



The **SheaCenter**
for Therapeutic Riding

NEWS

The Shea Center is dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities through therapeutic horse-related programs.



A Puppy for Payton

Payton Anderson is a happy, loving six year-old girl diagnosed with autism, a developmental disability affecting social and communication skills. Payton's mother, Jennie, having grown up on a ranch, recognized the value of therapeutic riding and brought Payton to The Shea Center in March of 2010.

Initially, physical therapist Susan Conroy worked with Payton to improve her flexibility and strengthen her core muscles. Six months later, Payton began working with therapeutic riding instructor Sonya Violette, who reports Payton is making great progress; she is already trotting and maintaining the two-point position with excellent balance. Payton looks forward to her time at the Center, and marks each Saturday on her calendar with a horse sticker.

People on the autism spectrum often struggle with overly heightened senses – hearing, sight, movement and balance issues are common and difficult to address. Payton's mother notes that

her daughter's time at the Center helps positively address her information processing skills, builds her self-confidence, helps her overcome sensory issues, adds to her social skills, and gives her a more flexible personality. Payton is in kindergarten and, in addition to her other therapies, has taken karate lessons and now wants to take dance lessons.

Every person's victories at The Shea Center are different. An unanticipated and positive outcome from Payton's experiences here involves something that most every child gets to experience at some point – a pet dog. When Payton began at the Center, she was terrified of dogs. Knowing this, after each lesson Susan Conroy PT increasingly eased Payton toward Emerson, The Shea Center facility dog. In his loving way, Emerson quickly won Payton over and she began to overcome her fear.

Payton had been asking for a puppy for two years, but Jennie and her husband, Morgan, were hesitant because they felt Payton couldn't process the connection between her fear of dogs and having a dog. After seeing the relationship build between Payton and Emerson, they considered getting a puppy for Payton. They consulted a breed matching program to assure they got a dog that was good with children and had the right temperament to go

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"Our goal is to help every individual be their most able in this unique environment..."

SUSAN CONROY PT



Message from Dana



Mark Aldrich

For the past two years, Mark Aldrich has served a second term as Chairman of the Board. This is not his "first time to the party" where The Shea Center is concerned, but it is one of his finer moments in many years of service as a volunteer.

Mark steps down as Chairman in June at the Annual Celebration and as he does, I feel it is fitting to acknowledge the work that he has done and continues to do on a daily basis for our clients and families.

Sixteen years ago, Jon Fosheim tapped Mark to become "a legal mind" on the board. Aldrich, Bonnefin & Moore is the premier law firm for nearly ALL of California's small and independent banks. When I met Mark thirteen years

ago, he was the treasurer of The Shea Center board and part of the panel that interviewed and hired me for my role as executive director.

Over the years, he has been Shea Center treasurer, chair of the planning committee, nominating chair, board chairman twice and continues to serve as our de-facto legal counsel. During his many years of service, great moments in our history occurred – the land gift from the J.F. Shea Co., Inc., our first capital campaign, the redefinition of our bylaws, the last construction phase, and the opening of the Klein Family Education & Therapy Building. Mark and his firm have provided countless hours of legal service, and he has supported me and fellow board members with many hours of counsel and collaboration.

For me, Mark's most defining quality as our chairman is his ability to put our mission first. With his pragmatic approach as chairman comes a deep and abiding passion for the work we do for people with special needs. The Shea Center is undeniably better for his many years of loving, skilled and dedicated service.



Mark, on behalf of the thousands of clients and volunteers who have come to The Shea Center over the past sixteen years, thank you for your leadership and all you have done to improve the lives of people with special needs through therapeutic equestrian activities.

Dana Butler-Moburg
Executive Director

Special Needs Trust Workshop

Join us for an important event for parents, grandparents and caregivers of children with special needs. A Special Needs Trust is a critical instrument for your child after you are no longer able to participate in the care decisions for your special needs child.

