

Change of Rein and Other News



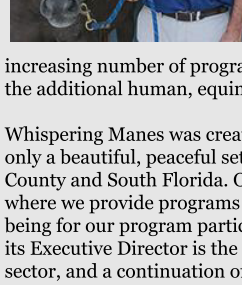
Time for a Change

As Whispering Manes enters it's ninth year as a PATH International Premier Accredited Center, it is time for a change. I have decided to leave Whispering Manes as Executive Director and return to veterinary medicine at a small animal practice here in Miami. I have spent the last nine years dedicated to starting and growing Whispering Manes and I am proud of our accomplishments and the organization Whispering Manes has become. We have grown from hosting one school and a handful of riders per week to offering horseback riding and horsemanship classes to more than 220 people with special needs per year from ages 5 to 83. We have begun Manes & Tales, a literacy program for children who struggle to read by partnering them with our miniature horses, and we have taken the miniature horses on the road with Mini Manes to bring smiles to children at Holtz Children's Hospital and seniors at The Palace. Whispering Manes has moved into a beautiful barn that is the envy of Horse Country, and we have built a herd of truly special animals who by their very nature do more to make people happy than just about anything else you can imagine. I have enjoyed every day that I have been privileged to lead Whispering Manes and I am truly proud of the work that we have begun. I firmly believe in the mission and the work that the staff, volunteers, and horses do every day to make Miami a better place and to improve the lives of people in our community, but now it's time for Whispering Manes to enter the next stage of its life and grow as an organization. As such, I am happy to introduce Sam Diller, the next Executive Director of Whispering Manes Therapeutic Riding Center. I am confident that Sam will help guide Whispering Manes to even greater heights and I look forward to the future for us all.

It has been my great honor to have been the inaugural Executive Director and to have met so many wonderful people through my role at Whispering Manes. Thank you for all the support that you have shown me in my journey to grow Whispering Manes into something truly special. And now, I look forward to joining the Board of Directors of Whispering Manes so I can continue to help this beautiful organization.

Erin Bauer, DMV

What an Honor and a Privilege!



I must share how extremely honored I am to be given the opportunity to serve as the Executive Director at Whispering Manes Therapeutic Riding Center. As one of only a handful of PATH International Premier Accredited Centers in South Florida, the work we do here is both unique and critically important. I am totally committed to seeing that we provide the highest quality equine assisted activities to as many members of our community's special needs and disabled populations as possible. It is my vision to see that Whispering Manes serve an ever increasing number of program participants, across a wide spectrum of needs, and to securing the additional human, equine and financial resources to make this expansion happen.

Whispering Manes was created by individuals with vision and passion. They have created not only a beautiful, peaceful setting, but above all incredible programs. It is a jewel for Miami-Dade County and South Florida. Our incredible facility with its beautiful pastoral setting is a place where we provide programs that lead to growth, improved self-confidence and a sense of well-being for our program participants. To be a part of this incredible organization, and to serve as its Executive Director is the culmination of my nearly 25 years of leadership in the non-profit sector, and a continuation of serving those in our community who have the greatest need.

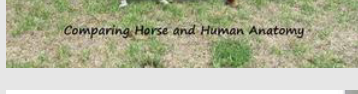
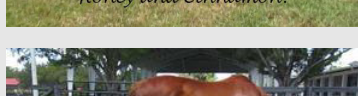
Finally, I must acknowledge and thank Dr. Erin Bauer, as my predecessor and first Executive Director of Whispering Manes for the incredible commitment of time, energy and love she has invested in helping to create such a powerful and impactful organization. Tall riding boots to fill! After nine years of Erin's leadership there is a rock-solid, established foundation of operations and programs in place. And I am happy to share that she has agreed to now serve on our board of directors. Moving forward, I am confident that together with the board of directors, staff and volunteers and our many partners the growth of Whispering Manes will only accelerate, and our community impact will become even greater.

I look forward to beginning this journey with all of the Whispering Manes Family!

Samuel Diller, Executive Director

Spring Looked Different

The whole world has been impacted by the pandemic, and Whispering Manes is no exception. On March 16 we closed our doors to our students for the safety and health of everyone involved. Staff was working from home and only a small number of volunteers kept the horses in training and entertained. We did not forget about our fans! We connected through Facebook live with entertaining and educational mini sessions lead by our Program Director Robin Bramson. Did you miss them? You can watch them by clicking on an image below:



Summer Camp Was Held!

Some good news! We were able to host a small summer camp thanks to the financial support of the Florida Blue Foundation, The Batchelor Foundation, and the Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation. One-week camps started the second week of June and continued through the end of July. The campers had a riding lesson every day followed by horsemanship activities (because everyone should know how to take care of their horse), and then enjoyed other socially distant activities like making horse treats and a unicorn makeover for the minis.

