



## A Place To Fit In

By Amy Bonner  
Camelot Parent

Every parent wants their children to have a place to fit in—to develop skills and friendships that are a part of growing up. For my son Patrick, who had a stroke 16 years ago and has cerebral palsy, it was harder to find that place than it was for my other children, who gravitated easily to sports and theater. That all changed seven years ago when we found Camelot, which has given Patrick opportunities that I could never have imagined.

I had never heard about Camelot until one lucky day when my cousin Cheryl's patient was talking to her about how he volunteers at a ranch for disabled individuals. She called me right away and told me about this magical place we should check out for Patrick. I called and spoke to Mary and made an appointment for Patrick to visit and see if it would be a place for him to ride. We were all very impressed with the facility and its mission of helping disabled people ride horses. Patrick has been riding at

Camelot ever since, and as he enters his senior year of high school, I want to reflect on all he has gained during his time there.

Patrick has become very independent at Camelot. He is required to do as much as he can on his own to prepare to ride. This is made easier for the students since the tack room has all equipment at an accessible level. The entire barn area has a graded concrete floor so Patrick can go to every area in his wheelchair. The ramp allows Patrick to mount his horse with just a little help from his instructor or volunteer. We all want to see our kids achieve greater independence and Patrick certainly has during his time at Camelot.

Patrick has also developed leadership skills at Camelot, and I am very appreciative of the opportunities he has been given. First, he was paired up with a blind student and guided



*Patrick, left, with classmate and friend Jesse*

her through a routine using only his voice during Hooves & Heroes in 2011. They worked on their routine for months and I was so proud to see him perform. Second, he was asked to mentor another student who came to Camelot two years ago. He has shown this student the ropes and made him feel welcome at Camelot. I feel such pride when I hear this rider's mom talk about the difference Patrick has made in her son's life.

Patrick has gotten stronger with each passing year, which I attribute to

*(continued on next page)*

horseback riding. Riding a horse is a good workout for his trunk and balance, which translates to having more coordination and strength when transferring in and out of his wheelchair and performing other activities throughout his day.

When I bring Patrick to his lesson, I know he is in a place where he is valued and respected. Over the years, every one of his instructors and volunteers has shown a genuine interest in getting to know Patrick. He became comfortable at Camelot during his first lesson and looks forward to going each week. Camelot is a place where Patrick belongs and has thrived, developing friendships that I know will last a lifetime. Patrick will be going off to college next year, and I feel he is better prepared to live on his own because of the lessons learned at Camelot.

Patrick has grown so much during his time at Camelot. We all think of Camelot as a great place to ride horses. But it is so much more than that—it is a place that teaches discipline and independence and instills in its riders the confidence to slay the dragons they will encounter in life. This ranch is a remarkable place and I'm so pleased Patrick is a part of it. ∞



Patrick and Jesse learning the parts of the horse with Paladin's help!



## Merlin's Muse

By Mary Hadsall, Executive Director

I sleep well at night with the knowledge that Camelot makes a difference in people's lives. I was reminded of this recently when a voice from the past reached out to say hi.

Last March I received an email from Abigail, the youngest of three, and only eight years old when she was a student at Camelot. Abigail enjoyed her lessons and was a hard-working student. She was eager to come to class and even more eager to share stories of her bunny with her instructor, Michelle. Abigail rode for one lesson season before her family moved out of state. It could be easy to assume the experience was inconsequential because it was for a short period of time, but Abigail showed me otherwise. Camelot was on her mind and she took the time to say that we are important to her. I now know that Abigail's next-door neighbors have horses; she has the wonderful opportunity to enjoy them as if they were her own.

Let this be a reminder that every moment and every encounter make a difference. Make that moment matter. Together we CAN change the world one ride at a time. ∞

### *In Memory Of*

Kosmo  
Torben Poulsen  
Paul Vogel  
Helen Shehoski  
Peggy Jane Karla  
Ted Szychowski  
Frances Taurisano  
Laura Lawrence  
Paladin

### *In Honor Of*

LeRoy and Bernie Franklin's  
50th anniversary  
Lynn Wright's birthday  
Mary Beth Walker and Ralph Engler  
Sharon and Lou Goldman's  
50th anniversary  
Jonathan Richardson  
Lara Turner Homes  
Patrick Bonner  
Claudia Rank  
Sydney Freedman, Ph.D.  
Peg Mulloy's new home!

