The horse teammates are just as diverse. From Warmbloods, to Quarter Horses, to Arabians, the Century Club welcomes all breeds. There are former Grand Prix dressage stars, racehorses who were a bit too slow to win, lesson horses, hunter/jumpers, and team penners.

This inclusivity reflects what dressage is all about—the special bond between horse and rider.

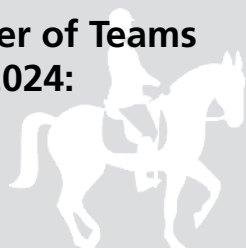
The stories of Century Club members inspire younger generations and show that dressage is a sport for a lifetime, and a sport for all. As the Century Club continues to grow, so does its legacy, and we’re proud to be part of it.

Inaugural Year:

1996

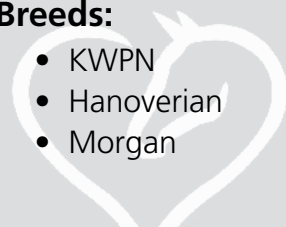
Total Number of Teams as of 9/30/2024:

822



Most Popular Breeds:

- Arabian and Half Arabian
- Quarter Horse
- Thoroughbred
- KWPN
- Hanoverian
- Morgan



Oldest Rider: 95 years old

Ginny Wegener (CO)
Team #368 in 2018
with Solveig

Photo credit: Dry Photography

Oldest Horses: 37 years old

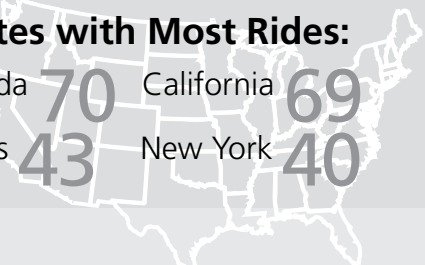
- Bit O Honey (Morgan) - Team #270 in 2016 with Leona Dushin (NY)
- River Jordan (Percheron/Morgan) - Team #312 in 2017 with Diane Childs (MN)
- Duello (Hanoverian/Thoroughbred) - Team #385 in 2019 with Deb Hollis (NC)

Oldest Combination: 127 years

Team #270 in 2016 – Leona Dushin (age 90) and Bit O Honey (age 37) from NY

States with Most Rides:

Florida **70** California **69**
Texas **43** New York **40**



Number of States with a Century Club Member:

46

Number of Western Dressage Tests:



Wellington Welcomes the 2024 Young Rider Dream Program

In January 2024, Margaret Duprey along with other donors, enabled five young riders to have the experience of a lifetime with their first trip to Wellington, Florida, as part of this year's Young Rider Dream Program!

Bella Perkins (NY), Caroline Colby (NH), Chloe Roth (SC), Katie Staib (PA), and Kylia Baker (CA) were accompanied by chaperone Kelly Irving-Burris (WA). The group learned from top professionals including Olympians Adrienne Lyle and Rebecca Hart; they visited numerous barns; and thanks to the generosity of Adequan, had front row seats at the Adequan Global Dressage Festival.

The young riders shared some key take-aways from the week:

Equine Industry Relationships

- It is important to foster healthy relationships within the dressage industry. We frequently heard the phrase, "don't burn bridges." It is important that you not only build connections but keep them.

- It was evident that the trainers we met not only work hard, but work with integrity, humility, and kindness. These traits are key to having successful careers and relationships with others in the industry.
- People, clients, horses, and teammates will come in and out of your life, and you never know what good will come out of any situation.

Sponsorships and Partnerships

- Align yourself with good, ethical people.
- It is important to keep sponsors involved in the training process to ensure everyone is on the same page.
- Understand everyone's goals and be sure that you share similar ideals regarding training, showing, and horse care.

Horse Care

- The relationship between a horse and rider is special and unique. A strong relationship is crucial to success.