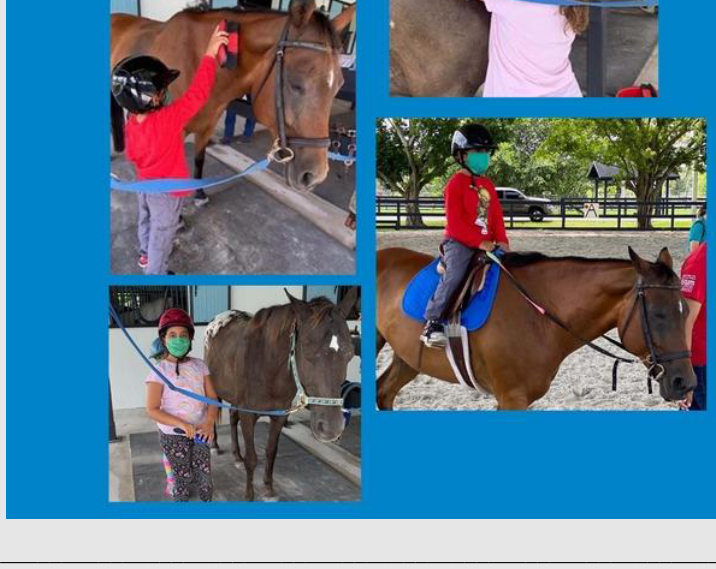


Support For The Coming Year

The Coral Gables Community Foundation and the Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation have made it possible through their community grants for 40 students to enjoy full scholarships for therapeutic horseback riding classes during the 2020-2021 school year. Crystal Academy Coral Gables students will be among the children who will participate this fall.

Sofia's Hope Field Trips

Last year through the support of Sofia's Hope, we started to offer field trips for children undergoing cancer treatment. With a goal to create memories we saw over 30 families at 4 field trips. Undergoing cancer treatment is difficult on the families, and especially the siblings who may feel neglected. So last year we offered a field trip especially for those siblings. Unfortunately, we were not able to offer summer field trips this year, but we still found a way to bring a smile to the faces of some families. We hosted a series of one hour horseback riding sessions and families were invited to the barn to have some fun with our horses.



Trying Something A Little Different

In case you're missing your favorite horses at Whispering Manes, we've found a way to fill the void, virtually speaking. Through the amazing world of technology, Robin has also been able to translate some of our horse photos into pictures that you can download and print. Let your kids color the horses, or maybe the adults will want to also (coloring can be very relaxing), and then email us the finished art. We will post your creations on Instagram and Facebook for all to enjoy!

Send your masterpiece to: info@whisperingmanes.org

Whispering Manes coloring books are available to download from our website

www.whisperingmanes.org/coloringbook



Ride For The Roses Student Horse Show

This was the first year since we opened that we did not have our Ride For The Roses Student Horse Show in May, but don't worry! The horse show is merely postponed, so mark your calendars and plan to join us on Saturday, September 26 for the Welcome Back Horse Show.

In the meantime, we thought we would revisit some great horse show memories and share a few 'Then and Now' photos. We have watched these riders grow up and we are so proud of all of their successes!



In Memoriam

At the end of May, we were saddened by the loss of our friend and member, Marilyn Fizer March. Marilyn's long career with non-profits brought to the board of Whispering Manes where she provided guidance and vision to the board, program and staff. As an organization we will continue to honor Marilyn's memory by working tirelessly to make Miami a better place to live.



Congratulations Volunteer Of The Quarter!

Thank you Mando DeArmas for all your dedication!

Mando was one of the very first volunteers at Whispering Manes and he has been by our side for all these years. Mando does it all, feeds the horse, cleans stalls and paddocks, volunteers in classes and exercises horses. Always willing to lend a hand, when our head groom, Ediel, recently had to go on medical leave, Mando was available to assist with morning chores. And when Ediel came back to work, but had some activity restrictions, Mando kept helping. We are especially thankful for Mando's help during a difficult time.



Congratulations Mando!

Do you know someone who has been an extraordinary volunteer at Whispering Manes? Please let us know so that we can spotlight them in a future newsletter. We can't do the work we do without the help of volunteers so we want to make sure we are always showing our appreciation.

Volunteer Message

We want to thank everyone who has been coming out to help over the years. We are opening slowly and hope to be able start our volunteer program again soon. Please continue to watch your email for messages of when we will need your help again. Until then stay safe!



Want To Become More Involved With Whispering Manes?

There's a lot of excitement around the barn: new horses, new programs on and off property (on hiatus at the moment), and new community connections all to benefit people who need the curious,