

FOUNDATION FEATURE:

Deep Impact



How Impactful Are Your Donations? Let Us Count The Ways



Adam Syed



Jeff and Anna Maria, parents of Mary and Charlie Sims

When you make a donation to the NSBA Foundation, your dollars have a profound impact on the lives of individuals who receive help through the Foundation's programs. Below we share what just a few recipients had to say about their experiences.

"The competitive experience means ribbons... and even better.... medals... along with lots of smiles, hugs, and congratulations! It means lots of attention from instructors and volunteers, friends and family, and even people he doesn't necessarily know! Adam can verbalize some, but depends more on using a communication device to express himself. When I asked him 'how does horseback riding make you feel?' Adam clicked on 'PROUD!'" *-Meredith Syed*

"To me, the 'horse experience' is a passion. I have the abilities to show my passion for the sport of riding and the spirit of sportsmanship to all riders in a competitive arena." *-Sabrina Williams*

"Having the opportunity to participate at the NSBA World Championship Show would be a dream beyond our wildest imagination. Not only would it be a great opportunity to show at one of the largest horse shows in the nation, it would be an opportunity that only a few people have the privilege of doing." *-Nina Ginitz*

"The competitive experience means preparing every day to reach my highest potential and getting all the benefits of riding, such as improving gross and fine motor skills, balance, posture, coordination, increase concentration, spatial awareness, self-discipline, increase independence at home and at school and most importantly increase my self-esteem." *-Sophia Rojas*

"I suffer from weakness in my legs and unbalance. Riding helps me get stronger and have better balance. To get strong and balance myself means a lot to me, that's why I'm so happy to become part of the NSBA World Championship." *-Gilberto Gonzalez*

"Our son Charlie was diagnosed with Autism at age 3 and half years old. With therapeutic riding, Charlie's muscles became stronger with every session. His social skills started improving and his ability to focus just kept getting better. We saw him connect with the horses. It was magical. Our daughter Mary, who is also autistic, began riding at age two when it became apparent that she too was struggling physically and socially. Showing gives Charlie and Mary the ability to compete and show what they've worked so hard to learn. It gives them a team of individuals to work with and support. They have goals and something to strive for. There is so much value for Charlie and Mary when they can be proud of their accomplishments. They've also built great relationships through this process, including the relationships they've made with the amazing horses they ride." *-Anna Maria Sims*

"My life has never been the same since equine therapy, and I mean that in the best and most wonderful way possible. It is through horse show competitions and watching competitions that I have learned so much about how to ride and the different ways a person can grow as an equestrian. Competition to me is very important as I have a competitive spirit about me. What is life without a challenge like competition? It offers so much room to learn from mistakes and learn how to improve from them and from watching others. Competition also offers a chance to compete on multiple horses and with that, a better understanding of horses and how someone can be a better equestrian and person." *-Becca Rakow*

Donations of any amount are welcome at any time for the NSBA Foundation. Donations can be made online, in person or by mail, with VISA®, Mastercard®, American Express® and Discover® cards accepted. Donations can be designated for the Heroes On Horses, Equestrians With Disabilities, Trainer Crisis Fund and Education Fund, with the option to donate in memory of a friend or loved one. ■

For more information about the NSBA Foundation, please contact Lynn Campbell at lcampbell@nsba.com.