2024 Dream Program group with Sara Hassler and Scott Hassler



Photo credit:
Bethany P Photography



Dream Program group with Paralympian Rebecca Hart

- All the trainers showed dedication to their horses' welfare through their training styles, scheduling, and care. Between frequent walk breaks, diversifying the training, and therapies, the trainers ensure that their horses are both physically and mentally balanced.
- Spending time with your horse prior to a training session helps you understand how your horse feels that day. This allows you to better plan for the ride.

Work/Life Balance

- A career in the equine industry is a "lifestyle and not just a job."
- Set clear expectations for clients from the start, such as setting office hours and requiring prompt lesson times. This will help set healthy boundaries between home life and work life.

Competitors

- It can be easy to become discouraged by seeing the success of others on social media. However, patience is crucial because your horse's needs are above all else.
- It takes collaboration and working with others to succeed.
- "Until it is my turn, I will keep clapping for others."

Training vs. Coaching

- Training occurs when a concept is being explained or demonstrated. It is the passing of knowledge on to another party.
- As riders grow, training should ideally start to take less and less precedence while coaching becomes more prominent.
- Coaching is focused on helping riders find the right answer rather than giving it to them, which increases their confidence in their skills and ability to apply those skills.
- It is our responsibility, as professionals (either aspiring or established), to teach our students how to be independent of us and develop confidence and understanding in their feel and ability.

Following the trip, Kyla Baker said, "This one-of-a-kind program afforded me so many spectacular networking and educational opportunities. The professional and personal connections I have made on this trip astound me and I am so excited to get started on the rest of my dressage journey!"

The Dream Program is heading back to Aachen, Germany!

In July 2025, TDF will once again take a group of top young professionals to the CHIO Aachen, where they will learn from some of the best riders, trainers, and judges in the world.

The 2025 Aachen Dream Program is open to riders age 21-25 who have trained and competed at 4th Level or above. Applications are due January 15, 2025, and can be found at

www.dressagefoundation.org.





Building U.S. Dressage Through Your Generosity

Thanks to your support, the following grants and programs are offered each year.

FEI/HIGH PERFORMANCE TEAMS

- \$25,000 Anne Barlow Ramsay Grant for U.S.-Bred Horses
- \$25,000 Carol Lavell Advanced Dressage Prize
- \$25,000 Debbie McDonald Fund for FEI Riders
- Patsy Albers Award



Debbie McDonald Fund for FEI Riders recipient Michelle Haefer

Photo credit: Ella Chedester Photography

JUDGES

- Mary Anne and Walter McPhail Fund for Judge Education
- Shannon Foundation Fund for Judges' Licensing
- Trip Harting Fund for Pony Club Members and Graduates

Judges group that was supported by the McPhail Fund for Judge Education



Jane Savoie Adult Amateur Fund recipient Caryn Vesperman

Photo credit: John Borys Photography

ADULT AMATEURS

- Gifted Memorial Fund
- Jane Savoie Adult Amateur Fund
- Evie Tumlin Fund for Region 9
- Lynn Palm Western Dressage Fund
- Military Grant Fund

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

- Young Rider Dream Program
- Amanda Johnson Freestyle Fund
- Carolyn Van Cise Fund for Michigan Residents
- Cynthia Aspden Fund for Youth and Young Adults
- Jack Fritz Grants for the YR Graduate Program
- Lynn Palm Western Dressage Fund
- Military Grant Fund
- Trip Harting Fund for Pony Club Members and Graduates
- USDF FEI Youth Clinic Series
- USDF Young Rider Graduate Program



INSTRUCTORS

- Amanda Johnson Freestyle Fund
- George Williams Young Professional Fund
- Karen Skvarla Fund for Emerging Professionals
- Lynn Palm Western Dressage Fund
- Major Lindgren Instructor Education Grants
- Maryal and Charlie Barnett Fund for Instructors
- Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award
- Team Tate Mentorship and Leadership Fund
- Trip Harting Fund for Pony Club Members and Graduates
- Verne Batchelder Instructor Fund

