

THE HOOF BEAT

HORSEPOWER Newsletter

Location

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Phone

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Website

www.horsepowersf.com

Check out our Socials!

Facebook

"HorsePower"

Volunteer Facebook

"HorsePowerSF Volunteers"

Twitter

@HorsePowerSFSD

Instagram

horsepowersfsd

TikTok

@horse_power_sf

Important Forms

New and Returning Client Forms

Under Resources Tab:

<https://horsepowersf.com/resources>

Volunteer Forms

Under Get Involved Tab:

<https://horsepowersf.com/get-involved>



We have a new Executive Director

Eric Hartel



As the new Executive Director of Horsepower, I have certainly rolled up my sleeves and hit the ground running. Since I started at the end of October, my new role has proven to be very exciting and rewarding. My focus has been to meet the horses, learn key areas of the business, raise funds, build relationships, and plan for 2024. I have also taken a little time out for reflection, and I keep revisiting a phrase that feels fitting to our mission which is "If something big and powerful props you up; you feel big and powerful."

"I believe these words uniquely capture the essence of our equine-to-human therapeutic services. Our horses are amazing and gentle creatures that have helped individuals with physical, emotional, or cognitive challenges for nearly 40 years. Personally, I have always been mesmerized by the strength, beauty, and grace of a horse. My first experience with one was on my uncle Ed's farm when I was about 9 years old. I visited his farm often and learned a great deal. I learned how to drive a stick shift which took some practice. Plus, I also developed a strong work ethic and an affinity for animals. Horses and dogs are two of my personal favorites. Over the years, I have discovered many things that I am passionate about. For instance, developing the potential of others, especially those with special needs, is extremely important to me. I witnessed several transformative moments during my five years as a teacher. Essentially, when I see someone's eyes light up from learning a new skill, I find it heartwarming. And, as a father of two girls who are now grown, it is my opinion that these are the moments we cherish for a lifetime. Even though it is my favorite step, teaching does not fully summarize my life's work nor my purpose. In fact, my career path has progressed through several meaningful steps that include useful skills like leadership, fundraising, finance, marketing and more. Through it all though, I now know that my purpose is to help others as much as possible and my role at Horsepower will make use of all my faculties which feels like providence. Plus, when I consider all the fantastic plans for things to come in 2024, I simply can't wait. I would like to thank our donors, board members, staff, clients, and volunteers for their relentless dedication. Also, I think it is important to say that I get energized when I meet new and faithful patrons that support our mission. So, I hope to meet everyone soon. Please stop by and say hello when you have a chance."

Important Dates

- New Year session is
January 15th - March 1st
- Registration Deadline for
Spring 2024 is February
8th
- Hartford Pizza Ranch
Fundraiser
 - January 22nd
5pm - 8pm

2024 Schedule

- New Year
 - January 15 - March 1
- Spring
 - March 18 - May 10
- Summer
 - June 3 - August 2
- Fall
 - August 19 - Oct. 11
- Winter
 - Oct. 28 - Dec. 13

Our 4 Legged Friends

It takes a very special horse to be a therapy horse.

Jack is a 25 year old Quarter horse. We do not know much about Jack's past but we would all like to believe that he was a rough and tough ranch horse in his day. Jack loves to spend his morning munching on his grain and alfalfa. In the afternoons he gives his riders a nice ride before retiring to the field for a well earned nap. Jack is very laid back and nothing bothers him, but if you are late getting him his breakfast you will hear about it!! We love our old man, even if he doesn't like the affection we smother him with.



Volunteer Spotlight

In this section we will put focus on some of our AMAZING volunteers. We really could not provide these services without the dedication of our volunteers.



Elise started volunteering 11 years ago, after a break from volunteering she came back 4 years ago and has not looked back since! She found HorsePower by doing a google search when she moved to Sioux Falls. When asked why she chose to volunteer at HorsePower she said, "I was 'that' horse girl when I was a kid and had dreams of owning my own ranch that had a TR and Hippo program. I learned more about it in college while volunteering at a local program. Since I haven't been able to own my own place, this was the next best thing! I love horses and working with people so HP has been able to satisfy those two passions at once." Her favorite horse from the past was Diesel because he showed an emotional connection to whoever he was near. Her current favorite horse is Captain. Elise's favorite part of volunteering is getting to see the growth of the clients over the years and feels lucky to have been able to be a small part of that growth. She also loves the relationships she has developed with the clients, their families, fellow volunteers and staff members. Other opportunities can come out of volunteering as Elise found out, "HorsePower is responsible for me starting my photography business! It started with offering to take head shots of the staff during covid, grew to taking pictures of other staff and volunteers who have their own horses and then I took the pictures for the 2021 & 2022 calendars. My business has since continued to grow and I now take pictures of many of the clients and their families." We are so thankful for Elise, she has a special bond with the clients she works with and always comes into the lessons with a smile and a positive attitude. Thank you Elise for all that you have done for HorsePower!

Wish List

- For the horses
 - Shavings for stalls
 - Rubber feed pans
 - Gift cards
 - Tractor Supply or Fleet Farm
- For the office
 - Epson 822 xl printer ink
- Miscellaneous
 - Dry Cat Food

We have a new wish list portal!! You can find it at:
<https://www.myregistry.com/giftlist/horsepowersfwishlist>

Or scan the QR code below



DONATIONS

You can donate on our website
<https://horsepowersf.com/donate>
 (https://horsepowersf.com/donate) by clicking the donate button in the upper right hand corner.

All physical donations can be dropped off at the farm M-Thurs. 9 -5 or mailed to us.

Halloween at HorsePower

What a success!



On Saturday October 29th we hosted Halloween at HorsePower. It was chilly and snowy outside but inside was warm and filled with laughter and smiles. We had so much fun getting to see some of our clients outside of their lessons and meeting a lot of new people.

The horses that dressed up loved having all the visitors come through and say hi.



We can't thank the volunteers who came out that day enough, it would not have been a success without you all. Keep a look out for our Halloween at HorsePower 2024 date!

Upcoming Events

Pizza Ranch Fundraiser

HorsePower is hosting a fundraising event at Pizza Ranch in Hartford, SD on Monday January 22nd. Come out and enjoy the buffet while getting to meet some of our clients, staff and volunteers. We will have some of our merchandise for sale and information about our upcoming session. We would love to see you all there!

When: Monday January 22nd
5pm - 8pm

Where: Hartford Pizza Ranch
120 SD - 38
Hartford, SD 57033



Note from the Staff

2023 has flown by, we can not believe how fast it went. We are looking forward to all the exciting new things that we have planned for 2024! We have been so blessed to get to know so many new people over this last year. Thank you to all our donors, volunteers and clients. Wishing you all a wonderful 2024!!

Eric, Lacy & Kim