



The Dressage
Foundation

News



Building U.S. Dressage Through Your Generosity

2025 SPRING EDITION

The Dressage Foundation

**Approaches
\$2 Million**

in First Phase of "Impulsion:
Forward to the Future" Campaign



Jennifer Williams. Photo: Rahda Higgins Photography.



The Dressage
Foundation

News ►

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Message From TDF President & CEO, Beth Baumert



Dear TDF Friends!

The first time I saw a dressage horse, I was stunned. It was back in the 1970s and I had never seen such balance and harmony on horseback. I was instantly hooked on this sport called dressage.

I'm hooked on The Dressage Foundation (TDF) for the same reason—it helps promote harmony and balance with the most beautiful creature on earth. I love that, not only for its innate value, but it seems that people tend to live their lives in the same way that they ride their horses—which is fascinating in itself, and makes the pursuit of strengthening our sport all the more worthy and compelling.

As the cost of horse ownership soars, our industry is being challenged as never before. We see it at the grassroots level as riding schools close and boarding stables sell off their school horses. Many potential horse lovers just don't have access to our sport. We see it at the very top as our country tries to field competitive teams for international competitions. We need to broaden the field at the bottom as well as the top.

The Dressage Foundation is needed more than ever. As a result, your TDF Board of Directors is working diligently on the "Impulsion Campaign." The purpose of this campaign is not to improve grants or programs but rather to ensure that The Dressage Foundation itself—as an organization—will be operationally sound far into the future and be in a position to broaden its reach and impact.

This is a call to action. Please read about our ideas on the following pages and give us your feedback. Consider participating as a donor to join the growing group of "Impulsion Donors" who are bringing TDF to the next level. The goal is \$2 million and we ask you to please help if you are able.

Thank you so much for being a part of the TDF team!

Beth Baumert
TDF President & CEO 

TDF'S MISSION is to cultivate and provide financial support for the advancement of dressage in the United States.

TDF'S VISION is that the generosity of many will allow the financial barriers of our sport to be reduced, so that every aspect of U. S. dressage will grow and succeed locally, nationally and internationally, through the help and guidance of individuals and organizations who are passionately promoting classical dressage principles.





Impulsion: Forward to the Future!

The Dressage Foundation (TDF) proudly announces the launch of our Impulsion: Forward to the Future Campaign, aimed at raising \$2 million to strengthen and secure the organization's infrastructure.

Built on a Strong Foundation

For over 35 years, TDF has helped make dressage accessible to passionate equestrians, regardless of their means. Grants are available at all levels of the sport for adult amateurs, breeders, youth, high performance riders, instructors, judges—and everyone in between.

Throughout the years, millions of dollars have been awarded in support of the U.S. dressage community, impacting thousands of equestrians in all 50 states.

One Big Idea

The Impulsion Campaign aims to strengthen our sport by building an unrestricted endowment fund that will ensure the management of TDF's important work for generations to come.

The Goal: \$2 Million to Strengthen TDF as a Whole

Phase One of TDF's Impulsion: Forward to the Future Campaign is designed to fortify TDF's infrastructure to ensure its ability to meet the increasing needs of the dressage community.

Building an unrestricted endowment in Phase One will allow TDF to make important strides toward its Phase Two goal of significantly expanding grants and programs.

As of today, the generous Campaign Leadership Donors shown on page five have contributed over \$1.5 million toward the \$2 million goal! Join the growing group of Impulsion Campaign donors who are bringing TDF to the next level!



Photo Credit: Susan J Stickle

"I supported TDF's Impulsion Campaign because I value this organization and its mission. I believe in TDF's capacity to make a difference for many different facets of the sport I love so much, and I know their staff and Board are very capable, competent, and committed. With this gift, I hope to be part of a group who enables TDF to operate without the need to fund-raise annually and instead focus on grant making for the dressage community."

— Gardy Bloemers



Grant recipient Marie Morgan (TX), photo by Moonfyre Photography.

You Lead Us Forward

Donor support of our Impulsion Campaign will enable TDF to continue its mission.

Currently, the funds that cover most of TDF's operating expenses must be raised every year through unrestricted donations. This inhibits the ability to grow and support more dressage enthusiasts.

The successful completion of raising \$2 million in Phase One of the campaign will:

- Ensure TDF's longevity and stability through the establishment of an unrestricted endowment fund
- Secure TDF's mission, even during challenging economic times
- Broaden TDF's reach

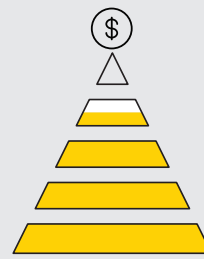
By supporting the Impulsion Campaign, you can ensure that U.S. dressage riders will always have someone in their corner—a community of donors dedicated to their dreams. Will you join our family of Impulsion Campaign donors?