PARA-EQUESTRIAN

- Para-Equestrian Dressage Fund
- Para-Equestrian Dressage Fund for Blind and Visually Impaired Riders



Para Dressage Fund for Blind and Visually Impaired Riders recipient Mathieu Martinez

Violet Hopkins Fund for GMO Events recipient – Central TX Dressage Society

SHOW MANAGEMENT

- Lloyd Landkamer Show Management Development Fund

DRESSAGE TECHNICAL DELEGATES

- Veronica Holt Dressage Technical Delegate Fund

BREED- SPECIFIC

- Pure Spanish Horse/P.R.E. Grant Fund



Pure Spanish Horse/P.R.E. Grant Fund recipient Kathryn Poulin and Cariñoso CA

Photo credit: Susan J Stickle

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

- Dancing Horse Fund for Freestyle Events
- Dreitzler International Clinician Fund
- Edgar Hotz Fund for Judges' Education
- Lynn Palm Western Dressage Fund
- Michael Poulin Dressage Fund
- Oregon Dressage Society Linda Acheson Fund
- Sally Swift Fund for Centered Riding clinics
- Violet Hopkins Fund for GMO Events

CENTURY CLUB

- Recognizing the seniors of our sport



Why I Give

Donations come to TDF in all sizes and in many ways. We are grateful for the donors who support the U.S. dressage community through TDF!

A few wonderful donors recently shared why they support TDF...

“Something that has always been an important issue to Jeff and I is to help provide dedicated and hard-working individuals the opportunity to pursue their dreams. The Dressage Foundation is a wonderful



organization that also provides opportunities for so many deserving individuals to pursue their goals in the sport of dressage. We are so proud to support The Dressage Foundation and the chance they give others to help make their dreams come true!”

– Jessica and Jeff Friedrich (FL)

“I think The Dressage Foundation does a great job of promoting the discipline of dressage. I know that ongoing support is crucial for nonprofit organizations, so that’s why I support TDF with a monthly donation instead of an occasional check. I love that I can help provide Century Club ribbons and plaques to fellow members!”

– Marilyn Cantey (CA)



“I think it’s so important to support others in our community. I know many people who would love to be able to receive more lessons or compete more often, but financially it’s really difficult. I have been fortunate to receive support from TDF and now my goal is to give back so other riders can receive financial help on their journey, just as I have.”

– Rebekah Mingari-Stought (OH)



“The most wonderful thing about The Dressage Foundation is that one person can have a kernel of an idea and round up a few friends to join in to start the ball rolling. Very soon the staff of TDF has addressed all of the details necessary to allow anyone interested to invest in making ‘it’ a reality! What an amazing opportunity to support the sport of dressage and the passions of the people who love it! From USDF Programs, Licensed Officials Education support, Young Riders to Adult Amateur programs and a host of other funds and grants from which to choose, I encourage everyone to include The Dressage Foundation in their annual giving plans.”

– Lisa Gorretta (OH) 





Ways to Give

Would you like to help riders reach their goals and realize their dreams? You can start or continue to be part of that amazing story. Here are a few ideas of how to donate to TDF:

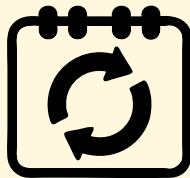
Donate Now

Give by

- > Cash, Check
- > Credit Card
- > Gifts of Stock
- > From your Donor-Advised Fund



- > To donate online, scan the QR code or visit www.dressagefoundation.org



Become a Sustaining Partner with a Monthly Gift

Donate a small amount each month and make a big impact!

From Your IRA

If you're required to take a minimum distribution from your IRA, consider the IRA charitable rollover.



Give to the Book of Memory

Remember or honor your friends with gifts in their names.

Leave a Legacy

Planning a legacy gift now will provide for the future of our sport.



