



The Dressage Foundation **News**

Building U.S. Dressage Through Your Generosity

2025 FALL EDITION



**Supporting
Dressage
DREAMS**

PHOTO CREDIT: SUSAN J. STICKLE PHOTOGRAPHY



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The Dressage Foundation's Very Special Village

The adage “it takes a village” is often said about raising children, but it also takes a village to “raise up” others in our dressage community. As part of The Dressage Foundation’s village—our family of friends—you play a vital role in helping U.S. dressage grow and thrive at every level.

In this newsletter, you’ll read inspiring stories of FEI-level riders advancing their training and competitive goals with help from The Dressage Foundation (TDF). Just as important are the stories of amateurs finding time to focus on their training, beginners experiencing their first dressage clinic, and seniors enjoying their moment in the spotlight.

You’ll also see how instructors, judges, and dressage clubs benefit from grants that strengthen the sport’s foundation for everyone. From grants and programs that nurture riders’ dreams to those that support new

programs and help bring dressage to more equestrians, every story is a reflection of the wide-reaching impact of TDF donors.

You’ll also learn about the many ways that TDF donors are supporting the dressage community and discover how you can start or continue to help, too. We hope that, as a donor, you’ll find your place in our family.

Together, these stories remind us that dressage is more than a sport—it’s a community built on shared passion, generosity, and the belief that progress for one lifts us all.

If you are looking to support the U.S. dressage community—or hope to receive help for your own dressage journey—you’ve come to the right place. The Dressage Foundation is here for you!

Our “village” of supporters and friends is truly something special! 

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!

Earlier this year, we introduced you to our “Impulsion: Forward to the Future” campaign. The goal of this \$2 million initiative is to strengthen our sport by building an unrestricted endowment fund that will ensure the continuation of The Dressage Foundation’s important work for generations to come.

Building an unrestricted endowment will allow TDF to make significant strides toward investing in sustainability and expanding grant offerings.

As of today, generous Campaign Leadership Donors have contributed over \$1.6 million toward the \$2 million goal!

We Welcome Our New Campaign Advisory Circle!

The Dressage Foundation is honored to welcome several of the sport’s most dedicated supporters to our new Campaign Advisory Circle. This group bring a wealth of experience and vision to help guide TDF’s efforts to strengthen the dressage community.

Advisory Circle members are: Betsy Juliano (chair), Margaret Duprey, Scott Durkin, Jessica Friedrich, Ashley Holzer, Rowan O’Riley, Judith Sloan, and Zacharie Vinios.

We are deeply grateful for their leadership and commitment to ensuring a bright future for U.S. dressage!



Learn more about the “Impulsion: Forward to the Future” campaign at www.dressagefoundation.org/impulsion-campaign.html or by scanning this QR code:



Dream Program Returns to Aachen

CHIO Aachen, also known as the World Equestrian Festival in Aachen, Germany, is virtually synonymous with elite equestrian sport. Each year, the competition hosts the world's best riders from dressage, show jumping, eventing, driving, and vaulting in an electric, yet intimate environment steeped in more than 100 years of rich tradition.

For the first time since 2019, The Dressage Foundation's Dream Program sent a select group of young American dressage riders to Aachen, where they immersed themselves in European dressage culture at the CHIO Aachen. The trip gave the young riders a glimpse at the pinnacle of dressage training, with an intensive look into theory and technique while fostering meaningful connections with the sport's leaders.

The 2025 Dream Program, chaperoned by JJ Tate and Richard Malmgren, welcomed participants Tessa Holloran (FL), Genevieve Oliver (PA), Quinn Ridgway (NJ), and Paige Zimmerman (PA) to Aachen. During their travels, participants kept daily journals reflecting on their time with global dressage leaders.

Here are just a few of the lessons that stuck with them:

1. *The sport of dressage continues to evolve, hopefully toward harmony.* Throughout their time at Aachen, our Dream Program participants were part of several conversations about the future of dressage with the sport's leaders, including Olympian Ali Brock, Eurodressage's Astrid Appels, Swedish team veterinarian Dr. Johan Lenz, and Markus Scharmann, Director of the Training Center in Warendorf, Germany.

"We discussed with each person where they think the sport is headed, and what they would change about it if they could," wrote participant Paige Zimmerman. "A common answer amongst them is that harmony and welfare are on the minds of every single stakeholder in equestrian sport. The judging is changing, the rules are changing, and the metaphorical pendulum is going to swing back and forth a bit before it settles and horse sport finds a better place in terms of promoting welfare, harmony, and shining a brighter spotlight on the inherent benefits of excellent riding."



Dream Program participants enjoying Aachen. (l-r) Quinn Ridgway, Paige Zimmerman, Genevieve Oliver, Tessa Holloran.



