



A Lasting Effect

Life doesn't stop at the gate. That line has been on my mind lately as we've worked on a new video for the Reining Horse Foundation. The more I think about it, the more I believe it gets to the heart of why RHF exists.

We love what happens inside the show pen. But some of the moments that matter most happen well beyond it.

A family faces an unexpected crisis. A young reiner starts college with a scholarship helping make it possible. Someone who helped shape our sport is given the recognition that contribution deserves. Young people discover friendships, leadership, and opportunities that may influence them long after their youth showing years are over. People in the reining community choose to help.

We saw that generosity again September 2 at the 100X Reining Classic in Tulsa. Just five carefully curated lots in the RHF Benefit Auction generated \$22,000. Donors provided exceptional opportunities. Bidders responded. And in a matter of minutes, their generosity translated into meaningful support for RHF programs.

Now we enter one of the most important fundraising periods of our year.

Sliders' Night Out presented by Toyon Ranch leads the way, bringing us together to celebrate the NRHA Hall of Fame and Dale Wilkinson Lifetime Achievement Award while generating essential support for RHF programs. Since the event began in 2018, Sliders' Night Out has generated \$1.4 million in net proceeds for the Foundation.

That number is worth considering for a moment. It represents far more than the success of a single event. It is the cumulative result of people choosing, year after year, to invest in this community and the work RHF was created to do.

There will be invitations to attend, bid, sponsor, and give. Those things matter. But I hope the reason behind them matters even more.

For 25 years, the Reining Horse Foundation has existed to care for and honor the reining community. The RHF Board of Directors and I have the privilege of seeing what those words mean when they become action. We see the opportunities scholarships create and the very real needs presented through Crisis Fund applications. We also see people quietly step forward with a gift because they understand that someone else may need help today—and tomorrow, it could be any NRHA member.

That is the substance behind the fundraising. The show eventually ends. The trailers pull out. The lights go down. What you do for one another lasts much longer.



Leslie Baker, CFRE

RHF Executive Director

To donate, visit reiningfoundation.com or contact RHF at (405) 946-7400, ext. 106, rhf@nrha.com.

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