

October 26, 2020

Dear TEC Family,

After five long months of being shut down due to the coronavirus pandemic, TEC was finally able to reopen our doors on August 17. **What a blessing it was to, once again, see the smiles peeking from underneath the masks, hear the laughter, and witness “I Did It! moments happen.** We have completed a 5-week summer session and are enjoying our fall lessons as we plan for the holiday session.

During lessons we have heard participants say how good it feels to be riding again. To celebrate something as normal as a birthday was a real treat. **Riders were thrilled to see “their horses”, once again.** Volunteers are also enjoying the interaction with the horses, participants, and fellow volunteers.



For some participants returning to a weekly lesson has brought stability to their schedules. **Leaving their homes for exercise, skill building, companionship, and time away from the computer screen has made a difference.** Our volunteers have also enjoyed doing activities that are “normal” in this not so normal time.

Students from Blossomland Learning Center and Lighthouse Education Center have returned, one day a week, to their jobs at TEC. We are so grateful for their help working in the barn, out in the pastures, and in the yard. **TEC gives them the opportunity to develop job skills at a time where many places are unable to have them there due to COVID.**

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Unfortunately, not all TEC participants and volunteers have been able to return. COVID has hindered some of you from being able to resume your normal activities and we completely understand. **We want each of you to know that you are a valued member of the TEC family and we look forward to the day when you can, once again, walk through our barn doors!**

We know for many families this time has created challenges for you as well. Hence, **we can't thank our donors enough for their continued support.** Your help during the craziness of this pandemic has allowed TEC to reduce the fee for lessons, which we plan to continue through the holiday session. Your ongoing support will not only help us to navigate through the challenges of this pandemic but also help TEC to continue providing participant's with scholarships and caring for the TEC horses.



These past seven months have been unlike any other we've ever experienced. TEC's Board of Directors and staff have learned a lot in this time; especially, how to pivot, shift, adapt, and what works best. **We take very seriously our role and responsibility in providing a safe environment for everyone who participates in TEC activities.** We will continue to revise our extensive policies and procedures as needed to minimize the spread of the virus and to be consistent with the most current information available.

As this year draws to a close, we invite you to stay connected with TEC by following our Facebook page and website. Updates are sent via e-mail and snail mail as well so be sure we have your current addresses on file. In fact, we'll be mailing out the year-end issue of the TEC Connections newsletter in December.

Most importantly, we hope you and your loved ones remain well and safe.

Sincerely,

*TEC Board of Directors*

*PS: Not on our e-mail list? Sign up at [bit.ly/TECSignMeUp](https://bit.ly/TECSignMeUp).*