

Sullenbrand Three Gaits Grant Report

From the 3Q2018 Newsletter:

AASBCR® Sponsors a Grant Process

Last quarter we told you that AASBCR® had decided to offer grants on a trial basis to non-profit organizations that support worthy causes. Only those funds, which members have designated as donations, are used in this trial.

The first grant in the trial, for \$500, was awarded to Three Gaits, a therapeutic horsemanship center in Wisconsin, which provides riding lessons to children and adults with special needs. The organization was recommended by one of our members, Pat Doucette. Below a mother describes how the grant was used and the incredible impact it had on her children who otherwise would not have been able to afford the full price of a riding class.

If you know of a non-profit organization that would benefit from a grant and you are willing to act as the grant coordinator, please contact us at info@asbcr.org or call our virtual office at 312 962-2770. Information about applying for a grant is available on the AASBCR® website at asbcr.org. Look for Grant Requests under the heading Members.

The Sullenbrands Summer Scholarship Story

By Katie Sullenbrand

Eden and Eve Sullenbrand have both been riding at Three Gaits since 2016, and it is always the highlight of the week for them both.

Eden is diagnosed with both autism and anxiety, and she benefits from the calming aspect of horseback riding. It also helps her learn to participate in a group setting and to follow directions.

Eve has a major congenital heart defect for which she underwent open heart surgery last September, as well as a connective tissue disorder called Ehlers Danlos Syndrome that results in low muscle tone. She benefits from the core strengthening aspects of horseback riding, as well as helping her develop fine and gross motor skills and focus her attention.

The Three Gaits' scholarship program has enabled both of our girls to reap these wonderful benefits, something that otherwise would not be possible for us. While the

horses are of course incredible, it is the staff at Three Gaits that in my opinion make the program truly exceptional. My daughters sometimes struggle with taking and following directions, as well as anxiety in new situations, but the staff

at Three Gaits always fully accepts them as they are, while at the same time patiently cheering them on with high expectations to become their best selves possible.

While we recently relocated and our drive to class is now twice as long, there has never even been a question as to whether we wanted to continue the program because it is so beneficial to both our children. We also treasure the friendships they have made with the other children in their classes.

Thank you so much to the generous donors who make such a high caliber program.