Impulsion Campaign Leadership Donors

Thanks to the Campaign Leadership Donors listed below, over \$1.5 million has been raised toward the Phase One goal of \$2 million in unrestricted endowment and flexible funding to fuel the Foundation's ability to expand its reach.

We invite you to join these donors in support of the Impulsion Campaign. (*Donations received as of 4/1/2025*)



Our goal for Phase One of the Impulsion Campaign is \$2 million.

Raised To-Date:
\$1,556,121

Platinum Level (\$250,000 - \$1 Million +)

The Boomer Family – Lowell & Gladys, Jim & Lois, John & Lynn

Gold Level (\$100,000 - \$249,999)

Nancy Hutson
Pamela Jones – Jones Family Foundation –
“Malama Honua”
Zacharie & Louis Vinios

Silver Level (\$50,000 - \$99,999)

The Baumert Family
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Sue Bassin – Cricket Hill Farm
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Blue Ribbon Level (up to \$9,999)

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Ryan & Katie Shumacher
Judith Sloan
Anne Sushko
Kimberly Tebrugge
Clay & Carol Teske
Sara Weiss
George & Roberta Williams

Why are donors choosing to support our Impulsion Campaign?



“TDF is all about access to education and opportunity. The better educated we are as riders and horse people, the better it is for our beloved and generous horses. The more opportunities we provide our riders, the more examples of harmonious dressage with happy, beautifully developed

horses we have to emulate. It's about promoting the bond between horse and human and the resulting benefits to both.”

– Pam Jones

“I love the feeling of harmony that can be achieved between horse and rider in the daily practice of dressage. The reason I donated to TDF's Impulsion Campaign is to support riders and horses at all levels achieve and enjoy this harmony.”

– Nancy Hutson



TDF Set to Award Record Amount of Grants in 2025!

Included in the available grants for 2025 are **exciting new increases**, which include additional funding for:

- FEI riders
- Breeders and owners of U.S.-bred horses
- Youth/young adults
- Adult amateurs
- Judges
- Instructors/trainers
- Show managers
- Technical Delegates

The goal of our Impulsion Campaign is to strengthen TDF as an organization so we can continue to support growth of our grants and programs. TDF has been on an upward trend for many years, and we are thrilled that we are set to award a record amount of grants this year—TDF’s Board of Directors has approved up to 150 grants totaling nearly \$500,000!

These grants represent potential funding to approximately 100 individuals and 50 equestrian organizations/dressage clubs, in addition to the Dream Program trip to Aachen and the popular Century Club program.

Beth Baumert, TDF’s President and CEO said, “TDF has been striving for this \$500,000 milestone for some time, and thanks to our donors, it has been achieved! The next step is to award those funds. The TDF Board of Directors has authorized this amount, but we need worthy applicants. If you think you might be a worthy applicant, please apply, or if you know of a dressage person who could use help, please encourage them to apply.”

Learn more about TDF’s grants and programs at www.dressagefoundation.org.



Riders attend California Dressage Society’s Linda O’Carroll Memorial Adult Amateur Clinic Series featuring clinician Lilo Fore, supported by a grant from TDF’s Violet Hopkins Fund for GMO Events.



TDF Grants Propel Trainer Education

The positive impact of TDF's growth is being felt across the country. Last year, for the first time ever, two \$25,000 grants were awarded from TDF's Dr. Anne L. Barlow Ramsay Fund for U.S.-Bred Horses. Lauren Chumley with Leeloo Dallas (bred by Rachael McKinney) and Molly O'Brien with Fortunato H2O (bred by Kendra Hansis of Runningwater Warmbloods) were named as recipients.

We recently caught up with Lauren, who has had a productive—and fun!—winter training in Florida with Michael Bragdell to solidify Grand Prix work.

Based in Pittstown, New Jersey, and Loxahatchee, Florida, Lauren is a USDF gold medalist who specializes in young horse development but has also found success in other areas of the equestrian world, including eventing and working with one of the largest Norwegian Fjord breeding farms in the country.

Leeloo Dallas ("Leeloo") is a 2016 Dutch warmblood mare purchased by Lauren as a foal. The filly caught Lauren's eye due to her flashy black color, white socks and nice trot—but she was also rather awkward at that stage, with huge ears, a long, upright neck, and short body. Fortunately, as she matured and developed in her training, the mare came into her own.

Lauren said she was tempted to apply for the grant when Leeloo was a 7-year-old, but things really "lined up" the following year as the mare racked up wins at the regional and national levels. Then the grant, which showcases talented American-bred horses ridden by U.S. citizens, started to feel more within grasp.

As a largely self-funded rider and trainer, Lauren explains that receiving the grant has been "lifechanging," as it has relieved financial pressures and allowed her to focus on bringing her training to the next level.

