

Dear Friend of STAR,

November 2024

As the season of thanksgiving grows near, I find myself reflecting on how incredible the past year has been. There have been so many individuals who have shown up and showed out in providing support that has allowed STAR to continue its mission of healing through horses. Thanks to **you**, children and adults with disabilities, at-risk youth, individuals living with Alzheimer's and dementia, and veterans have been able to experience life changing therapeutic experiences in a compassionate, encouraging, and stimulating environment.

Over the past year, countless, remarkable transformations have occurred. Though there are many stories to share, I'd like to introduce you to Jaxon.

When Jaxon arrived at STAR for his first lesson, he was a mixture of nerves and excitement. But from his first ride at the barn, he was captivated by the horses. This feeling has only gotten stronger throughout his four sessions with STAR, as he now requests to put his helmet on before he's even in the car on the way to the barn!

Living with a diagnosis of Level 2 Autism, there are few things that catch Jaxon's attention enough to inspire vocalization of his thoughts and feelings - but the horses at STAR are the exception. He knows all the horses by name and can even tell you what breed they are.

"It's amazing how much his confidence has grown. His vocabulary has grown. His mindset has changed." Jaxon's mom, Priyanka, shares. In finding a sense of comfort in the barn, Jaxon now considers STAR's instructors and volunteers his family, a testament to the powerful connections fostered here at STAR.

But Jaxon's success extends beyond the barn.

"It's just amazing to see how much he understands and how that has impacted his communication with the rest of our family." STAR has not only transformed Jaxon, but also brought a profound sense of support and connection to his entire family.

"All I can say about STAR, is they've not only changed Jaxon's life, but my life, my husband's life. And I just can't imagine Jaxon's life without STAR."



To hear Jaxon's story straight from his mom, scan the QR code or visit our website at www.rideatstar.org/year-end-giving



Jaxon's story is just one example of the many lives touched by therapeutic riding and Equine Assisted Services offered at STAR. However, the truth is that none of these successes would be possible without the generosity of individuals like **you**. Your support allows the programs to prosper, equine partners to receive top levels of care, and the opportunity for individuals to benefit from essential services.

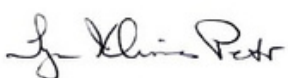
In looking ahead to the new year, I am asking for your help to ensure that STAR remains a place of healing and hope for all who walk through our barn doors. Your contribution makes a tangible difference:

- \$50 can provide necessary equipment for our riders, such as stirrups or reins.
- \$100 supports the care and feeding of our equine partners.
- \$700 provides sponsorship to a participant in need.
- \$1,000 helps expand STAR programs to reach even more individuals.

Together, we can ensure that our participants have the opportunity to build confidence, strength, and independence through the power of the horse. To make a tax-deductible donation, scan the QR code above, visit our website www.rideatstar.org, or return the enclosed envelope with your gift.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission and your belief in the healing we provide. I can't wait to see what we can achieve together in the coming year!

Gratefully,



Lynn Klimas Petr
Founder & Executive Director