SERENADE.

PRESENTED BY
STORM HARBOR EQUESTRIAN CENTER



I'd like to personally welcome you to Sunset Serenade 2024! We are excited for so many returning guests, in addition to many new attendees. I hope a ton of fun is had by all!

This year's Paris Olympics theme has been really fun for us. The Storm Harbor team had the opportunity to develop the delicious French-themed culinary selections for you to enjoy this evening, as well as Olympics-themed decor.

Since last year, the program has continued to flourish with individuals attending from 10 counties, many new school programs scheduled, and over 250 riders within our weekly community riding program. We were able to attend the PA state summer Special Olympic games this year for the first time in three years due to COVID concerns and air quality issues. Our riders won many medals and had a great time.

Academically, we have many undergraduate and graduate students volunteering from a wide range of majors, receiving quality hands-on experience working within our programs. These students gain valuable skills working with a wide range of children and adults with disabilities.

We have also received several new grants to aid in many areas of our programming but did not receive the VA Adapted Sports grant this year. Our veteran program will continue as planned but will require additional funding sources. Please give generously this evening to ensure the VA program, and all of our programs can continue to thrive.

Tonight, we are excited to present a wide array of items in our live and silent auctions along with some great raffle items. And don't forget about the money tree!

Even if you haven't won an item by the end of the night, you can still show your support for Storm Harbor by sponsoring a rider, donating in honor of the veterans we welcome, or making a gift to provide care for our amazing horses. Your gifts are invaluable for the top notch care of our equine partners and a tremendous kindess for our riders with financial constraints.

Finally, we would like to remember two of our long-time, generous supporters. Samantha Swift, who left us in December of 2023 and Dennis Sawford who just left us in August of 2024. We know that they are still with us in spirit this evening.

We appreciate your continued support and generosity, not only tonight, but throughout the year. We hope you have a wonderful time at this year's Sunset Serenade!





STORM HARBOR EQUESTRIAN CENTER

ADVISORY BOARD

Jeffrey Arnold
Chelynne Curci-Lang
Mimi Davis
Patty Hladio
Katie Jamison

Laura Kapopoulos
Pauline Lindh
Lisa LaMolinare
Robert Kissick
Michelle Plinta

OUR MISSION

Storm Harbor Equestrian Center will excel as a premier facility, connecting the University and community, through equine-assisted activities.

OUR VISION

The mission of Storm Harbor Equestrian Center is to provide multidisciplinary professional preparation and research opportunities to University students through the medium of equine-assisted activities for individuals with disabilities. The center also provides a venue for the University's equestrian team.

Sunset Serenade

CELEBRATION PROGRAM

5:30 p.m. Doors open

Snacks and bar available

6:00 p.m. Culinary stations open

WELCOME AND SPEAKERS

7:00 p.m. Welcome

8:00 p.m.

Featured speakers

Memorial toast

Silent auction and raffle items close

Live auction

Winners will be announced at the close of the live auction

Band: Treebeard Brown

Emcee: Chelynn Curci-Lang
Auctioneer: Darlene Bullock

Featured Speaker: Asher Danielson and Melissa Danielson

Thank you!

ABOUT STORM HARBOR

The staff, volunteers, and horses at Storm Harbor Equestrian Center provide therapeutic riding opportunities for children and adults with disabilities. Slippery Rock University students assist with the lessons and participate in vital field experiences that benefit their future careers while serving individuals with disabilities.

At Storm Harbor, we currently serve a community that encompasses 10 counties, including Butler, Mercer, Venango, Allegheny, Lawrence, Beaver, Clarion, Washington, Crawford and Armstrong. While our main focus is children and adults with disabilities, we also offer community-based opportunities.

Our Programming



Weekly riding lessons for adults and children with physical, social or emotional disabilities.



Camp ROCK (Recreational Opportunities Connecting Kids) – An extended school year program for adolescents on the autism spectrum.



T.R.A.I.L.S. – A therapeutic after-school program for youth with autism that takes place at the center's Alcoa Sensory Trail to promote social, decision-making skills, and teamwork.



Equine Services for Heroes – A riding and ground work program for veterans of all ages with disabilities.



Coaching and training for Special Olympics equestrian events.





Hippotherapy - Dr. Whitney Angelini, DPT, offers hippotherapy sessions during the summer months. Hippotherapy uses equine movement as a therapy tool to engage sensory, neuromotor, and cognitive systems to promote functional outcomes.



School and pre-vocational programming -Over 15 classes from different area schools regularly visit Storm Harbor for therapeutic riding, ground work, and prevocational training.



Leadership Programming - Leadership Adventures programs are offered regularly at Storm Harbor.



Student and faculty research - Storm Harbor has offered many student and faculty research opportunities, conducting studies with faculty and students from many academic programs.



Children's summer day camps offer young community members the opportunity to interact with the horses and staff at Storm Harbor.

Our Volunteers

Volunteers are vital to our success, contributing more than 200 hours of service per month to the program. Volunteers assist with everything from therapeutic riding programs to barn management. Without our loyal volunteers, much of what we do would simply not be possible. Thank you to everyone who has ever contributed their time as a volunteer at our center! If you would like to volunteer, please contact us at stormharbor@sru.edu.



EAA Accreditation

Storm Harbor Equestrian Center is proud to be Western Pennsylvania's only Premier Accredited Center with PATH International, the nation's leading organization for equine-assisted activities. All of our instructors are certified through PATH Intl.

Learn More About Storm Harbor

Watch our YouTube video to learn more about our facility, the programs we offer to the community, and how SRU students can learn and grow with us in their major choice of study.