2. **An appreciation for dressage runs deep in German and European culture.** Our Dream Program participants also noted the general public's knowledge of dressage. "It quickly became clear that the horse culture here is much deeper and more ingrained," said Tessa Holloran. "Horses and equestrian sports are part of the broader culture, and the general public genuinely understands both the technical and artistic aspects of dressage. One of the most striking differences was how in tune the audience was with each ride. If a rider made a noticeable mistake during a test, you could hear a collective gasp from the crowd—showing their knowledge and engagement. It was also surprising and inspiring to see young children attending the event on school field trips, learning about the sport, and developing an appreciation for it from an early age."
3. **Passion for the horse comes first.** Devotion to the horse's wellbeing is another theme that emerged. "Our passion for the sport and our horses should always come before any ribbon or award," said Genevieve Oliver. "While some may assume that elite riders only train and compete, many remain deeply involved in their horses' routine management. Swedish Olympian Tinne Vilhelmsen-Silfvén emphasized how important this is, especially when traveling to shows—knowing your horse well helps you recognize if something feels off. Top German rider Michael Klimke shared a particularly inspiring thought: You can't control what happens in the arena or how you're judged, but you can control how you treat your horses. That mindset is something every rider and trainer can benefit from."
4. **Dedication to education is key.** Many of the leaders also emphasized the importance of continued education. "Christine Traurig, U.S. Team Coach and Chef d'Équipe, began our conversation by reflecting on her early realization that unconditional love for the horse wasn't enough," said Quinn Ridgway. "She needed to educate herself further to be clearer and fairer to the horse. She stressed that knowledge must be paired with common sense and feel. In her view, classical dressage ideals and the training scale are essential because once you understand those principles, riding becomes logical."



Dream Program participants with Dutch rider Dinja van Liere.



The "Dynamic Duo" – Dream Program chaperones Richard Malmgren and JJ Tate.

These takeaways from our participants offer a small snapshot of their time at this world-class event. To read their detailed journal entries, visit our website.

The Dressage Foundation is grateful to our generous sponsors, including Margaret Duprey / Cherry Knoll Farm, who facilitate these life-changing experiences for the next generation of dressage riders. We look forward to hosting a new group of ambitious young riders for our 2026 Dream Program in Wellington, Florida. 

Breaking Barriers, One Ride at a Time

For the members of the Blind Equestrian Community (BEC), the June riding clinic at Cazabu Farm in New York was more than just a weekend of lessons—it was the culmination of thought, hope, planning, and perseverance. Supported by a grant from The Dressage Foundation's Michael Poulin Dressage Fund for Innovative Events and Programs, the clinic became a shining example of what's possible when determination meets opportunity.

BEC is a volunteer-driven network of blind and visually impaired equestrians who share a deep love for horses and a belief that dressage belongs to everyone. Together, they support one another, exchange best practices, and advocate for greater accessibility in the equestrian world.

With support from the Poulin Fund, BEC hosted a two-day clinic led by professional instructor and visually impaired rider Michelle LaBarre, herself a TDF grant recipient. For many participants, this was their first dressage clinic. It was also one of the first dressage clinics specifically for visually impaired riders in the U.S.

Each moment in the arena was filled with courage and discovery. Mounted lessons focused on position, balance, and harmony between horse and rider. Riders took turns on the lunge line, developing feel and coordination, while others observed, learning through sound and shared experience. An electronic dressage arena marker announcer was tested as an innovative alternative to the traditional “living letters,” opening new possibilities for future accessibility.

Unmounted lessons added another layer to the learning. Riders practiced on “Phoenix,” a mechanical horse (Equicizer), to refine their position and body awareness. Trampoline and balance board exercises strengthened core stability, while grooming and tacking sessions were captured on film to help create future educational materials to assist instructors who teach blind and visually impaired riders.

For participant Kailey Cowart of Texas, a past recipient of TDF's Para-Equestrian Dressage Fund for Blind and Visually Impaired Riders grant, the experience was deeply meaningful. She said, “Thank you for choosing BEC to receive a grant. The clinic



Riders attend the Blind Equestrian Community clinic supported by TDF.



Michelle LaBarre with Wayne Marsh on the Equicizer.

with Michelle was the first clinic most of us have ever attended. I'm newer to the sport of dressage, and I'm looking forward to learning more about how to perform dressage movements. I'm also excited to take what I learned back to my barn and community to help instructors better teach blind and visually impaired riders."

Clinic organizer Suzanne Ament of Virginia, also a TDF grant recipient, reflected on the heart behind the project, saying, "Although my own riding is quite important to me and provides no end to learning, enjoyment, and just plain fun, my broader goal is to promote blind riders and riding as a wonderful sport for blind people."

Contributing to the weekend's success was the dedicated support of volunteers from the Cayuga Dressage and Combined Training Association (a USDF GMO) and the surrounding community. Through the support of donors and The Dressage Foundation's Poulin Fund, the blind and visually impaired riders who participated in this clinic found community, confidence, and freedom that only a horse can bring. 



Suzanne Ament and the "living letter."

DRESSAGE IN THE DARK

Who: Mia Boccella, a member of the Blind Equestrian Community (BEC) and a retired professional filmmaker, had already planned on participating in the BEC clinic when a conversation and an idea led to something more. Mia was currently in pre-production for a film about horses and the Blind Equestrian Community. She had recently been accepted into the 2025 Women in Film and Video cohort and development fellowship.

The Idea: The BEC clinic would be the perfect spot to film and document the learning that took place. This film could reach greater audiences and help grow the awareness of blind and visually impaired riding. In the future, footage could be used to educate trainers and instructors on how to work with blind and visually impaired riders.



Filmmaker Mia Boccella.

The Filming: With funding provided by TDF's Michael Poulin Fund, Mia was able to hire a cinematographer, sound professional, and co-producer. This funding helped capture high-quality content that can be used in the future for promotion and education.

Suzanne Ament, organizer of the clinic, said, "This clinic was amazing, and we could not have accomplished what we did without the aid of the Poulin Fund grant! We thank The Dressage Foundation and the selection committee for this wonderful support. The generosity to take advantage of the filming opportunity went beyond the call."

Scan the QR code to watch the inspiring video captured by Mia at the BEC clinic and see firsthand the courage, joy, and partnership that filled the arena. Witness how riders and horses worked together to prove that with heart and determination, anything is possible.





