

# Community, Gratitude and Love of the Horse

As November arrives and we reflect on what we're grateful for, I find myself returning again and again to a single word: *community*.

The world of reining — through NRHA and the Reining Horse Foundation — has opened unique doors. It has deepened my love for the sport, taught me invaluable lessons, and most importantly, surrounded me with people who have become like family.

Reining has given me more than just a sport to love. It's given me purpose, friendships that feel like family, and a chance to keep growing right alongside my horses. Every ride teaches me something new — patience, humility, the importance of showing up even when it's hard. True horsemanship isn't built overnight, and neither is the kind of success that really matters.

Equally transformative has been my time serving on the RHF board of directors, particularly through the Crisis Fund and Scholarship committees. These experiences showed me just how powerful and generous this community truly is. While the cowboy spirit is often associated with grit and independence, RHF reminds us that strength is also found in leaning on each other. Whether it's helping a horseman through an unexpected crisis or supporting a young rider in pursuit of their dreams, RHF embodies the belief that no one in our reining family should face challenges alone.

There's something uniquely heartening about seeing strangers

come together because of a shared love for the horse — and then watching those strangers become friends. That's what RHF does; it brings together people who care deeply about horses, competition and each other.

That belief is also at the heart of my own efforts to champion women in this industry, to create space, and to make sure the next generation knows they belong, too. I see that spirit reflected in RHF — people helping people, all because of a shared love for the horse.

As we enter the season of giving, I invite you to remember the vital role generosity plays in keeping this mission alive. Without the support of people like you, it becomes difficult to continue being there for others when they need it most. Every gift — big or small — makes a meaningful difference.

This month, I'm especially thankful for all the ways reining has enriched my life. To all of you who make this community what it is, thank you.

Happy Thanksgiving.



**Diana Duffey**  
RHF Board Member

To donate, visit [reiningfoundation.com](http://reiningfoundation.com), or contact RHF at 405-946-7400, ext. 106, or [rhf@nrha.com](mailto:rhf@nrha.com).



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