

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT /

Greetings,

Since becoming the President of the Board for SIRE we undertook creating a strategic plan that will guide SIRE well into the future. For more than 35 years, SIRE has been a leader in the Houston community providing therapeutic horsemanship activities to people with special needs. This mission has led to thousands of people gaining life improvements and building a stronger community.

My personal experience is watching a dear friend, Megan Fry, one of our riders living with Cerebral Palsy, grow up in the SIRE program. She started riding when she was three years old. Her mom, Andi, watched as her “baby” was scooped up, put on a “ginormous” horse and led around the arena. When they rounded the corner and Megan’s face was again visible, she was grinning from ear to ear – the start of an 18-year commitment to SIRE for the entire Fry family. Today Megan balances a full course load at the University of Houston, lives in the dorms and schedules round-the-clock assistants and still prioritizes her weekly trips to SIRE.

In April 2019, the SIRE Board approved a bold strategic plan to make sure that people like Megan will have SIRE to turn to for many years into the future. This plan stands on three legs: Financial Stability, Program Excellence, and Strong Infrastructure. I am so excited about the direction SIRE is headed and proud to serve as your Board President. Together we will continue to share with the world the healing power of horses.

Charlotte McIntyre, President, SIRE

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### SPRING

4610 Sloangate  
Spring, TX 77373  
(281) 353-6160

### FORT BEND

2100 Preston Street  
Richmond, TX 77469  
(281) 344-4308

### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

11211 Katy Fwy, #660  
Houston, TX 77079  
(281) 356-7588

sireoffice@sire-htec.org  
sirehouston.org



SIREHOUSTON.ORG



2019 ANNUAL REPORT





## VOLUNTEER PAYS IT FORWARD /

One of SIRE volunteer Randy Cochran's six grandchildren lives with autism spectrum disorder. Young Markus Randall resides in Virginia and participates in special programs to help him live his best life.

"There are a lot of people that help my grandson," explained Randy, a heavy equipment salesman. "Volunteering at SIRE is a way for me to pay it forward. It helps me not miss being with Markus so much, knowing I'm helping other people with similar challenges to his. I've learned an awful lot about children with special needs."

He said he often hears from the parents about the differences SIRE makes in their children's lives.

"One 13-year-old girl sits, looking sullen and by herself before she rides," Randy described. "But she gets on the horse, and it's amazing how conversational she becomes."

"Over the years, I've coached kids' basketball, football and baseball, and this is the coolest thing I've ever done," he said. "I can have the worst day in the world, and by the time I enter the gates at SIRE, I realize I don't have any problems at all."

## SIRE NURTURES SONGBIRD, INDEPENDENCE /

Lauren Iglar sings to every song. She knows the tune, the words and usually the name of the artist. She loves riding her horse at SIRE, and that profound human-horse union has helped create a life of experiences to savor.

Now 21, Lauren started therapeutic horsemanship training with SIRE at 8 years old, "when she could only say 10 simple words, no sentences, and she understood even less," Lauren's mom, Ladana Iglar, remembered. "It was a rough beginning during her birth as the umbilical cord was twisted around her neck, and left her developmentally delayed and with cerebral palsy," Ladana explained.

"Without years of riding, I truly believe she would not be where she is today in all areas."

"She has a mind of her own when deciding most everything," Ladana said. "She is very independent in her mind, even though she still needs assistance in numerous areas."

"We have grown up at SIRE with friends, volunteers and staff who are like family and are very special to us. Without SIRE's consistency in our lives, it would not be the same outcome. SIRE is a great thing all the way around. "

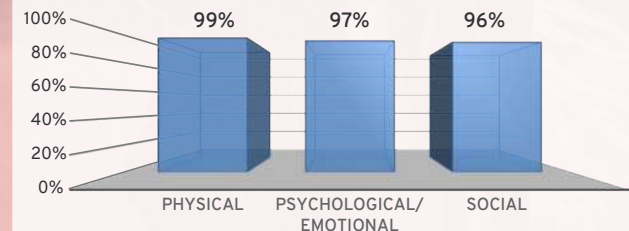
## FUNDING A FINE HERD /

We heartily thank the Charity Guild of Catholic Women for its contributions of \$19,450 over the last two years. These gifts support daily feeding, maintenance and health care of SIRE horses.

Since 1996, the Charity Guild has donated more than \$6.4 million to more than 158 local nonprofit organizations with proceeds from its Charity Guild Shop, founded in 1922.

## OUTCOMES FROM RIDING /

### Outcomes from Therapeutic Riding at SIRE 2018-19 with 54% of riders reporting



89% report that SIRE has been the best activity of all the various therapies and activities they have tried.

SIRE provided 8,194 service hours to 267 clients through our weekly riding and competition programs. Additionally, SIRE has enhanced the professionalism and expertise within the industry by providing 2,362 hours of education and training. Volunteers donated over 28,000 hours to SIRE.

# OUR DONORS & PARTNERS

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## FINANCIALS / July 2018 - June 2019

Program costs for the fiscal year were 71% of the total expenses. Complete financial statements and the most recent income tax forms may be found on the SIRE website at [sirehouston.org](http://sirehouston.org).

**TOTAL ASSETS** \$1,099,738

INCOME	2019
Special Events	\$ 263,574
Foundations & Org.	\$ 527,480
Program	\$ 376,355
Individuals	\$ 159,411
Misc.	\$ 21,319
Corporate	\$ 23,094
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,371,233</b>

EXPENSES	
Programs	\$ 811,613
Administrative	\$ 212,659
Development	\$ 111,385
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,135,657</b>

### Disabilities Served