From Humble Beginnings to FEI Dreams

Every rider's journey begins somewhere, often far from the spotlight. For recent TDF grant recipients Sydni Cook and Molly O'Brien, their beginnings—far from the epicenter of U.S. dressage—set the stage for extraordinary opportunities earned through their hard work and dedication to our sport.

Molly grew up in Tucson, Arizona, riding a Quarter Horse/Paint gelding that had only been ridden in a Western saddle. From earning her USDF bronze and silver medals with "Hawk," to competing at the North American Youth Championships, to learning from Olympian Sue Blinks, Molly steadily advanced her skills. This dedication led her to Wellington, Florida, where she became head groom for FEI rider Lehua Custer—and eventually earned the ride on Lehua's Fortunato H2O (Tuna), bred in the United States by Kendra Hansis of Runningwater Warmbloods.

Riding Tuna provided Molly with further experience at the FEI levels, and then recognition as the recipient of TDF's \$25,000 Anne L. Barlow Ramsay Grant for U.S.-Bred Horses. "This grant is life changing and a dream come true," Molly said. "It allows riders like me, without private sponsorship, to pursue training and showcase elite U.S.-bred horses

on a competitive stage."

Sydni's journey began in the mountains of Utah, where she fell in love with the precision and harmony of dressage. Through hard work and continuous commitment to learning, she earned opportunities to train with top professionals, leading to her selection as recipient of TDF's \$25,000 Debbie McDonald Fund Grant for FEI Riders.

"Debbie McDonald has always been an inspiration to me, and receiving this grant in her name is incredibly meaningful," Sydni shared. "This support will allow me to continue my education with Anne Gribbons in Florida this winter, helping me grow as both a rider and a horsewoman. None of this would be possible without the incredible support of Leslie Edison and Winter Farms in Utah. I'm excited to carry these lessons forward in pursuit of my goals, and I'm committed to making the most of this opportunity."

In this large country, there are many stories like those of Molly and Sydni. And thanks to generous donors to The Dressage Foundation, more riders will get the chance to pursue top-level training, compete at the highest levels, and continue the legacy of excellence in American dressage. 



Molly O'Brien. Photo credit: Andrew Ryback.



Hear more from Sydni Cook about why TDF's support means so much to her.

An Adult Amateur's Transformative Week

Taking a week away from work and life's normal pressures to ride and spend time at the barn sounds like a dream for many adult amateur riders, but it doesn't have to be just a dream! TDF's Gifted Fund grants give that exact opportunity to amateurs across the country every year.

Catherine Donworth (KY) received a \$1,500 Gifted Fund grant to train her horse, Doolin, with Reese Koffler-Stanfield this year. Catherine said, "Removing the mental load of my daily work and taking lessons every day had a huge impact on my riding. I would never have done this without the grant."

Catherine shared her training diary:

Day 1: We set goals for the week, focusing on my position, balance, and strength. Using Franklin balls and riding without stirrups made me more aware of my seat and showed how much I grip with my thighs, restricting my hips. I added daily yoga for hip mobility.

Day 2: I watched lessons that Reese was teaching to other Fourth Level students. It was very useful to hear Reese explain the movements and exercises.

Day 3: We worked on the Prix St. Georges trot work, collected canter, and flying changes—where I had a "lightbulb" moment about preparing too early. I watched Reese work two horses and began reading *Collective Remarks* by Anne Gribbons.

Day 4: Today's lesson focused on suppleness and half pass zig-zags, followed by observing Reese teach eight lessons. It was a great opportunity to learn by osmosis and see different training techniques used on a variety of horses at different levels.

Day 5: Today we went back to work on the flying changes, specifically my position during the changes. We also worked on my riding technique in the collected canter. Bonus for me—a much-needed massage.

Day 6: Hack day for Doolin and theory day for me! I read more of *Collective Remarks*, studied test videos with Reese, and talked about strategies for riding a better test. I had a session on an equine simulator (a mechanical horse). I used it to practice counting the flying changes—a great way to practice aids over and over, which you can't do on a real horse.



Catherine Donworth and Reese Koffler-Stanfield

Day 7: We went over the test warm up plan and rode through Fourth Level Test 1.

Day 8: Schooling show day! This was a great opportunity to apply what I learned this week in a low-stress competition setting.

It was a fabulous week of learning, and both Doolin and I made significant improvement. I feel much more confident at Fourth Level, and my overall "dressage IQ" grew from all the lessons, observations, reading, and simulator work!

Learn how you (or an adult amateur you know!) can also have an amazing week of learning with financial support from TDF's Gifted Memorial Fund for Adult Amateurs >> www.dressagefoundation.org. 



