

FOUNDATION FEATURE:

Empowering *the* Dream



DONORS SHARE HOW SPONSORING A RIDER HAS IMPACTED THEM



Nancy Ditty with the Sims family

As a parent herself, Nancy found herself connecting not only with her rider, but the family as well. “Watching the EWD classes is amazing in itself, but it’s even more powerful when you are personally involved. Two years ago, I met a wonderful family of a child I sponsored, and I was able to sit with them in the stands and watch their child show and cheer them on,” she noted.

“As a parent myself, I know what all we go through in just raising our own children, and they have so many more worries than we do. Just being able to watch the smiles on the parents’ faces, as well as the smile on their child, by getting to show, was so powerful. Helping them be able to forget about disabilities and everyday worries and just experience the show was something I’ll never forget. Sponsoring a rider is something everyone should do.”

The NSBA Foundation’s “Share The Dream” campaign continues through the end of this month. Through the “Share The Dream” campaign, the Foundation has again set a goal to obtain sponsors for 90 riders in 90 days to help offset EWD and Heroes On Horses expenses at the NSBA World Show. The campaign began March 1 and runs through May 31, 2018.

Sponsoring a rider not only impacts the rider. Donors explain how their act of kindness has impacted them, as well.

“POWERFUL”

Non-Pro exhibitor Nancy Ditty of Ocala, Florida, has seen the impact sponsoring a rider can have. “This will be my third year to sponsor a rider through the Foundation,” she said. “I had watched the EWD classes at the NSBA World Show while we were showing there. I asked how I could donate, and Lynn Campbell helped me start sponsoring a rider.”



Rebecca Hogan, Taya Kyle, Kristy Starnes along with Wayne Davis and KC Knoch and Heroes On Horses riders.

“JUST COME AND WATCH THE CLASSES”

Kristy and Jay Starnes, of Summerton, South Carolina, have sponsored both EWD and Heroes On Horses exhibitors.

“We started sponsoring a rider in 2016 at the NSBA World Show,” Kristy said. “It is a great program to support the veterans and EWD riders. We sponsored so that we could help give a rider the opportunity to compete at the World Show with less financial stress, so they could focus on their rides.”

Jay and Kristy assisted an EWD rider in 2016 and a veteran in 2017. “We’ve met all of the riders we sponsored,” Kristy said. “It is so nice to be able to put a face with where your sponsorship goes to support. Getting to know the riders on a more personal level and see them accomplish so much is a great experience.”

Kristy’s advice to anyone who is interested in helping sponsor a rider is simple: “Just come and watch the classes, and you will be motivated to sponsor a rider.”

Donations of any size are accepted for the “Share The Dream” campaign. Full sponsorship of a rider is \$650. Each year, riders complete and submit an application to receive financial support through a grant application process administered by the NSBA Foundation.

For additional information or to complete a Sponsor A Rider form, please visit the Foundation section of the NSBA website, www.nsba.com or contact Lynn Campbell at lcampbell@nsba.com. ■