



# ATRC: OF THE MONTH

The monthly newsletter for our families, followers, and supporters of the Albany Therapeutic Riding Center.



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## END OF YEAR MATCH UPDATE

ATRC was told by a very generous donor that they will be match all donations we receive through the end of the year up to \$20,000 to end the year with \$40,000! The amount of support we have received so far is amazing!

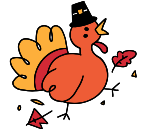
Thanks to the support of our amazing community, we are about 50% of the way to meeting our end of year fundraising goal! **We have raised \$10,075 towards our goal to be matched to \$20,150! We are getting there!**

Please consider donating to our match campaign or sharing our fundraiser with your family and friends!

As Giving Tuesday approaches, we hope that you'll consider donating to our campaign and helping us reach our goal. For more information please visit our GoFundMe Charity Page:

ATRC End of the Year Match Campaign

# VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH: NATALIE VU



According to the staff at ATRC, Natalie is "always super enthusiastic and great to have around! She is always happy to help out with whatever task she is given!" To get to know Natalie a little better, we asked her a few questions:

**What is your favorite part about volunteering with ATRC?**

I genuinely love working with all of the riders! Forming strong relationships with them and seeing the riders progress is so rewarding. Also, being with the horses is quite therapeutic for me too!

**When you're not at ATRC, what do you like to do?**

If I'm in Albany, I love cheering on the Siena men's and women's basketball teams! But if I'm at home, then I absolutely love playing with my new puppy Paige.

**If you won a million dollars, what would you do with it?**

First, I'd probably give a sizeable amount of it to ATRC because I wouldn't be as happy as I am today without ATRC! Then, I'd probably use the rest to pay off my student loans :)

**If you could meet your hero, who would it be and why?**

One of my heroes is definitely Ruth Bader Ginsburg. After watching her documentary, her life made me realize that despite all our struggles, we should always push through and that will help us reach our future goals.

**Why do you volunteer with ATRC?**

I volunteer at ATRC because I want to be able to bring others happiness in any way possible. I see the love that all the riders have for the barn and the horses, that just being in their presence makes me incredibly happy too.

## Meet the Board: Colette Cifor

Colette is a college graduate with a BA in accounting from Hillsdale College. She has worked much of last 40 years as a tax accountant and business manager.

Partially retiring on November 1, 2020, she was a founding board member for Ride & Shine Therapeutic Riding Program, Shaftsbury, VT. As a member of Ride & Shine, she was directly involved in grant writing for the program and assisted in organizing fundraisers. She was a volunteer side walker with a weekly adult riding group with Ride & Shine. She has been heavily involved as a volunteer throughout her adult years, including chairman of a elementary and middle school PTO and a founding member of a youth soccer program in Manchester, Vermont. She has a special needs daughter who has been riding and experiencing the benefit of therapeutic riding for the last 27 years.



## Winter Exhibition



We are so excited to be holding our first ever Winter Exhibition the first weekend in December! Riders who are signed up will have the opportunity to show off what they've learned to their friends and family!



If you are looking for ways to get involved with this event, we are still looking for sponsors at all levels.

Sponsorship opportunities include: raffle sponsors, food and drink sponsors, class sponsors, and event sponsors. For more information on the different levels, please email Allie at [fundraising@albanytherapeuticridingcenter.com](mailto:fundraising@albanytherapeuticridingcenter.com)





# Testimonials



"Emma has been participating in therapeutic horseback riding through the riding center since last fall. It's been wonderful to watch her build her confidence and become a responsible young lady from her time with Albany Therapeutic Riding Center. She takes great pride in taking care of the horse she rides, Montana, and has developed a bond she'll never forget. Her trainers, Allie and Taylor have encouraged her to be as independent as possible with caring for Montana. No matter how hard of a week or day she is having, no matter how anxious or overstimulated she may be, she has a sense of calm when she is at the stable that she doesn't have anywhere else in her world. We are so blessed and grateful for the beautiful facility, wonderful/caring trainers and volunteers, and the special horses that are so patient."



"Rachael has blossomed in her short time at Albany Therapeutic Riding Center and that is all thanks to the wonderful staff and their director Taylor Huntley. Struggling with anxiety and autistic sensitivities, Rachael has a unique way of feeling comfortable and engaged. The best part about riding at ATRC is that they understand that! When needed Taylor is easily able to adapt lessons plans, communicate in ways that comfort Rachael and also keep her motivated and focused. Great ideas like a photo shoot with Montana, free lunging in the arena and an end of the year exhibition for the riders to show off their talents are just some of the amazing ways this organization is making a difference for their riders. I am so happy to see our Rachael be so excited trotting Montana all by herself! We love ATRC!"



"I started volunteering as part of the Albany Medical College Service Learning program and it quickly became the highlight of my week. I've loved seeing the program grow over the last three years to help more students. Taylor, Lauren, and Allie's boundless enthusiasm make every trip to the barn enjoyable, and I've loved the opportunity to make even a small impact in the students' lives. I'm excited to see how the program will continue to grow and the ways ATRC will continue to serve the community" - Lisa Teixeira, Volunteer