A Grant That Gave Hope

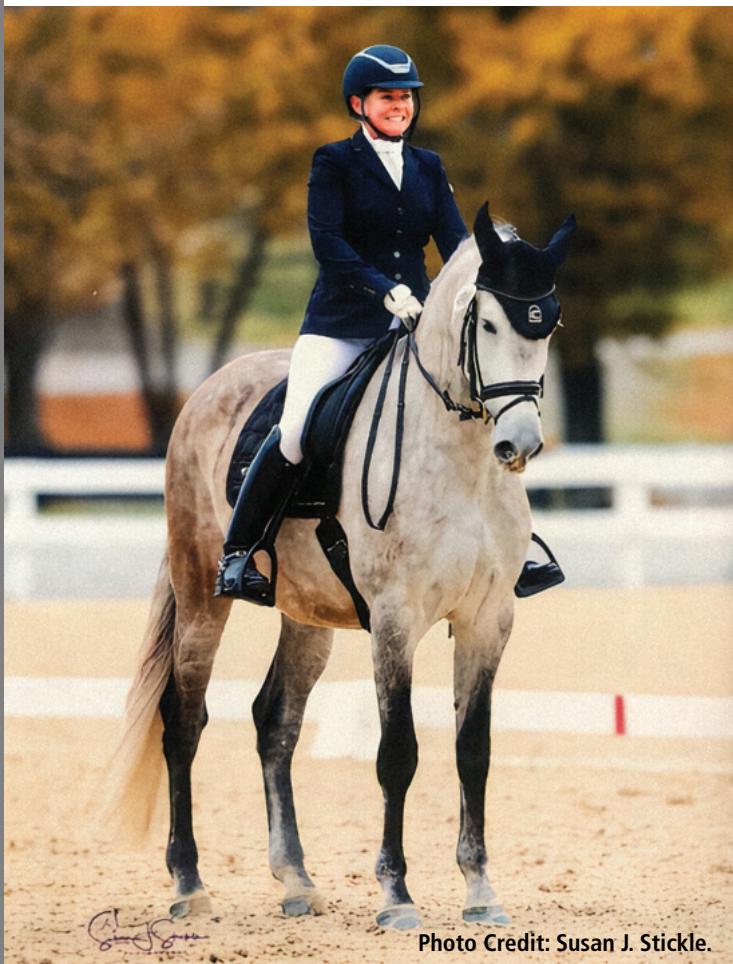


Photo Credit: Susan J. Stickle.

By Kate Poulin

When I received the email in December 2023 that I had been chosen for TDF's P.R.E. Horse Fund grant, I was thrilled! I was excited for the opportunity to further my education with Cariñoso, thanks to the generous donors from The Dressage Foundation.

I had a plan and couldn't wait to get started. Unfortunately, in February 2024, those plans were derailed when I was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer—a shock so profound, I still struggle to find the words to express it. I had always been healthy and fit, and suddenly, that part of my identity was gone. It was a crushing realization. Needless to say, my ambitions for showing Cariñoso that summer were tempered by surgeries, chemotherapy, and the many physical and mental side effects that followed.

Cariñoso has such a wonderful temperament and is quite easy to sit, so he was one of the few horses I could continue training during my cancer journey. I

adjusted my training plans to accommodate my body's limitations and remained eager to move forward.

My lessons were primarily virtual lessons with Christoph Hess from Germany. He has an incredible depth of knowledge in classical dressage and is a powerful motivator with infectious positivity—exactly what we needed.

The focus of our training was returning to basics to improve Cariñoso's connection and contact in the bridle. Christoph had me incorporate plenty of stretching between collected movements to encourage suppleness. At times, Cariñoso can get quick in his trot tempo—a common trait of the breed—so Christoph had me use a lot of shoulder-in work to help him engage more effectively. We also worked on combining passage and extended trot on large circles to improve engagement.

I'm happy to share that 2025 is a much better year—I am cancer-free! Although my training journey with Cariñoso took longer than expected, I'm proud of where we are today. Not only is he more responsive to my aids, but I've also improved my communication with him.

Being chosen for the grant was a vital confidence booster at a time when I needed it most. It helped keep me focused on future possibilities during some very dark moments. Thank you to The Dressage Foundation and its donors for your support and belief in me. 🐾



Kate Poulin training virtually with Christoph Hess.

Leading the Way for Western Dressage

No one has cheered louder for the growth of Western dressage than Lynn Palm. With a long and successful career in the Quarter Horse and Western dressage arenas, as well as her work as an author and clinician, Lynn has been a driving force in promoting education and excellence within the sport.

In keeping with her goal of promoting Western dressage, Lynn founded the Western Dressage Fund at The Dressage Foundation in 2019. She said, "When I was coming up through the ranks as a youth and then professional, there were not many programs that encouraged ongoing education through grants or scholarships. So my goal for this Fund is to help grow the sport of Western dressage, and I believe that education is how this can be accomplished. I am proud to be part of offering this to those striving for excellence in today's Western world."

Since the founding of the Western Dressage Fund, over 50 grants and awards have been awarded to individuals and groups from over 20 states. Western Dressage Fund grant recipient, Stacy Adams (CO), said, "Receiving support from The Dressage Foundation gave me breathing room in my finances to get lessons that I would not have normally been able to afford. Receiving the grant gave me a huge boost in confidence that someone else believed in me and, therefore, I could actually do this!"

Lynn said, "Western dressage is a beautiful expression of harmony—and I believe it holds unlimited potential for riders of all levels and horses

of all breeds. With the systematic levels of training for horse and rider, Western dressage is a wonderful foundation for cross-training for all disciplines."

Jamie Shook, an adult amateur from Michigan and a Western Dressage Fund grant recipient, mentioned that her horse, a Paint mare, was struggling moving up the levels of traditional dressage. When she learned about Western dressage, she "switched tack and never looked back." Jamie said, "Classical dressage can seem intimidating to new riders. I think the Western aspect helps them relax more and learn that dressage is about training and the relationship with your horse. I hope that Western dressage helps people see that traditional stock breeds, like Quarter Horses and Paints, aren't just for ranch work. They are amazingly talented in their own way."