### *In Appreciation of Kindness*

Susan Barclay  
Ann McBain-Ezzell  
Lou and Sharon Goldman

*Memorial gifts in any amount are a beautiful way to honor a beloved friend or family member, be they human or otherwise. We also welcome gifts in honor of birthdays or other special occasions. All such donations are acknowledged with a special card or email and a mention in our newsletter. When sending in your gift, please include a brief note designating whom it is memorializing, and in which category you are submitting it. If you would like an acknowledgment card sent, please include the recipient's address.*

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**Publisher:** Mary Hadsall  
**Editor:** Sharon Phillips

# Coughdrop's Chatterbox

A Letter from the Editor's  
Assistant



Artwork by Craig Zamboni

There's a new kid on the block and his name is Frisco. He's a chestnut Morgan-Thoroughbred gelding who is a retired hunter jumper. I liked him from the moment I met him; I could tell he was a solid guy with a good head on his shoulders. I get approached by many horses looking for a new career, and since we keep our herd quite small, about eight horses, I really put them through their paces. The first thing I do is check their references. I speak with the current owner on the phone and ask about age, height, general health, and what the horse has been doing in his current career. If he's the right age, usually around 15 years old, not too tall, not too short, and has no hiccup in his giddy-up, I may bring him on out to the ranch for a trial period. It's a rather rigorous 12-week process where I watch him be handled and ridden by staff and introduced to the special equipment he may not have seen, like wheelchairs, the ramp, and the SureHands lift. If he settles in, is getting along with the rest of the herd, and our ranch hand volunteers like him, I call our veterinarian for a pre-purchase exam. Our veterinarian and I have an agreement that he must pass our exam with flying colors. We even take X-rays, just to be certain that he can hold up to the work demands. Our job, carrying students who may need us to shift and step under them when they are off balance, may not be as cardiovascularly strenuous as some careers, but it requires us to remain sure footed and even keeled all the time. This means we have to have top-notch bones, joints, and muscles. I'm happy to say I was right about Frisco. He passed all of my tests and is truly honored to be a Camelot horse. ∞



photo: Mary Hadsall

## The Whole Story of the Hoof By Lou-ellen Finter Camelot Student

My grandfather told me the story of the horse's hoof. In the center of the hoof by the sole, there lived a frog. One day he jumped over the joint (commissures) to reach his favorite bar. At the the bar, he had too many colas and the policeman asked him to walk the white line around the sole. The frog felt full but knew he could do it. Around he went to the toe and up around to the cleft of the horse's hoof. The blood was flowing from the coronary band, and it gave him extra energy to make the trip. Upon reaching the cleft, the frog took a deep breath and jumped over it. He was not at the heel and decided to go home to take a nap. ∞



Nifty Bits ~ News from the Ranch



**Welcome new students:** Halie B., Paolo C., Derik H., D'Ann J., Tara K., Susan M., Sydney M., Larry N., Diego S., and Jennifer W.  
**Welcome new volunteers:** Caroline A., Karen B., Larry C., Graysen F., Lou-ellen F., Cathy G., Robbin G., Dan L., Megan L., Jan M., Krista P., Erin R., Olivia S., Kristina V. **Welcome back volunteer:** Sherry P.

**Congratulations to Hannah Brisso and Mary Hadsall** for receiving their CHA (Certified Horsemanship Association) Instructor for Riders With Disabilities Master Level 3/3 certification!

**Many heartfelt thanks to our 2015 Hooves & Heroes committee!** Camelot celebrated a record breaking fundraising event—a feat that can only be accomplished by our dedicated volunteers and our generous community!

It takes a dedicated community to keep Camelot fiscally strong. A hearty thanks to our major donors: **Ames Construction, AQHA Foundation, Nan Corwin, Davignon Charitable Fund, Muffy and Andy DiSabatino, Andy and Robin Erlich, Joyce and Ed Goljan, Grainger Foundation, Alan and Sasha Graham, Harold's Cave Creek Corral, Chris and Jenn Henslee, K2 Adventures Foundation, Knights of Columbus, Council #14286, Shirley A. Lowman, Craig and Kristyn Moore, Curt and Jerry Pindler, Pinnacle Peak RMS Group, Diane and Gary Raymond, Spine and Orthopedic Specialists, Jack and Paula Strickstein, Bonnie and John Trowbridge, Valley Anesthesiology Foundation, Van Denburgh Family Foundation, Verdoorn Foundation, Western Refining, Women's Council of Realtors**

We are delighted with our new mounting ramp. Thank you **Rick Fretland and Gary Raymond** for your construction talents! Three cheers to **Peggy and Regis Welsh** for our beautiful new Camelot tees and baseball caps! They look fantastic! A big round of applause and appreciation for artists **Jere and Ellen Friedman, Ashana, Three Trees, and Sean Finkel** for their beautiful concert benefiting Camelot!