For information on supporting TDF in any of these ways, please contact Jenny Johnson, Executive Director, at (402) 434-8585 or jenny@dressagefoundation.org, or visit www.dressagefoundation.org.



Donor Laurie Saldana-Rich (left) with Grant Recipient Jaclyn Pepper-Millard

“Thank you to the donors who make life-changing opportunities possible for those of us in the dressage community!”

– Jaclyn Pepper-Millard,
Grant Recipient



Fun Ways to Support TDF!

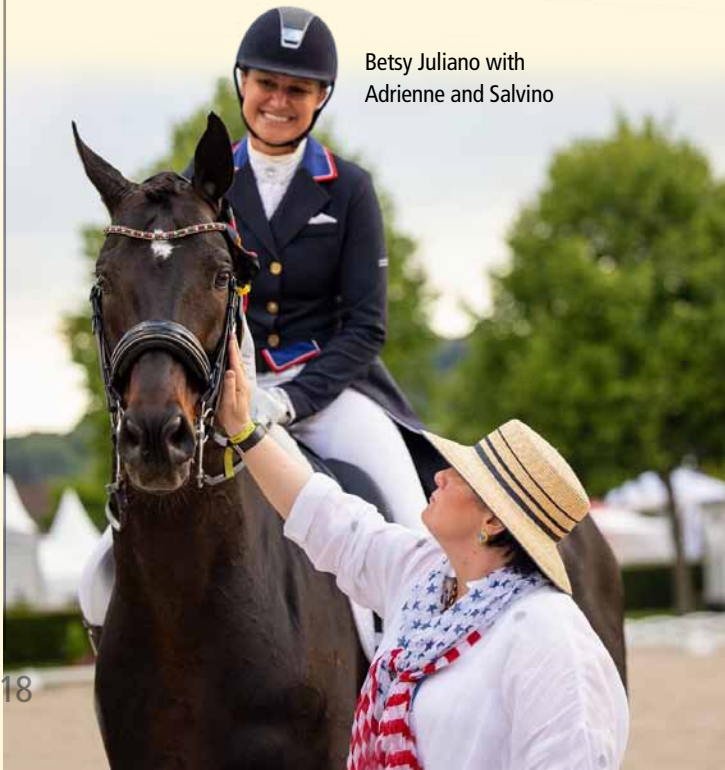
Breyer's New Salvino Model to Benefit The Dressage Foundation

This summer, a new model of Salvino was released as one of the newest additions to the Breyer stable! At the request of Betsy Juliano, longtime supporter of The Dressage Foundation, Breyer Horses will donate one dollar of every purchase of the newly released Salvino model to TDF.



Salvino, owned by Betsy Juliano, had a remarkable competitive career under the skilled guidance of rider Adrienne Lyle. Together they achieved significant success, including winning the Team Silver medal at the 2020 Summer Olympic Games. Salvino's legacy will now be perpetuated through his Breyer model, ensuring that his achievements and impact on the equestrian world are celebrated for generations to come.

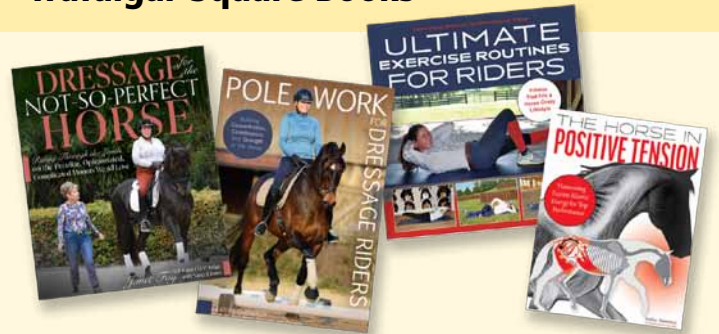
Betsy Juliano with Adrienne and Salvino



Betsy said, "I support TDF because its programs provide opportunities for amateurs as well as professionals, including Adrienne. During his performance career, Salvino surpassed all of our expectations. TDF helps riders surpass theirs."