As Western dressage continues to grow and open new arenas to horses and riders, TDF is proud to support equestrians who celebrate its history and plan for the future. Lynn said, "While there has been a positive response to the grants through the Fund, I always strive for more—to receive more applications, to award more grants, and to involve more donors as this young Fund continues to mature through the years."

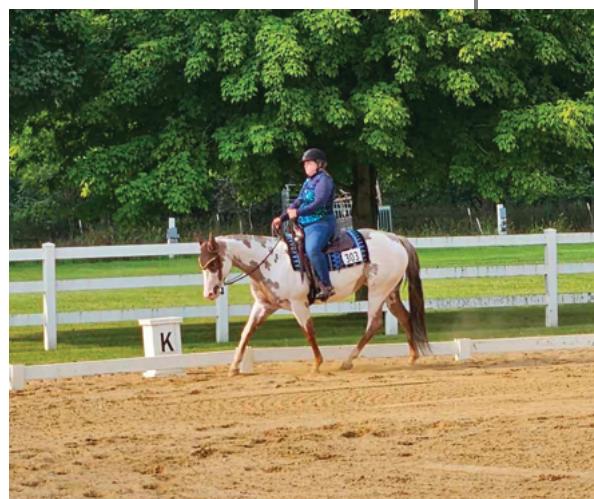
The Dressage Foundation invites riders and groups to apply for support through the Western Dressage Fund and welcomes donations to help the sport continue to thrive for years to come. 



Stacy Adams. Photo credit: Fiore Photography.



Lynn Palm with student.



Jamie Shook.



Chasing Centerline Dreams



Jenna Butler. Photo credit Andrew Ryback.



Breaking News! Congratulations to Meghan Nichols, who has met her goal and qualified to compete at the 2025 US Dressage Finals!



Ruth Rensink and Mitras.

Much of the discussion around U.S. dressage is typically focused on riders from the East and West Coasts, but in the middle of the country, you'll find an abundance of talented, dedicated dressage riders who are ready to break into the spotlight. And TDF donor Ruth Rensink wants to help give them that opportunity.

Through the new Region 4 FEI Adult Excellence Fund, riders from Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota are eligible for \$6,000 - \$8,000 grants that will support their goals to qualify for and compete at a CDI or national championship at an FEI level.

Ruth Rensink, an adult amateur rider who has been a lifelong resident of Region 4, shared, "My hope is that this grant will give Region 4 adult FEI riders the chance to dream big, while assisting with providing an opportunity to develop and enhance their riding career. As the founder of this grant, I will look forward to watching these grantees when they ride down centerline!"

Ruth will soon see her philanthropic dream turn into reality, when she'll have the opportunity to see the first two grant recipients pursue their FEI competition goals.

Professional Jenna Butler (MO) received \$8,000 to work toward competing at the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions. She said, "I cannot say a big enough thank you to TDF and Ruth Rensink for providing a grant that will allow me to chase my dreams and have the resources available I need to be successful! I have been relying on virtual lessons for the past few years, and I am so excited to be able to work with my coach, Martin Kuhn, regularly in-person to refine my skills at the FEI levels!"

Adult amateur Meghan Nichols (MO) received \$6,000 to train for and compete at the US Dressage Finals. She said, "I am profoundly thankful for this exceptional opportunity, as it significantly enhances my ability to commit to intensive training. This support is crucial for pursuing my ambition of showing at the US Dressage Finals at FEI levels. This goal would be considerably more challenging to achieve without this generous assistance."

Thanks to Ruth's generosity and vision, Region 4 riders can chase their dreams, reach new heights, and show the dressage world the brilliance that is growing in the Midwest. 

Turning Generosity Into Possibility

Thanks to generous donors, The Dressage Foundation's grants open doors and possibilities for riders, instructors, judges, and more—helping them learn, grow, and give back to the sport they love.

Erin Hurley (NJ) Judges' Licensing Fund

"I am deeply honored to receive this grant in support of my journey through the dressage judging program. This opportunity not only fuels my commitment to excellence in the sport, but also strengthens my dedication to serving the dressage community with integrity and knowledge. Thank you for investing in the future of our sport."



Jill Ekis (PA) Veronica Holt Technical Delegate Fund

"Becoming a Technical Delegate is very important to me, and this grant will allow me to move forward to complete the Technical Delegate program." Jill shared that she would typically have to pick up extra shifts as a nurse to pay for the TD program requirements, which would take away more time from her family. She said that now "this grant will allow me to have more time spent within my horse community while facilitating a better work-life balance."



Elizabeth Youatt (WA) Trip Harting Fund for Pony Club Members

"I am incredibly grateful to have been chosen as the recipient of this grant. It is a huge privilege as a young professional to be able to allocate these funds specifically to my continuing education. I deeply value this generous support in working toward my training goals this season. These opportunities are invaluable for the careers of young professionals like me."



Photo credit: Mariya Astakhova

Kathy Coviello (AL) Military Grant Fund

"Receiving this grant stands as a significant step toward achieving my training goals as a dressage rider. This financial support will directly alleviate the cost burden of clinics and lessons, allowing me to dedicate more time and energy to fully immersing myself in the effort. Ultimately, this grant isn't just financial assistance; it's an investment in my potential to become a more skilled student of dressage. As both a veteran and former military 'brat' (dependent daughter of a service member), I stand committed to making the most of this opportunity and am forever grateful to TDF for this offering."



Photo credit: Hannah Draughan Photography



Why I Give

The stories you're reading in the newsletter are only possible because of the generosity of many donors, whose gifts come to The Dressage Foundation 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...