## Paladin ~ January 1980 - June 2015



Spring came to Camelot, and with it came the knowledge that time was drawing near to say goodbye to a dear friend, respected co-worker and dedicated therapy horse. In June our beloved Paladin was laid to rest. He held a special place in my heart and touched far more lives than any horse here before him. He retired in the spring of 2012 when he gallantly handed his reins to our beautiful mare Barbara. Once retired, Paladin truly enjoyed the good life. I believe he embraced his new job and all the accompanying responsibilities. Quite frankly, who wouldn't?! During the morning hours, no questions asked, he ran the show and called the shots. He could be found visiting horses in the pastures, supervising stall cleaning, inspecting equipment in the tack room, emptying trash cans, drinking out of the birdbath, tagging along with Hannah, Ashley, and Coughdrop on their morning perimeter trail walk, and most importantly, checking driver's licenses and proof of insurance as guests came in the front gate—the list goes on. As a therapy mount he carried riders proudly on his broad back. His solid stride and confident nature was sure to instill courage in the most timid of riders. He was patient and more than eager to lend a listening ear to everyone who came to him in need of a strong shoulder to cry on. Simply put, he was always there. I find deep comfort in the knowledge that everyone who met him loved him. That was just his way. Paladin—adored, admired, never to be forgotten, and forever missed. ∞

### Important Subscriber Information

In an effort to save resources, Camelot is now sending the newsletter electronically.

If you would like to receive a printed copy, please visit [CamelotAZ.org](http://CamelotAZ.org) to state your subscriber preference.

If you received a hard copy and would prefer an electronic version, please visit [CamelotAZ.org](http://CamelotAZ.org) and give us your email address.

Camelot student and volunteer Leslie Baranzini should host her own “She’s Crafty” show, because when it comes to making gorgeous event decorations, designing unique auction baskets, and coming up with creative ideas, she’s the queen! We are so grateful to have Leslie’s supreme talents as a dependable resource and thankful for all her artsy contributions!

Leslie joined the Camelot family in January 2011 as a student, but not long afterwards, she began giving back in so many ways. She can be found mentoring students, attending event committee meetings, and promoting the program to donors. She truly does it all! Leslie, thank you for your creativity, your talents, your beautiful smile, and your dedication to Camelot! ∞

## A Heroes' Hero ~ Leslie Baranzini



*Leslie with just a few of her beautiful creations!*



a Camelot Fundraiser

# STARRY KNIGHTS

## A Sky Full of Stars

Saturday, November 7  
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
The Scottsdale Plaza Resort

### Event Tickets:

Single ticket \$125, Camelot Student and Volunteer pricing \$85  
Send a Student to the event \$85  
Table (10 tickets) \$1,000  
Buy early for our **OneTen thru TenTen** special  
(single tickets are \$110 if purchased by October 10)

### “A Trip to Sip” California Wine Country Raffle

#### Two round-trip tickets on Southwest Airlines

*Valid in continental U.S., no restrictions or blackout dates, expires 5/2/2016*

#### The Oaks Hotel Paso Robles - two night accommodations in king suite

*Expires 5/2/2016, reservations may exclude weekends, holidays, and/or special event dates*

#### San Antonio Winery - special wine tasting

*Up to six people, expires 5/2/2016*

#### Cool Hands Luke’s Steakhouse - \$25 gift certificate

*Expires 3/14/2016*

#### Wine Club membership

*Two bottles of California wine delivered to your door each month for three months*

**Only 250 tickets will be sold! Need not be present to win!**

Thank you to our early bird sponsors!



Dr. & Mrs.  
Norman Saba

Dr. & Mrs.  
Geoffrey Graham



_____	Single Ticket(s)	\$125	<i>Early bird pricing \$110 if purchased before October 10</i>
_____	Camelot Student and Volunteer Ticket(s)	\$85	<i>Special pricing for students and volunteers and their immediate families (maximum 4 seats)</i>
_____	Send a Student(s) to the Event	\$85	<i>Underwrite the cost of a student attending the event</i>
_____	Table (10 tickets)	\$1,000	
_____	“A Trip to Sip” Raffle Ticket	\$50	<i>One raffle ticket</i>
_____	“A Trip to Sip” Raffle Tickets (x 3)	\$100	<i>Three raffle tickets</i>

To prevent identity theft, please call Camelot at 480-515-1542 to charge your credit card.

