



WELCOME TO  
**Sunset Serenade**

PRESENTED BY  
**STORM HARBOR EQUESTRIAN CENTER**



# WELCOME



Welcome and thank you for coming to the 16th annual Sunset Serenade! We have had a record-breaking year of programming, with **over 15,000 equine-assisted activities conducted throughout the year.** Your support has helped us excel in our programming, top-notch horse care, and in providing financial assistance for riders and programs.

This year's Fox Hunt theme is **a tribute to Dr. Carolyn Carruth Rizza.** Carolyn was always a huge part of Storm Harbor. The financial contribution made by Carolyn, and her husband, Paul was key in its creation. Beginning in 2005, when the Storm Harbor opened, Carolyn served as chairperson of the advisory board and was an integral part of supporting our mission and vision. We are thankful that her husband Paul continues to be a vital supporter and **we know that Carolyn's presence will be felt here forever!**

Tonight we are excited to present a wide array of items in our auctions. Even if you don't have a winning bid on an auction item by the end of the night, **you can still show your support for Storm Harbor by helping to sponsor a rider or one of our amazing horses** with a donation in any amount.

Thank you again for attending this year's Sunset Serenade. We hope you have a fun evening while supporting our riders and programs!  
**We truly appreciate you!**

*Courtney Gramlich, CTRS*



# STORM HARBOR EQUESTRIAN CENTER

## ADVISORY BOARD

Jeffrey Arnold  
Chelynn Curci-Lang  
Mimi Davis  
Courtney Gramlich  
Patty Hladio  
Katie Jameson

Laura Kapopoolus  
Pauline Lindh  
Lisa LaMolinare  
Robert McKissick  
Amy McKnight  
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.





# 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 and serving individuals with disabilities. As an example, a physical therapy student might incorporate horseback riding into their patient's program or a special education teacher might involve their students in a local riding program.

At Storm Harbor, **we serve a community that encompasses more than six counties**, including but not limited to, Butler, Mercer, Venango, Allegheny, Lawrence and Beaver. While our main focus is children and adults with disabilities, we also offer a few programs for people without disabilities.

## 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, teamwork and decision-making skills.



**Equine Services for Heroes** – A riding and ground work **program for veterans of all ages with disabilities.** The program is currently funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Adapted Sports branch.



**Coaching and training for Special Olympics** equestrian events.



**SHEC-RT** – An individualized recreational therapy, goal-directed program for high school students with disabilities to develop pre-employment, motor and social skills.



**VIP Sports Camp** – An equine activities camp powered through ENVISION, this camp provides a variety of physical activities and sporting events for vision-impaired youth.



**Summer day camps** available to all children.



Participant of the **Total Transition program** through the University's adapted physical activity program.



**One-day programs** available to community agencies, schools and programs for youth and adults.



**Provides class work** for the University's newly developed animal-assisted intervention minor.

## Our Volunteers

Volunteers and junior volunteers are vital to our success, contributing **more than 200 hours of service per month** to the program and assisting with everything from lessons to barn management. If you would like to be involved in our programs, please contact us by calling **724.738.4010** or via email at **kelly.goeller@sru.edu**.



## EAA Accreditation

Storm Harbor Equestrian Center is proud to be **western Pennsylvania's only Premier Accredited Center with PATH Intl.**, 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.



# 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 and live auction  
Silent auction and raffle items close  
Winners will be announced at the close of the live auction

Band: Tree Beard Brown

Emcee: Jeremy Lynch

Auctioneer: Don Braham

Featured Speaker: Annie Messer, Horses Rock

*Thank you!*





## You're Support Makes a Difference

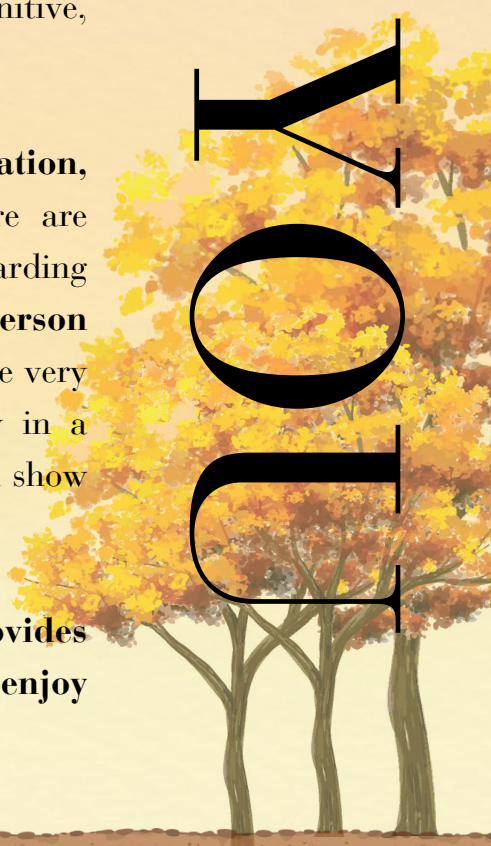
**Proceeds from the Sunset Serenade will help to build an endowment, expand services and provide scholarship assistance for Storm Harbor participants.**

**Welcome to Storm Harbor Equestrian Center.** 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 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.”