"We're working on nailing down the elements of the Grand Prix," she said of her current work with Leeloo and Michael. "The horse is so rideable. She has such a good brain. So, for me, it was getting her confident in the piaffe, passage, and one-tempis. She's very much a mare and she doesn't want to make a mistake."

Lauren explained that Michael's gentle and patient approach plays a crucial role in their training. "His program and his methodology are so fair to the horses, it's so kind and he wants the horse to understand. That's the focus of it: teaching the horse how to do it and then getting the horse to want to do it for you." With that philosophy in mind, Lauren and Leeloo are aiming to do the Developing Grand Prix late this spring.

Lauren expressed sincere gratitude to TDF and its donors. "Without donors, we wouldn't have these amazing grants and programs that enable normal horse trainers to propel their education with their horses," she explained. "I believe in this little American horse with my whole heart and in Michael's program. I am absolutely thrilled that TDF believes in us too!" 🐾



Scan to watch a video
from Lauren Chumley.

Photo Credit: Susan J Stickle

Donors Make Dreams Come True

Thanks to the donors of the Jane Savoie Fund for Adult Amateurs, two \$5,000 grants were awarded in 2024 for the first time!

One of the recipients, Caryn Vesperman (WI), has spent concentrated time in Wellington, Florida, over the past few months training her Tanqueray MRF with Janet Foy and Claudio Oliveira.

Caryn's journey with horses, and her life in general, have been defined by perseverance. "For years, I persevered in my dressage training, attempting to balance a career, family, and my 30-plus years of GMO volunteer work," she explained. "Then I had a health scare." She received a life-changing breast cancer diagnosis, but was determined to continue riding through treatment and side effects.

Her persevering spirit led her to apply for the Jane Savoie Fund grant a few times and, after learning she finally received it, she was speechless. The grant was meaningful for several reasons, not the least of which was Jane's own courageous fight against cancer—a source of inspiration to Caryn.

Now, six years in the clear, Caryn maintains her commitment to volunteering and learning, and was recently accepted into the USEF/USDF "R" judge's program.

Caryn has also persevered in finding creative ways to move toward her goals even amid financial constraints. While in Florida, she scribes at Global Dressage Festival, dog-sits for friends, and resides in the living quarters of her horse trailer. She is grateful for the financial assistance from TDF to continue her growth as a rider.

Thanks to this unique opportunity, Caryn reported that the more refined elements of training are coming together. "Tanqueray is stronger and more balanced, so he's really becoming a 'change machine.' Fours, threes, and twos are now quite reliable," she said, describing her lessons with Janet. While working with Claudio, the pair also continues to build strength in collected work, focusing on half steps, piaffe, and passage—both in long lines and with Caryn in the saddle.



Photo Credit: John Borys

"Even small donations to TDF make a difference. I grew up in Minnesota and I've walked across the headwaters of the Mississippi. It's a trickling little stream about 25 feet wide, but thanks to all the tributaries donating their water to the Mississippi, look what it becomes by the time it hits the Gulf of Mexico. At one point, it's 11 miles wide. That's what all of you TDF supporters are: Tributaries to fulfilling dreams and promoting our wonderful sport of dressage. Together, you provide a powerful river of learning and opportunity." 🐾



A Golden Summer for Lisa Gorretta

If you've been an active member of the dressage community, you've heard Lisa Gorretta's name.

Over the years, she's held many titles: Business owner, 40-year USEF Dressage Technical Delegate, Co-Chair of the Dressage Sport Horse Committee, Past President of the United States Dressage Federation, recipient of the USDF Lifetime Achievement Award, and FEI Dressage Steward.

But, in 2024, at age 70, she and her 31-year-old Swedish Warmblood, Indy, added a new feather to her cap: TDF Century Club member. Even more impressive is that her Century Club ride with her partner of 26 years came on the heels of her trip to France, where she served as a steward at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.

"The journey to that centerline was not the one that I had thought about as we both advanced in age toward that magic number. I had, frankly, abandoned the plan," Lisa said, explaining that health challenges, such as a stifle injury and cataracts, arose in Indy's older age. In fact, just before Lisa was set to leave to be a steward at the Olympics in Paris, she received a call that Indy had contracted cellulitis in an upper foreleg.

Fortunately, Indy's care team back home was able to help him recover while Lisa was away. After she returned from Paris, she spoke with Indy's vet about starting light lunging to promote mobility in his affected knee. They opted to put Indy back in under saddle work, which was safer than lunging due to his rambunctious spirit. "From Training Level through Prix St. Georges and my USDF silver medal, Indy always had a somewhat unpredictable 'joy-of-life' streak that kept things interesting and improved my seat!" Lisa said.



Lisa and Indy with judge Debbie Savage.