Tickets also available on our website: [CamelotAZ.org](http://CamelotAZ.org)

Mail to: Camelot Therapeutic Horsemanship, 23623 N. Scottsdale Rd., D3-PMB 259, Scottsdale, AZ 85255

# Donation Form



Every dollar makes a difference, especially during challenging economic times. **One way to lend a helping hand is through the United Way Donor Choice Program that begins every September.** This fall consider having your charitable donation deducted regularly from your paycheck. Remember, no amount is too small to make a big difference!

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Is Camelot a United Way member?

Camelot is not a member agency, which means we do not receive United Way funds, but we are a qualified nonmember agency.

### What is Camelot's Valley of the Sun United Way number?

Camelot's agency number is 1003642.

### What is Camelot's mailing address?

See below.

### What is Camelot's Tax ID number?

Our 501(c)3 tax designation number is 86-0444470.

### Can family members out of state donate to Camelot through United Way?

For those not in the Phoenix/Scottsdale area who wish to have Camelot as their designated donor choice recipient, you can receive more information about signing up from your local United Way staff member or local United Way agency.

**Last year many of you helped us raise more than \$2,300 by donating to Camelot through United Way!**

**Did you know that donations can be made online at [CamelotAZ.org](http://CamelotAZ.org)**

**Camelot is a nonprofit charitable organization and all donations are tax deductible. A receipt will follow for your tax records.**

Walk \$25 \_\_\_ Trot \$50 \_\_\_ Canter \$100 \_\_\_ Gallop \$150 \_\_\_  
Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Please notify me annually on \_\_\_/\_\_\_ (month/day)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ A partial contribution is enclosed.  
Please send me a reminder for the balance due on \_\_\_/\_\_\_

### Please help us keep our records current!

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name & Address (only if there are changes)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone Cell Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

### Charge my credit card, please.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amount

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amount

\_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card Number Exp. Date 3 Digit Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name As It Appears on Card Billing Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

**Or feel free to call 480-515-1542 with credit card information.**

Camelot Therapeutic Horsemanship, Inc.  
23623 N. Scottsdale Road, Suite D3, PMB 259, Scottsdale, AZ 85255, p/f: 480-515-1542

**Did you know there are alternative ways to make a big difference to Camelot's bottom line?  
Every dollar makes a difference, have you considered...**

### **AmazonSmile**

Do you shop at Amazon? Have you heard of AmazonSmile? AmazonSmile is a program where Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization selected by their customers. The next time you are shopping online visit AmazonSmile and designate Camelot Therapeutic Horsemanship Inc. as your charity of choice!

### **In-kind**

Gifts in kind, also referred to as in-kind donations, is a kind of charitable figuring in which, instead of giving money to buy needed goods and services, the goods and services themselves are given. Examples of in-kind gifts include: Goods, like computers, software, furniture and office lawn and garden equipment, horseback riding apparel and tack.

### **Matching Gifts Program**

A matching gift, also known as a matching fund or matching donation is a charitable gift made toward a non-profit organization by a matching donor (e.g., employer) under the provision that an original donor (e.g., an employee) first makes a gift toward that organization.

### **Participate In Your Own Camelot Campaign!**

Mail a letter to your business associates, family and friends, share your personal experiences and request financial support. All contributions are 100% tax deductible. Donors can request to be added to our database. (We NEVER share our database with anyone.) Camelot will send thank you letters that include information the donor needs to receive their tax deduction for their contribution.

### **Service Groups / Clubs**

Are you a member of the Knights of Columbus, Soroptimist International, Junior League, Kiwanis or Lioness Club? There are many hard working and industrious organizations/clubs looking for charitable organizations to support; suggest Camelot at your next meeting!

### **Third Party Events**

Organize or participate in a Third Party Event for Camelot! What is a Third Party Event? It is a fundraiser where Camelot is the designated beneficiary. This is a wonderful way for Camelot to cultivate new relationships, increase exposure in the community about our services, and raise funds. Examples of Third Party Events: concerts, the Scottsdale Police Mounted Unit Desensitizing Clinic, Harold's Golf Tournament, Premier Designs jewelry party, Pampered Chef party, hold a car wash.

### **Thrivent Choice: Strengthening Communities. Changing Lives.**

Good news for Camelot supporters who are members of Thrivent Financial! Camelot is now a recognized charity for the Thrivent Choice program. Thrivent Choice, the member—advised charitable grant program from Thrivent Financial, gives eligible benefit members an opportunity to recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable outreach funds each year. Eligible members can take advantage of this charitable grant program and member benefit by directing Choice Dollars to organizations they are passionate about!

*"A small body of determined spirits fired by an  
unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history."*

*Mohandas Gandhi*