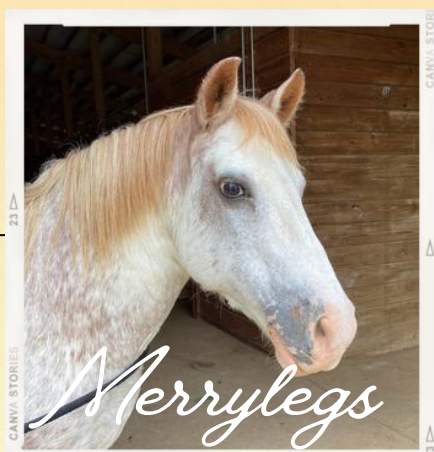
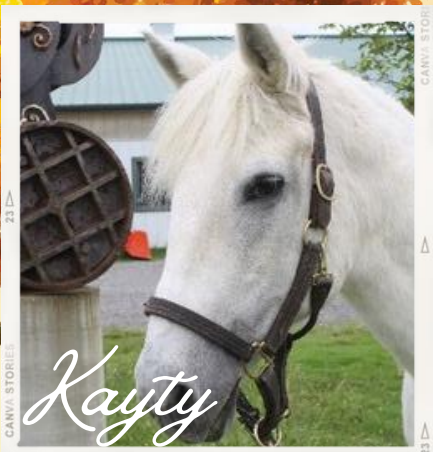
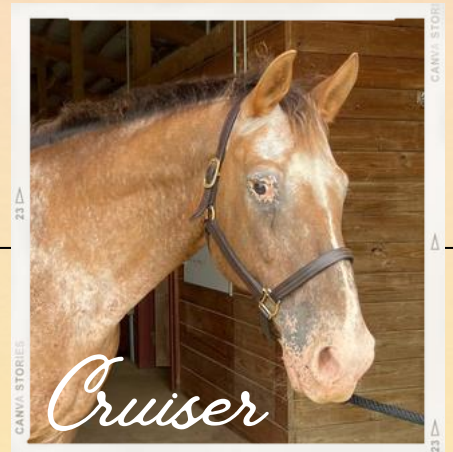
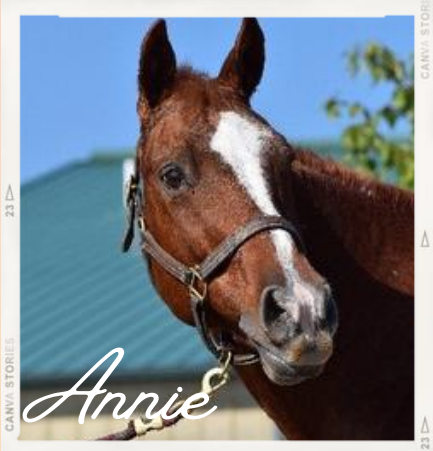
**Therapeutic riding provides benefits in the areas of health, education, sport and recreation, and leisure.** Throughout the world, there are thousands of individuals with special needs who experience the rewarding benefits of horseback riding. **A disability does not have to limit a person from riding 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.**

THANK YOU

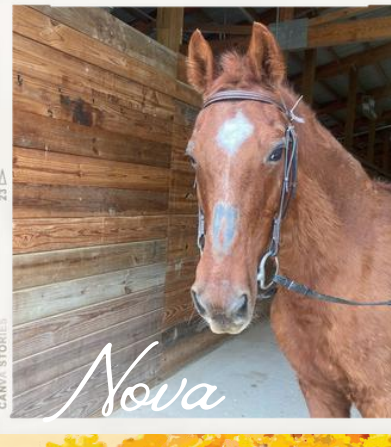
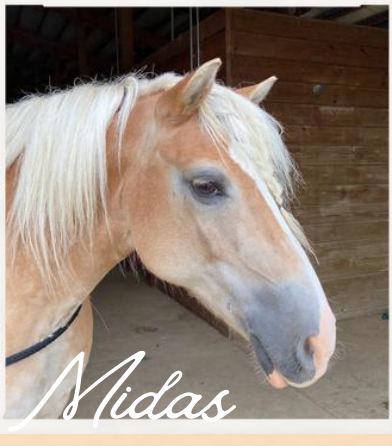
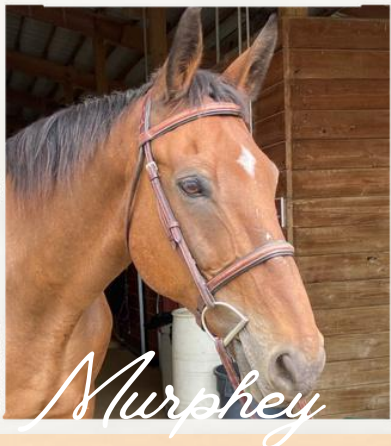


# SPONSOR





# A HORSE



# SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

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

## PLATINUM SPONSORS (\$25,000 or more)

Paul Rizza  
Anonymous

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James Bartolomucci  
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## COPPER SPONSORS (\$1,000)

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*Thank you!*

# THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS SPONSORS

**TRIB** | TOTAL  
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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 seventeen horses, as well as, completing the daily barn or office chores such as sweeping, cleaning tack, grooming horses, mucking stalls and handling paperwork.



