

ManeGait Just Made It Easier to Join In. Mount Up and Ride Tall.

Early on August 9th, several dedicated volunteers from ManeGait Therapeutic Horsemanship, including TTPA members Dominique and Kathy Martin, met at the Highland trailhead to install the first of three mounting blocks that they built as a donation to the TTPA. The other mounting blocks are located at the Brockdale trailhead and the East Fork trailhead.

Imagine how thrilled the installation crew was when the blocks were immediately put to use by several riders including TTPA members. The mounting blocks are designed and placed so that two people can mount at the same time. Everyone that came out to ride that morning seemed very appreciative of the “leg up”.



ManeGait installation crew, L to R: Thomas Bell, Dominique Martin, Bobby Valdez and Steve Warner



Millie Gagliano, the first rider to take advantage of the new mounting block.



TTPA Member Robert Garner



TTPA Member Debbie Bourgeois



TTPA Member Bea Angermeier

The mounting blocks were donated by Pris Darling, a TTPA member and co-founder of ManeGait to raise awareness about therapeutic riding and the benefits that it provides. Those of you that ride already understand the emotional therapy that horses can provide, but they can also provide physical therapy that produces incredible results for individuals with disabilities. With more than 600,000 people in North Texas living with mental, physical, emotional or cognitive disabilities, the need for equine assisted therapy is huge. Pris and Bill Darling founded ManeGait with that need in mind and with the mission of “helping children and adults with disabilities move beyond their boundaries through the healing power of the horse and the dedication of a professional, caring community.”

The support from the surrounding communities has been remarkable – over 300 volunteers have given their time and energy to make ManeGait a success. Many of those volunteers, are also members of the TTPA. Thank You! Typically, two to three volunteers help support each rider during the lesson, which means a large numbers of volunteers for each session. Kathy Martin, the volunteer coordinator for ManeGait, says “Although we have many wonderful volunteers, many more are needed for the upcoming Fall Session to support the 80 riders that will be participating.”

The next volunteer training session will be held on Saturday, August 29th 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the ManeGait Administration House located at 3160 N. Custer Road, McKinney, TX 75071. For more information about volunteering or the ManeGait program, please visit the ManeGait website at www.manegait.org or contact us at 469-742-9611.