Century Club Team #914 – Connie Palazzolo (age 76) and Valdemar (age 24) from Ohio.

"TDF supports dressage in so many ways, and when the opportunity presented itself to specifically support the Century Club, we were all in. Many older horses and riders work hard to accomplish goals and are seldom recognized. We wanted to be sure that in the future, horses and riders can celebrate their centennial together and be appreciated. The Century Club also reminds us all that you don't have to be ten years old to have a dream!"

– Zacharie and Louis Vinius

"I have always been so very impressed with the work that The Dressage Foundation does. They make a tangible difference in the lives of their grant recipients. It is a top-notch organization and one that we want to support."

– Gail Matheus, Spotlight Horse Shows – a TDF Corporate Sustaining Partner

"The Dressage Foundation supports the dressage community through grants to encourage education in dressage instruction, training, and many other opportunities. I support this organization as I have personally benefited from a grant that helped me complete my training and licensing as a judge. My friends and colleagues have also received grants that helped them achieve training goals as FEI riders and for the Certified Instructor program. As a monthly donor, I feel that I am helping the next generation of dressage members to achieve their goals. Every bit helps grow The Dressage Foundation and its grants and programs."

– Gwen Ka'awaloa



"Sometimes the most meaningful wins are the ones we help others achieve."

– Anonymous donor



Grant recipient Haley Smith celebrates at the FEI North American Youth Championships.





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 ways to donate to The Dressage Foundation:

Donate Now

Your gift can be made by:

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



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. (See more about Qualified Charitable Distributions on page 16.)



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. There are many ways that you can strengthen the future of our sport through your estate plans, while also receiving important tax benefits. These Legacy Gifts come in different forms, including:

- » A Bequest/Gift from your Will
- » Beneficiary Designations
- » Life Income Gifts such as Charitable Gift Annuities and Charitable Remainder Trusts



To learn more about supporting TDF, scan the QR code or visit www.dressagefoundation.org.

If you have questions about supporting The Dressage Foundation in any of these ways, please contact Jenny Johnson, Executive Director, at (402) 434-8585 or jenny@dressagefoundation.org.



Support Dressage—Tax-Free—Through Your IRA

Give Through a Qualified Charitable Distribution

Are you required to take a minimum distribution from your IRA? The IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) allows taxpayers age 70½ or older to make tax-free charitable gifts of up to \$108,000 per year directly from their Individual Retirement Accounts to an eligible charity such as The Dressage Foundation. The funds must be transferred by your plan administrator directly to TDF to qualify.

Longtime donor and TDF Board member, Maryal Barnett, has found that donating through a QCD made perfect sense. She said, “When I turned an age that I had to take out a certain amount from my IRA accounts, it meant that I was responsible for paying taxes on those funds. That hurt! Then my CPA suggested that I give to The Dressage Foundation through a Qualified Charitable Distribution, which made it tax free. Good for TDF and good for me! It was an easy process working with my financial adviser.”

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



Maryl Barnett found giving easy with a Qualified Charitable Distribution.



The Dressage Foundation's Annual **ONLINE AUCTION**

Begins Sunday, November 23rd at 9:00 a.m. (CT)

Ends Sunday, December 7th at 7:00 p.m. (CT)



Just in Time for Holiday Shopping!

- Lessons & Clinics
- Tack & Horse Care
- Gifts, Books, Jewelry
- Apparel
- Gift Certificates
- ...and so much more!



Scan or go to:
[32auctions.com/
TDFAuction2025](https://32auctions.com/TDFAuction2025)

Help Plant the Seeds of Future Excellence in Dressage Education: TDF'S New USDF Education Programs Support Fund

Recently, The Dressage Foundation and the United States Dressage Federation (USDF) proudly announced the creation of the “USDF Education Programs Support Fund,” which will be managed by TDF to benefit USDF’s nationwide educational programs.

Each year, USDF’s programs reach tens of thousands of dressage enthusiasts—from young riders just beginning their journey to seasoned professionals continuing their education. However, with increasing costs to organize these programs, financial support is needed to ensure that USDF’s educational programs can continue to be offered in a far-reaching, affordable way.

Kevin Reinig, President of USDF, said, “As USDF’s programs and offerings continue to expand and costs continue to rise across the board, the tremendous and ongoing support provided by The Dressage Foundation becomes even more crucial to maintaining the elite standard of education we provide to our members. USDF is throwing its full support behind TDF as we work in tandem to establish the new USDF Education Programs Support Fund and encourage all members and dressage enthusiasts who have reaped the benefits

and rewards of USDF’s exemplary education over the years, to support these efforts as well.”

Donations of all sizes for TDF’s new USDF Education Program Support Fund are greatly appreciated and will help plant the seeds of future excellence in dressage education.

Beth Baumert, TDF’s President, said, “TDF’s Board of Directors is excited about making this Fund come to life. It will be similar to the Mary Anne and Walter McPhail Fund that supports the education of judges. This Fund will support the other educational programs that USDF organizes so well.” 

Learn more and
make a donation at
[www.dressagefoundation.org/
usdf-fund.html](http://www.dressagefoundation.org/usdf-fund.html)

Or by scanning
this QR code:



Every gift made to TDF’s USDF Education Programs Support Fund will help open the door to more learning, more inspiration, and more opportunities for those who love dressage!



USDF Region 4 FEI Youth Clinic with George Williams.



The Century Club Celebrates a Decade of Support from Platinum Performance

For the past decade, Platinum Performance has been a proud sponsor of The Dressage Foundation's Century Club, helping to recognize hundreds of senior riders across the country who continue to pursue their dressage dreams well into their golden years. Century Club rides have become joyful celebrations of horsemanship, lifelong partnerships, and the love of dressage.