To purchase a Salvino Breyer Horse, please visit your favorite local retailer or go to www.breyerhorses.com.

Boost your Equestrian Library and Support TDF with a Purchase from Trafalgar Square Books



TRAFALGAR SQUARE BOOKS

It's almost that time of year for those of you in the cold states...time to curl up in front of the fireplace with a good book! When you purchase your next book through Trafalgar Square Books, use the link or QR code below and a portion of your purchase will be donated to The Dressage Foundation!

Scan this QR code to shop now:





35 for 35: We Invite You to Become a Monthly Donor

In celebration of our 35th anniversary, we would love to add or upgrade 35 monthly donors!

Becoming a monthly donor is an easy way to give to TDF and watch your donations grow into big things!

Donate at www.dressagefoundation.org or scan this QR code:



“After receiving a grant from The Dressage Foundation, I understood how TDF’s support makes a difference and wanted to pay it forward! I imagined that only thousands of dollars made a difference. However, I realized that small monthly donations add up. Giving a small amount monthly is an easy way for anyone to contribute. TDF is such an important resource for the dressage community! Please join me in helping riders with a monthly donation to TDF!”

– 2023 Carol Lavell Advanced Dressage Recipient, Ali Potasky and INXS (KY)



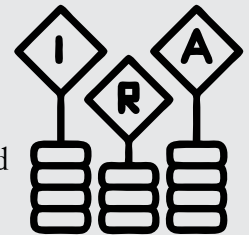
Photo credit:
Lisa Michelle Photography

More Ways to Help

The stories you’ve read in this newsletter have been possible because of many gifts received throughout the years. Some gifts have taken some planning, and some have been given in a more “outright” way with cash or stock. Here are a couple of giving ideas to consider as we enter the end of the year:

IRA Distributions

Are you required to take a minimum distribution from your IRA? The IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution will allow you to make a tax-free charitable gift directly from your IRA to an eligible charity such as The Dressage Foundation. The funds must be transferred by your plan administrator directly to TDF to qualify.



Gifts of Stock

Would you like to avoid capital gains taxes, receive an income tax deduction, and help the sport you love? Donating stock may be better than donating cash!

Jenny Johnson, Executive Director, can provide your IRA plan administrator or stockbroker with instructions on making these gifts to TDF. She can be reached at (402) 434-8585 or jenny@dressagefoundation.org.



TDF encourages you to contact your attorney and/or financial planner for legal, financial, or tax advice regarding these types of gifts.





TDF's Legacy Society

THE LEGACY SOCIETY honors and thanks supporters who include TDF in their Will or estate plan, or who establish a gift with TDF that provides income for life (Gift Annuities, Charitable Remainder Trusts). Through their generosity, TDF's Legacy Society members are ensuring that the sport they love will continue to grow and thrive for years to come.

We would like to extend a special welcome to our newest Legacy Society Members:

- Bess Bruton
- Judith C. Fiorentino* and BG (USA Ret) Bill Fiorentino
- Rebecca Hafner-Fogarty
- Janet (Dolly) Hannon
- Gretchen Scott-Moore and Jeff Moore



Legacy Society Members

Founding Members – The Boomer Family



Lowell and Gladys Boomer*

John and Lynn Boomer* Jim and Lois Boomer*

- Carol Alonso
- Lois Arnold*
- Cynthia Aspden*
- Dr. Anne Barlow Ramsay*
- Maryal Barnett
- Karen Blake
- Bess Bruton
- Barbara Cadwell
- Gordon and May Cadwgan*
- Cyndi Craig
- Ralph and Freddie Dreitzler
- Joan Ehnlé

- Judith C. Fiorentino* and BG (USA Ret) Bill Fiorentino
- Dr. Max and Doris Gahwyler*
- Lendon Gray
- Rebecca Hafner-Fogarty
- Cathy and Max Hall
- Janet (Dolly) Hannon
- Violet Hopkins*
- Nancy Hutson and Ian Williams
- Jenny and Jason Johnson
- Shirley Jones*
- Michelle and Alfred King
- Lazelle Knocke*

