



October 2020

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Dear Friends,

Thank you for helping us change lives in sometimes very dramatic ways, such as first words spoken by a non-verbal child or perhaps subtler ways – such as creating confidence, courage, and coping strategies in a teenager so she can deal with schoolmates who are bullying her on social media. For 27 years, Dream Catchers has provided unique and meaningful equine assisted programs to enhance the health, well-being, and quality of life for children and adults throughout Hampton Roads from Richmond to Norfolk, as well as the Peninsulas along the James, York, and Rappahannock Rivers.

At the close of the fiscal year, we developed a new report format to share a more comprehensive guide to our services, our most recent financial results, and reasons why our programs make a difference in the lives of our participants and their families. The enclosed 2020 Impact Report shares both tangible and intangible results of our life-changing programs. We are proud to share that our financials reflect a net gain due to a strong fundraising year, highlighted by significant grants secured for capital improvements. We are also working to ensure the future of Dream Catchers by fundraising for our Endowment.

Just as with other non-profit and for profit organizations in our local and global communities, Dream Catchers is working through the health and economic challenges created by the pandemic. During the three months that our programs were closed, we developed even stronger protocols to safeguard against disease transmission in order to give our clients, staff, and volunteers the comfort of a healthy and safe therapeutic environment. With the guidance and expertise of our dedicated Board of Directors and Advisory Board, our well-trained staff demonstrate the experience, skills, passion, creativity, and motivation to pro-actively work through the program and fundraising challenges presented by the pandemic.

In June, we began a phased re-opening of selected services and introduced alternative programs to support the health and well-being of our community, such as EquestriYoga and adult horsemanship. Now, more than ever, Dream Catchers can be an invaluable resource for children and adults with special needs and their families.

For this fiscal year, program highlights include announcing Healing through Horses, an exciting new collaboration for equine assisted psychotherapy programs with Universal Mental Health Services, LLC, which has offices in Newport News and Richmond. In addition, we have recently developed an art therapy program as part of our mental health curriculum. We look forward to launching a new equine assisted learning collaboration for youth at risk with Bacon Street Youth and Family Services made possible through the generosity of the Campbell Family Foundation and expanding our programming to reach children in the Richmond area made possible by the Richard S. Reynolds Foundation.

***Your amazing support keeps the momentum building for Dream Catchers!
We are grateful to every donor and every volunteer who is
moved by our mission and who contributes to our success!***

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www.dreamcatchers.org

When our biggest fundraising event, Bridles and Boots, was canceled in May, your very generous response to the Bridles & Boots Appeal enabled Dream Catchers to replenish important funding for general operations. Special thanks to Spain Commercial, Inc. for their title sponsorship that has been shifted to Dream Rider Scholarships to ensure that our participant families receive the support they need during difficult times.

During this past fiscal year, several very important enhancements have been made to our already extraordinary property, which was purchased two decades ago for us by Susan and John Sikich in loving memory of their daughter, Cori. Our gorgeous property hosts a state-of-the-art facility that was made possible through the remarkable generosity of Angie and Wade Johnson, MD through the Roy R. Charles Trust Foundation's support in 2006. As we share the enhancements described in the paragraph below, we first want to express our appreciation to the Sikich Family, the Johnson Family, and so many other generous visionaries whose support created this place of epic and long-lasting healing and hope.

Since December 2019, four capital improvement projects were completed which include: the funding, installation, and launch of: (1) Cox high speed internet/phone/fax service, (2) Cox Business Solutions Security Monitoring System, (3) Johnson Controls Fire Alarm System, and (4) classroom audio systems for the indoor and outdoor arenas. The generous funding for these four projects was provided by: Hope & Bob Moore, Judy & Harry Wason, Patricia St. Clair, and the Gladys and Franklin Clark Foundation. We also want to recognize the significant in-kind support of Cox Communications to bring high speed internet down Fire Tower Road to Dream Catchers.

The most significant capital improvement project on the horizon is the construction of a steel roof over the outdoor arena. This construction is funded through a very significant grant from the Clara and Clifton Ward Foundation, secured through the passionate advocacy of Kim and Peter Wendell, DDS. Once covered, this outdoor arena will function more effectively as expanded outdoor learning space to accommodate additional programming and help maximize facility utilization. A committee of Board and staff members are currently working with a local engineering firm on a site development and capital improvement project plan in preparation for the arena roof construction and other needed action, such as storm water management remediation. As this plan develops, we will share updates with our supporters.

Dream Catchers is looking forward to a future filled with expanded programming and increased facility utilization to provide even more families with equine assisted programs for better health, improved well-being, and enhanced quality of life.

Thank you for believing in the power of our programs and supporting Dream Catchers!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy L. Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Nancy L. Williams, Esq.

President, Board of Directors