"It has been such a privilege to partner with The Dressage Foundation's Century Club for ten years," said Emily Smith, MS, of the Platinum Marketing Team. "We greatly look forward to watching the membership grow and are honored to continue providing those horses and riders, as well as the entire dressage community, with superior nutrition and unmatched personal service."

"We're incredibly grateful to Platinum Performance for their generous commitment to the Century Club," said Jenny Johnson, Executive Director of The Dressage Foundation. "Through these past 10 years, we've seen remarkable growth of the Club and count on donations to continue this important program. Platinum Performance recognizes the importance of the senior riders and horses in our sport, and their partnership has been a perfect fit."



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10
YEARS OF SUPPORT

Congratulations to two of our newest Century Club members!

"It has been years since I've shown, and several minor medical conditions had sapped my confidence. Having a horse like Handy kept me in the saddle and helped me get reasonably fit and confident again. It was my goal to ride Training Level Test 1 for the Century Club ride, and that goal kept me going. Many thanks to TDF for remembering us long-time riders and rewarding our efforts."

– Gloria Beduhn (age 80) and Handyman (age 21) from Texas



"Forty-one years of loving horses and riding led me to the incredible experience of joining the Century Club. Having ridden hunter/jumpers in the ring, and my big Irish Warmblood in the hunt, led me to my unsuccessful attempt at polo. With all that in the past, it was remarkable that I found Laura Goodenkauf, a fabulous dressage trainer, and my new best friend, Buddy, a 22-year-old retired racehorse and auction rescue. That combination re-energized my desire to ride and learn a whole new set of dressage riding skills. Now I can look forward to many more years of loving horses and riding!"

– Jeffery Greene (age 78) and Buddy (age 22) from California.



A Gift of a Lifetime

Charli Ann Stevens and her husband, Craig Geil, joined The Dressage Foundation's Legacy Society several years ago, when they were drafting their Will and decided to leave a gift to TDF through a bequest. We recently asked Charli Ann to share more about that decision, and why she'd encourage others to consider a gift to TDF in their own Wills.

What drew you to the work of nonprofit organizations?

I've always felt it's important to volunteer and give back to charitable organizations. Because horses are my passion, I have a long history of volunteering with horse organizations. Often, the generosity of volunteers' time allows nonprofits to maintain a lower budget threshold, which in turn allows the organization to keep overall costs down. That increases the accessibility of the services/programs and also provides great learning and friendship opportunities for volunteers.

How did you first become interested in TDF?

Several years ago, when I was newer to dressage, I learned of TDF and applied for a Gifted Fund Grant for Adult Amateurs. The opportunity provided by that grant was wonderful. Having come from a breed organization background, I couldn't have imagined such a wonderful concept as TDF.

Why did you decide to leave a gift to TDF in your will?

Having horses as a passion, there was bound to be a horse organization in my estate planning. For me, dressage is so much more than being about scores and winning ribbons. Dressage is developing a partnership with your horse for life. For some people, that means show ring goals. For others, it's simply becoming a better rider for your horse. I truly love the dressage community. There are so many wonderful, positive people involved in dressage who do their best to do right by the horse. So, my husband and I committed to TDF's Legacy Society with a bequest.

Why might you encourage others to leave a gift in their Wills to TDF and other organizations close to their hearts?

There truly is something for everyone in dressage. My passion for the variety of ways people can enjoy dressage drives me to make sure it is always there for people to enjoy. Thus, we must help TDF create grants, keep the lights on, keep the current offerings going in perpetuity, and do the work of promoting growth in the sport. After all, dressage is so much more than a sport. It is a lifestyle, a therapist, a personal trainer, emotional support, and so much more—with a competitive aspect if you want it. How can you not contribute to that even after you're gone? Dressage should be enjoyed until the end of time.

Learn more about TDF's Legacy Society and how you can help the future of dressage with a gift today >> www.dressagefoundation.org > Ways to Give. 



TDF Legacy Society members Craig Geil and Charli Ann Stevens.

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 2024-September 2025.



Zig Zag owned by Kathy Priest and Julie Skinner.

In Memory of Dressage Enthusiasts	In Memory or in Honor of Equine Friends
Carter Bass	Angelika MW, owned by Ayscha's Angels Syndicate
Verne Batchelder	Cheyenne, owned by Janice Mize
Sue Curry	Con Coraggio, owned by Janet Mitchell
Jeni Gaffney, DVM	D Grande Finale, owned by Rita Dunn
Marshall Gray	Echo Dancer, owned by Kathy Young
Linda Lamm	Gemma, owned by Chris Pope
Joan Lutz	Rowena SW, owned by Cynthia Russell Lippincott
Mary Anne McPhail	Sir Kingston, owned by Suverne Griffiths
In Honor of Living Dressage Friends	
Maryl Barnett	Titleist, owned by Cean Embrey
Beth Baumert	Zig Zag, owned by Kathy Priest and Julie Skinner
Matt Beasley	
Michell Combs	
Dr. Robert Gaebel	
Heather and Michael Petersen	
Carol Schmickrath	
Sandy Toby	

We invite you to visit our online Book of Memory & Honor for the names of all those who have been honored through the years >> www.dressagefoundation.org > Ways to Give > Book of Memory & Honor.