Presented by attorney Will Brodak, this parent education workshop details the options you as a parent or caregiver have in framing a Special Needs Trust for your child and will include a question and answer period.

The workshop is offered free of charge and to facilitate your participation, will include an activity period during the program for client children and siblings up to age 12.

Date: June 28, 2011

Time: 6 – 8 pm

Location: Klein Family Education & Therapy Building – Bilek Family Meeting Room
26284 Oso Road, San Juan Capistrano

PAYTON (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)

with Payton's personality. They decided on a Boston Terrier.

They prepared Payton by taking her shopping to buy a collar and toys for the puppy. She went with her parents to pick up her new puppy just before Christmas. Much to her parents' joy, Payton and her puppy, whom she named "Biscuit," rode home happily together in the car. Biscuit is now 7 months old and Payton takes her on walks, is teaching her tricks, and rewards her with a treat right out of her hand!

Payton's father Morgan Anderson remarked that he is amazed by the number of diagnoses the Center addresses and does it so thoroughly for each individual. "I was told by another therapeutic riding center in the area that we are lucky Payton is able to attend The Shea Center since the quality of the programming here is just the best," says Anderson.

"Our goal is to help every individual be their most able in this unique environment," says Susan Conroy PT, Payton's Shea Center therapist. "We want their learning to carry over into their every day lives and for Payton, that is and continues to be the case. We take so much for granted as typical adults and youth – but for Payton and her folks, having a puppy, being able to go out to noisy and public places, being strong and balanced in her movement – these are the normal things of life that we strive to help change for the better through our programs at The Shea Center."

did you know?

If you would like to receive The Shea Center monthly updates by email, please forward your email address to dgreen@sheacenter.org.



33rd Annual Shea Center BBQ & Family Faire

Put on your jeans and boots and join us for the 33rd Annual BBQ & Family Faire. Last year over 1,600 guests attended the BBQ and we expect just as great a turnout this year! Presented by Jenny and Bill Klein and the Rancho Mission Viejo Rodeo, the event will be held on September 24 at The Shea Center.

There will be something for everyone! Special activities will include country faire games for all ages, barn tours, rider demonstrations, the client "parade of stars" and the VIP Blazin' Saddles Saloon serving beer, wine and appetizers.

After a 200 item silent auction, a fabulous BBQ dinner will be served, followed by a live auction with auctioneer Shawn Parr of radio station Go Country 105. The festive evening concludes with dancing to country band, Swingshift.

Thank you to all our long time partners and to new partners joining us for a terrific event this year. Nick's Restaurants Laguna and San Clemente will be the sponsor bar host and we are grateful to Nick's for stepping in as an event partner! (www.thenickco.com) Our long time partner, Claim Jumper Restaurants, was purchased by Landry's out of the Houston area and so changes are coming to the 2011 BBQ including our new caterer Soiree Event Planning & Catering. We welcome your consideration of live and silent auction items, sponsorships and volunteerism on the BBQ committee. Thanks also to our terrific event committees led by Lissa Freese, Kathleen McClemmy and Chris Lippincott.

Tickets go on sale the beginning of August and can be purchased online at www.sheacenter.org/events or by calling (949) 240-8441 x 135.



SHEAFARI ~ *Rockin' on the Wild Side*

It's an evening of Ferocious Fun and Rock 'n Roll at The Shea Center's annual black tie fundraising Gala! The committee has been putting in long hours to ensure that this will be one of the most fun and unique Shea Center events to date.

The evening begins at 5:30 pm overlooking the ocean on the Montage Resort Laguna Beach's Pacific Lawn. There you will enjoy untamed cocktails, adventurous appetizers, "Born to be Wild" entertainment and a silent auction. The festivities then move to the resort's Grand Ballroom for a ferociously gourmet dinner followed by the Michael Lewis Friends of the Disabled Awards honoring Eden & George O'Connell and Debbie & Rhoads Martin, a live auction with auctioneer Shawn Parr of radio station Go Country 105, dancing and music by Haute Chile.