- Linda and Edward Lambert
- Carol and Tom Lavell*
- Michael Matson
- Sophie Pirie
- Linda Rands
- Mike and Kathy Rowse
- Gretchen Scott-Moore and Jeff Moore
- Charli Stevens and W. Craig Geil
- Anne Sushko
- Martha Wolfson*
- Ronald Woodcock*

**Honored Posthumously*

Is The Dressage Foundation named in your Will? Please let us know, even if you wish to remain anonymous, so we can thank you personally and speak with you about how your gift will make a lasting impact on the sport you love.

If you have not yet included TDF in your plans, we invite you to join TDF's Legacy Society! Please contact Jenny Johnson, TDF's Executive Director, at (402) 434-8585 or jenny@dressagefoundation.org to discuss your legacy gift.





Leaving a Legacy

The Story of Judith C. Fiorentino and BG (USA Ret) Bill Fiorentino

When Judith Fiorentino joined our Century Club in 2014, she claimed that she was 30 years old and her beloved horse, Goliath, was 70. Her husband, Bill, recalls someone in the audience saying that the horse looked really good for his age!

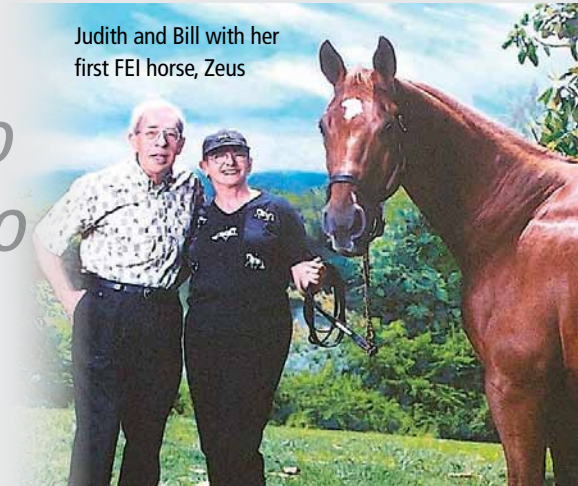
That Century Club ride was the culmination of decades of riding experiences and education. From spending her childhood riding a pony named Trigger, to fox hunting and eventing, then finally to becoming a “dressage queen,” Judith’s equestrian life was all about learning and teaching others.

Along for the ride was Bill, who (with a twinkle in his eye and smile on his face) said, “My role was to do whatever she needed, but mostly stay out of her way.”

When Bill and Judith started Steel Prize Stables in Alabama, Judith became a sought-after instructor for both youth and adults. Bill said, “I think her favorite things were the thrill of competition and the joy of watching her students advance in their riding skills. Seeing them compete successfully probably didn’t hurt either. Having said that, it is important to know that she had several students who announced early on that they would never show, and that was okay with Judith as long as those students still worked hard on improving their riding.”

As the years went on, Judith gained her own success in the arena, earning her USDF silver medal aboard Zeus and her gold medal aboard Goliath. As a capstone to all her achievements, Judith and Goliath joined the Century Club as Team #177 in 2014.

Judith and Bill with her first FEI horse, Zeus



At the time of her Century Club ride, Judith said,

“I am first and foremost a teacher and it is my job to teach the joys of riding and barn-keeping to create better horse managers. I am justifiably proud of the many students who have gone on to achieve great things—not just in the horse world, but also in life in general. A teacher can have no greater reward.”

When Judith passed away in 2020, one of her students said, “The dressage world is richer for having had Judith in our midst. She has left a legacy through her teaching, her support of educational programs, and her comradely support of fellow competitors.”

Judith’s legacy will not only live on through her students, but also through TDF’s new “Judith C. Fiorentino Educational Fund,” which will help provide educational opportunities to instructors who primarily teach low- to mid-level adult dressage riders.

