



December 2016

Dear Friends of ROCK:

The weather is cooling, the leaves are turning and the holiday season is upon us! On behalf of ROCK families, ROCKateers, staff, horses and the Board of Directors I would like to express our deep appreciation and thanks for your support of this important work we share as we head into this most blessed time of the year.

Because of your continued support we are able to help children like Jeremy. He came to ROCK less than a year ago when he stopped making progress with traditional therapy. His mom shared that "coming to ROCK has changed how he looks at things. He works hard at learning to ride a horse and tells his friends that he is doing a sport instead of going to medical appointments." Jeremy's mom tells us that in the past year since starting at ROCK, he has gotten a lot stronger. He had extreme hip pain that prevented him from riding in the car for longer than 10 minutes. Hippotherapy has helped tremendously and now he can comfortably ride for up to 2 hours in the car, which has opened up a whole new world for him and his family.



We are also thankful for your support to help young adults like Mary Catherine. Mary Catherine's mom tells us that "As a parent, what I value most about ROCK, more than the physical gains she receives, is the social benefits. All people long for love and a community to belong to and she gets both of those at ROCK. This beautiful relationship can be seen as a circle of love... all the genuine love Mary Catherine has for ROCK comes right back to her through the love given to her from both the people and animals she encounters while there. She is so full of joy and people see it through the smile on her face and the animals sense it through the love in her heart." Mary Catherine is able to confidently participate in Special Olympics because of the successful life skills she is learning at ROCK.

In addition to serving children and adults with special needs, ROCK has been serving veterans and service members since 2005. Todd has been involved in the ROCK On Veterans program for three years. Todd's wife shared that when he came to ROCK, "he was in a place of sadness. The extent of his injuries seemed to overwhelm him, along with his brain injury. He retreated from everything. Being a part of ROCK and the veterans program has made him feel comfortable and safe and it's helped him join the world again." This picture of Todd and ROCK Therapy Horse Sonny is worth a thousand words, but for Tara it only needs five: "He NEVER smiles like that."



Helping children, adults, veterans and their families is our calling at ROCK. You have shown your commitment, care and concern for the families we serve through your previous gifts and interest in our mission – thank you! You help us provide life's simple gifts – horses and people...a connection that heals. You show the families we serve that there are many people in Central Texas and beyond who care about them.

As you celebrate the holidays with your families and friends, **I hope you will consider making a gift to support ROCK.** Gifts from generous people like you will enable us to continue to serve over 250 families each year with life changing positive results. Please send a special gift of support today in the enclosed envelope.

Best wishes and blessing to you and your family this holiday season.

Nancy Krenek, PT, DPT, HPCS
Founder and CEO

~SAVE THE DATE~
ROCK'S BARN DANCE
MARCH 25, 2017

P.S. All gifts are important and greatly appreciated. Whether you can give \$10 or \$10,000 please know that we will put it to good use in helping those who need our services. If you prefer to give online, please go to www.ROCKride.org. THANK YOU!