Tickets are \$400 per person and may be purchased online at www.sheacenter.org or by calling (949) 240-8441 x 101.

Make a Gift to The J.F. Shea Therapeutic Riding Center From Your IRA

Since first enacted in 2006, Americans have made millions of dollars of contributions to nonprofits thorough their pension plans.

At 70 ½ owners of IRAs must begin taking taxable distributions from their plans. (Remember that IRAs were never intended to avoid taxes, only to defer them.) This law allows people who are 70 ½ years and older to make a current gift of up to \$100,000 from a traditional or Roth IRA. Therefore, many people will find it more advantageous to use their IRAs to make charitable gifts rather than make gifts from other resources as gifts made from IRAs are not subject to income tax.

Please also consider naming The J. F. Shea Therapeutic Riding Center Endowment Fund as a beneficiary of a portion of the amount left in your IRA at the time of your passing. Generally, it is better to leave IRA assets to charity and cash and stocks to family.

If you would like to further explore the possibility of supporting The Shea Center, please call Dana Butler-Moburg at (949) 240-8441, x 102.



Charles S. Dreyer ~

The Shea Center lost a dear friend in Chuck Dreyer who passed away at his home on December 26, 2010. With a great zest for life, Chuck was involved with many businesses, organizations and charities. For many years,

he was the auctioneer for The Shea Center's annual Gala and BBQ. Chuck will be missed, but we are fortunate and grateful to have experienced his friendship for many years.



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The J.F. Shea Therapeutic Riding Center
26284 Oso Road, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
T (949) 240-8441 | F (949) 240-3447

www.sheacenter.org



SAVE THE DATES!

Annual Gala: May 21, 2011 | Laguna Beach Montage Resort & Spa
Annual Meeting & Celebration: June, 1, 2011 | The Shea Center
Annual BBQ & Family Faire: September 24, 2011 | The Shea Center

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*3rd Annual
Business Leaders &
Philanthropy Series*

On April 20, 2011 members of the Orange County business school alumni associations of Harvard,

Stanford, UC Irvine, UCLA and USC enjoyed a networking session with hors d'oeuvres and beverages at The Shea Center. Guests were offered tours of the Center and viewed a therapeutic riding demonstration.

The highlight of the sold out evening was a presentation by Michael Mussallem, Chairman & CEO of Edwards Lifesciences Corp. speaking on "Innovation Drives Business and Philanthropy." Edwards Lifesciences Corp. is the global leader in the science of heart valves and hemodynamic monitoring. The evening was a special opportunity for the guests to experience how philanthropy by Orange County business leaders truly makes a difference in the lives of children and adults with disabilities served by the J.F. Shea Therapeutic Riding Center.

2010 Speaker – Peter Ueberroth

2009 Inaugural speaker – David Pyott, Chairman and CEO, Allergan

**Sara Thiel, Special Olympics
Outstanding Athlete of the Year**

Sara Thiel, age 28, is one of the many adults riding at The Shea Center. Diagnosed with mental retardation at an early age, her parents brought her to the Center where she has been riding for 23 years.

Sara has grown into a great independent rider at the walk and trot and is working toward the canter. Currently riding Oscar, she is being taught the basic foundations of dressage riding: learning to leg yield, how to properly use her seat, and to keep a steady connection with her hands. Sara is a great student with a ready smile, is eager to learn new things, and always tries her hardest to accomplish each task given in her weekly lessons.



In addition to riding at the Center, Sara participates in the Orange County Special Olympics in softball, basketball, volleyball, floor hockey, and track. Nominated by her coach, Tim Stuart, she is the recipient of the Betty Belden Palmer Award for the 2011 Special Olympics Outstanding Athlete of the Year. Honored for

becoming more independent and learning new skills, Sara received her award in April, at the Special Olympics on Parade fundraising event held at the Disneyland Hotel where 400 guests were in attendance.

Congratulations, Sara! We're proud of you and all your accomplishments.