Bill said, “Judith’s core philosophy was that, while her students were important, the horse was her top priority. This led to her putting a provision in her Will that an endowed scholarship be established to help ensure that her philosophy would go on.”

It is truly an honor for The Dressage Foundation to be the home of the Judith C. Fiorentino Educational Fund, which will help the next generation of dressage instructors in her memory.



TDF's Book of Memory & Honor

Honoring Dressage Friends—Past and Present

TDF'S BOOK OF MEMORY & HONOR is a way for you to remember dressage enthusiasts who have passed away, to honor living dressage friends, or to give special recognition to retired or deceased horses. A donation to the Book of Memory & Honor will provide a lasting tribute to your devoted dressage friends.

The following individuals and horses have been added to the Book of Memory & Honor from October 2023-September 2024.



Carter Bass
on Gossamer

In Memory of Dressage Enthusiasts	In Memory or in Honor of Equine Friends
Carter Bass Verne Batchelder Sue Curry Jeni Gaffney Carol Lavell Jane Savoie	Aspen, owned by Sandra Hyde Claudia, owned by Mary Weathers Helio, owned by Nanette Meek Mouse, owned by Sally Baker
In Honor of Living Dressage Friends	
Maryal Barnett Chris Cashel Cayuga Dressage Club Michell Combs Robert Gaebel Dr. Roxanne Jewell Deborah Leighton Heather & Michael Petersen Carol Schmickrath	Nyzielster Boy, owned by Elizabeth Wenner Rakker, owned by Judy B. Kelley Richthofen 7, owned by Judy Ethell Ruby Tuesday, owned by Kristine Downs Sandrina, owned by Sally Alksnis

We invite you to visit our online Book of Memory & Honor for the names of all those who have been honored through the years. It can be viewed at www.dressagefoundation.org. Click on "Ways to Give" then "Book of Memory & Honor."



TDF's Travels

TDF's staff and Board members love to step out of the office (and the barn!) to visit dressage friends across the country!



November 2023 US Dressage Finals in Kentucky – TDF's Jenny Johnson, Kimberly Tebrugge, and Sara Weiss



December 2023 USDF Convention in Omaha – TDF's Jenny Johnson presented "The Piaffe: Carol Lavell and Gifted" to USDF's President, George Williams, on behalf of Carol Lavell's family



December 2023 Ingrid Klimke Masterclass in California – TDF Treasurer, Ryan Shumacher, with Barbara, the winner of TDF's free drawing giveaway



January 2024 in Wellington – TDF's Beth Baumert, Jenny Johnson, Sara Weiss, and Kimberly Tebrugge celebrate Mrs. Ann Romney's Century Club ride with her husband, Senator Mitt Romney, and friends



January 2024 Young Rider Dream Program in Wellington – TDF President & CEO, Beth Baumert, and TDF Board Chair, Lendon Gray, with the 2024 Dream Program participants and chaperones



June 2024 USDF Instructor Trainer Development Program in Nebraska – TDF's Jenny Johnson and Sara Weiss with Jane Fucinaro, Sarah Geikie, and Heidi Chote

August 2024 Festival of Champions in Illinois – TDF's Sara Weiss and Jenny Johnson with 2024 Para Dressage National Champion, Ellie Brimmer





The Dressage Foundation
1314 'O' Street, Suite 305
Lincoln, NE 68508



*“I cannot express enough gratitude for receiving the honor of a George Williams Young Professionals grant. It’s an incredible opportunity to continue growing as a professional and expanding my knowledge further. Taking what I learn and applying it to my training horses and clients at home in Illinois is an invaluable resource for me. **Thank you to TDF and its donors for the ability to provide this amazing grant that will not only allow me to develop myself and my horses, but also be able to fulfill my dreams.**”*

– Brittany Burson (IL),
recipient of a George Williams Fund
Grant for Young Professionals