Corporate Sponsorship: A Great Opportunity for Your Company

Because TDF is a national organization that works with dressage enthusiasts across the country, corporate supporters have the opportunity for coast to-coast recognition to a highly targeted audience.

By supporting TDF, your company will demonstrate its commitment to the advancement of equestrian sports and the development of riders at all levels.

Would your company like to receive valuable exposure while also helping strengthen the sport as a whole? Join our Corporate Sponsorship Program at a level that works best for your company!

Learn more at www.dressagefoundation.org > Ways to Give or contact Jenny Johnson, TDF's Executive Director, at (402) 434-8585 or jenny@dressagefoundation.org.

We thank our current corporate sponsors:



Texas, Here We Come!

TDF is heading to Fort Worth, Texas, for the 2026 FEI World Cup™ Finals! Join us April 8-12, 2026, to watch some of the best dressage and jumping combinations from across the globe.

TDF will have a booth throughout the duration of the event, so make plans to stop by to meet our staff and learn more about the Foundation.

For more information about the 2026 FEI World Cup™ Finals, visit www.fortworth2026.com.





Don't Miss a Deadline

Here's a handy calendar of our current grant deadlines for 2026. Dates and information are subject to change, so visit www.dressagefoundation.org for the latest details!

FEBRUARY

- 1 – Maryal and Charlie Barnett Continuing Education for Instructors Fund
- 10 – Carolyn Van Cise Fund for MI Youth and Young Adults
- 15 – Karen Skvarla Fund for Emerging Professionals
- 20 – Schmidt Family L Education Program Fund – **NEW**

MARCH

- 1 – Evie Tumlin Fund for Region 9 Adult Amateurs
- 1 – Veronica Holt Dressage Technical Delegate Fund
- 15 – TDF's Judges' Licensing Fund
- 25 – Trip Harting Fund for Pony Club Members

APRIL

- 1 – Amelia's "Dressage for All" Youth Fund – **NEW**
- 10 – Jane Savoie Fund for Amateurs

MAY

- 15 – Military Grant Fund
- 20 – Region 4 FEI Adult Excellence Fund

JUNE

- 1 – George Williams Fund for Young Professionals
- 15 – \$25,000 Debbie McDonald Fund for FEI Riders

JULY

- 1 – Maryal and Charlie Barnett Continuing Education for Instructors Fund
- 15 – Team Tate Mentorship and Leadership Fund
- 20 – TDF's Western Dressage Fund for Individuals



New Hampshire Dressage and Eventing Association event supported by TDF's Violet Hopkins Fund. Photo credit Alex Hopple Photography.

AUGUST

- 1 – Region 9 Teaching Excellence Award
- 15 – \$25,000 Anne Barlow Ramsay Grant for U.S.-Bred Horses
- 31 – \$25,000 Carol Lavell Advanced Dressage Prize
- 31 – \$15,000 Carol Lavell Developing Dressage Prize

SEPTEMBER

- 1 – Cynthia Aspden Youth and Young Adult Development Fund
- 10 – Verne Batchelder Instructor Fund
- 15 – Gifted Fund for Adult Amateurs
- 30 – Major Lindgren Instructor Grants

OCTOBER

- 15 – Amanda Johnson Freestyle Fund

NOVEMBER

- 1 – Para-Equestrian Dressage Fund
- 10 – P.R.E. Horse Fund

GRANTS FOR EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

Due at least 75 days prior to event:

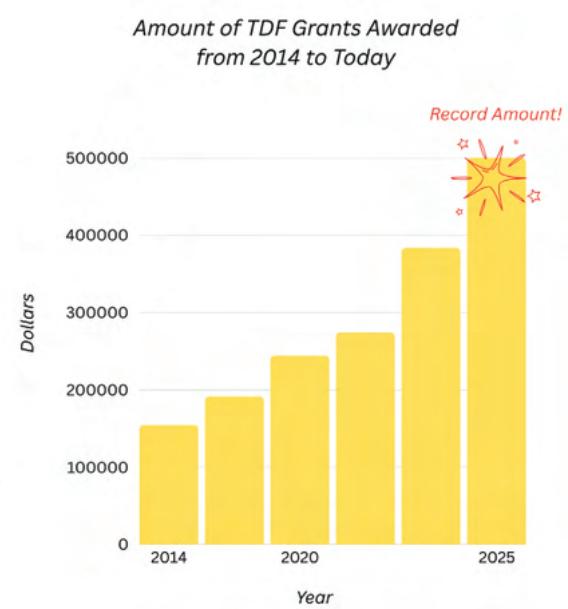
- Dancing Horse Fund
- Dreitzler International Clinician Fund
- Edgar Hotz Judge Education Fund
- Max Gahwyler Instructor Education Fund
- Michael Poulin Dressage Fund for Innovative Events and Programs
- Oregon Dressage Society Linda S. Acheson Fund
- Western Dressage Fund
- Violet Hopkins Fund for GMO Events

CENTURY CLUB

Application due at least 3 weeks prior to the ride.

Generosity Grows

Thanks to donors throughout the last 35+ years, the amount awarded each year continues to grow. These grants continue to serve the ever-growing needs of the dressage community.



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

"I am so excited and grateful to have been chosen as the recipient of a grant from The Dressage Foundation! This opportunity will allow me to gain invaluable training and further my education as I continue to develop my young horse. Thank you to everyone at The Dressage Foundation and to all of the donors who have made this dream a possibility for us!"

— Ciera Foley (AL), recipient of a Karen Skvarla Fund Grant for Emerging Professionals



Photo credit Emmet Roche for Lisa Michelle Photography.