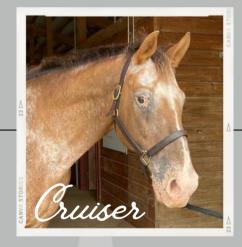


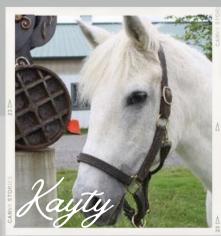


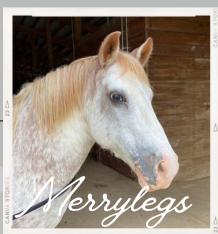








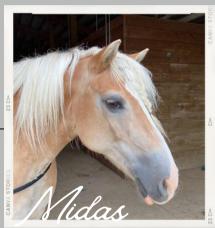






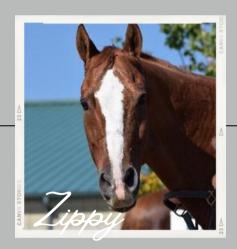
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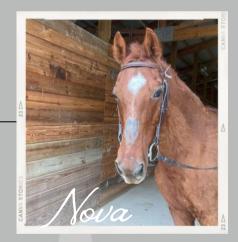


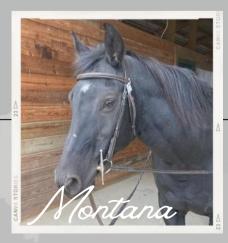


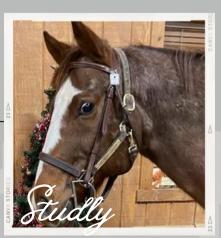














SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Thank you to our sponsors who have a direct and profound impact on the lives of our riders.

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Anonymous

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Thank you!

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THANK YOU TO OUR STAFF, STUDENTS AND VOLUNTEERS

We couldn't do it without you!

Our staff, students and volunteers help us sustain our facilities and programming. Storm Harbor has six paid staff members, two graduate assistants, ten student workers and hundreds of volunteers. This dedicated team helps keep our programming running smoothly and cares for our eighteen horses, as well as, completing the daily office chores and barn work such as sweeping, cleaning tack, grooming horses, and mucking stalls.

PAUL AND CAROLYN RIZZA SCHOLARSHIP

for EAAT Students

Created by Carolyn, the Storm Harbor Scholarship for EAAT Students is awarded to SRU students entering their junior year who are active participants, through employment or volunteerism, at the equestrian center.

The scholarship, which rewards dedication and commitment to the equestrian center, is renewable through the student's senior year of study at SRU. Providing significant financial assistance to student recipients through the entire second half of their collegiate career.

Thank you in advance for your support of The Storm Harbor Scholarship for EAAT Students. Carolyn's legacy will live on at Storm Harbor thanks in part to your generosity.

This year's scholarships will be awarded to:

Logan Peterson Natalie Hornstein

You can support the Storm Harbor Scholarship Fund by making an online donation.



IN MEMORY Samantha Swift

We would like to take a minute and remember Ms. Samantha Swift who left us on December 31st, 2023. Samantha was an integral part of the fundraising success of the center for many years.

Sam was always the first to step up and help in any way that she could. Sam wasn't just a welcoming face but was a staunch supporter of any and everything that she was passionate about. She welcomed everyone and always had a smile on her face. We know she is looking down on us and still helping to guide people to help the center in any way they are able.

There will always be a hole in our hearts from where Sam left an imprint but we will always keep her legacy strong. Sam is greatly missed by all of us here at Storm Harbor and within the university community.



IN MEMORY Dennis Sawford



My dad passed away in August, 2024 and this will be the first Sunset Serenade he has missed since it became a fundraising event, all 17 years worth.

My dad was a huge supporter of the Storm Harbor Equestrian center from the day I started working here. He was retired, and was a hobby woodworker, so he built

everything from our wooden mounting blocks, to jumps, to items for the sensory trail. Whatever was needed, he built it. This was all done with his donated time and donated materials or any materials we could find from any and everywhere. He enjoyed making sure nothing went to waste.

Over the last 17 years he has built so many wonderful things for Sunset Serenade. With his generosity he has helped us to raise over \$50,000 as part of the live and silent auctions. His hand crafted items were a hit every year. Many people always enjoyed asking me, or getting a sneak peak of, "what Denny is making this year". His hand crafted items are sincerely missed.

So, let us all raise a glass to not just my dad, Dennis Sawford, but to a huge supporter of the program. I'm sure he is here with us tonight trying to get everyone to bid in the live auction. Thanks to so many of you who have donated in his memory. He would be so proud of that.



THANK YOU!

A special thank you to Lynn and Jim Beck for the memorial wall in memory of Black Jack and friends. The Storm Harbor community is grateful for your generous gift.





Proceeds from the Sunset Serenade will help to expand services and provide scholarship assistance for Storm Harbor participants.

Thank you for joining us for Sunset Serenade 2024. Tonight, we celebrate the success of our therapeutic riding program and the hard work of the people involved with the center. Therapeutic riding, as described by the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International, "uses equine-assisted activities for the purpose of contributing positively to the cognitive, physical, emotional and social well-being of people with disabilities."

Therapeutic riding provides benefits in the areas of health, education, leisure, and sport and recreation. Throughout the world, there are thousands of individuals with special needs who experience the rewarding benefits of horseback riding. A disability does not have to limit a person from riding horses. In fact, experiencing the motion of a horse can be very therapeutic. Horseback riding rhythmically moves the rider's body in a manner similar to a human gait, riders with physical disabilities often show improvement in flexibility, balance and muscle strength.

In addition to the therapeutic benefits, horseback riding also provides recreational opportunities for individuals with disabilities to enjoy the outdoors.







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