# STORM HARBOR 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.

**Support the Storm Harbor Scholarship Fund by  
making an online donation.**



*Click or scan  
to donate*

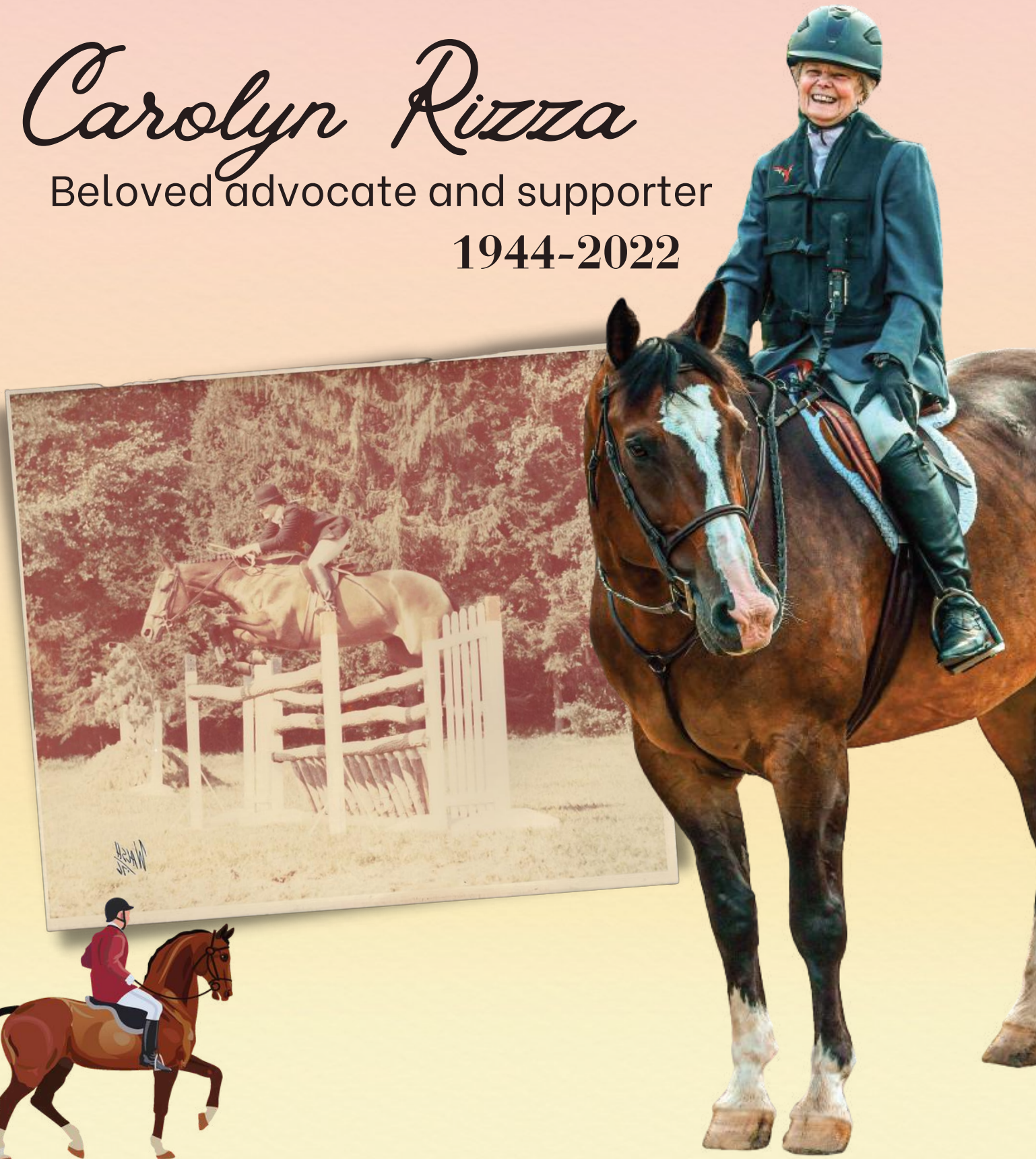


# IN MEMORIAM

*Carolyn Rizza*

Beloved advocate and supporter

1944-2022





*It's been a great life. Thank you for being part of it!  
-Carolyn Rizza*



**Thank You**  
**FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

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