Thanks to the encouragement of her friend and longtime U.S. dressage supporter Betsy Juliano, Lisa set her sights on the Century Club ride.

"USDF Region 2 Director and USEF S judge Debby Savage kindly accepted our invitation to judge our ride," Lisa explained. "A perfect Ohio fall weather day was made even more so by one last centerline, a square halt, and the final salute." 🐾



Lisa served as a Steward at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

TDF's Century Club celebrates lifelong participation and longevity in dressage. The Club is growing at an exciting rate and needs the support of increased TDF staff. Your contribution to the Impulsion Campaign will allow TDF to honor even more seniors of our sport!

Reaching a Broader Range of Riders

As The Dressage Foundation's impact continues to gain momentum, we're excited for our funds to reach an even broader range of dressage enthusiasts. From Western dressage to breed-specific grants and many others in between, we're proud to support dressage education from all angles.

Here's a look at a few exciting funding opportunities geared toward dressage students with specific interests or unique needs within the sport. These opportunities are made possible thanks to growing contributions from our generous donors.

Military Grant Fund

TDF's Military Grant Fund enables dressage-related education for riders who have served or are currently serving in any branch of the United States military, including active duty, reserves, and veterans.

Recipient Ashley Adams (UT) said, "As a military veteran and spouse of a military retiree, dressage has been an anchor for me as I have navigated PTSD treatment, multiple moves, deployments, and life transitions. Thank you to TDF's donors for your support of our military members!"



Photo Credit: Becca Tolman



Photo Credit: Tamara with the Camera



Photo Credit: Sarah Schaaf Photography

Para Dressage Fund

TDF's Para Dressage Fund supports para dressage riders, riders with disabilities, and visually impaired riders by providing grants for educational opportunities that contribute to a rider's goals.

Recipient Suzanne Ament (VA) said, "Let me express my heart-felt thanks that I was awarded this grant. I have two parallel goals: I hope to continue to improve my dressage riding, and I hope to advance the promotion and understanding of how blind riders can succeed and how important it is for those who wish to ride to be able to do so. Thanks again for helping me along this path!"

PRE/Pure Spanish Horses Fund

TDF's PRE/ Pure Spanish Horses Fund Grant celebrates and showcases the Pure Spanish Horse/ PRE as an upper-level dressage horse that shines due to its talent and disposition.

Recipient Alexis Martin-Vegue (CA) said, "I'm so humbled to be receiving the PRE Fund grant to be able to train with my incredible mentor, Pippa Callanan. Being able to focus on my education while developing possibly the best horse I've ever had the honor to ride, Galana DA, is the most incredible gift."

Lynn Palm Western Dressage Fund

The Lynn Palm Western Dressage Fund supports individual Western dressage riders by providing funds for training, as well as to groups hosting Western dressage clinics and camps.

Recipient Cedar Potts-Warner (KY) said, "This grant will give me the ability to take lessons with Western dressage judges to further develop my understanding of the requirements and how to achieve them. This will also strengthen my teaching and coaching so that the benefits gained may extend to my students. Learning is a journey, and I am very grateful for this next chapter of education granted to me!" 🐾



How You Can Help

The stories in this newsletter are just a small glimpse into the impact of TDF's recent growth. Do you want to help TDF continue to increase its support of the U.S. dressage community? Gifts to the Impulsion Campaign, which will provide crucial support for TDF as an organization, can be made in a variety of ways, including:



Stocks/appreciated securities



Cash



From your IRA



From a donor-advised fund or family foundation



Charitable Remainder Trust



Charitable Lead Trust



In honor of a special person or horse



Make a Legacy Gift

Pledges to the Impulsion Campaign are welcome and can be paid over a three-year period.

To learn more or give today, please visit www.dressagefoundation.org/impulsion-campaign.html or contact Jenny Johnson, TDF's Executive Director, at (402) 434-8585 or jenny@dressagefoundation.org.



Scan here to learn more and donate to the Impulsion Campaign!

"The Dressage Foundation supports the community, the art, and the sport of dressage in many ways. It provides a platform for aspiring riders and trainers to be seen, and by doing so, facilitates the identification of talented riders and trainers with potential. TDF grants enable amateurs and professionals alike to further their education. TDF-funded education inevitably gets passed down to others—a recipient's students, colleagues, and friends will all benefit. This dissemination of information naturally strengthens the U.S. dressage community."

— Olympian Sabine Schut-Kery





The Dressage Foundation
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“Words cannot express how deeply grateful I am to be chosen for a grant from The Dressage Foundation! Thank you to all the donors who are helping bring the dressage dreams of riders like me to fruition.”

– Cordelia Valle (CA), recipient of a
Cynthia Aspden Youth and Young
Adult Development Fund Grant



Photo credit: Mane Frames Equine Imagery