



## Chair Report 2022 “When it rains, it pours”

Dear Members,

Words cannot express my gratitude and pride for the members and volunteers with this organization. Year after year, resilience and determination have carried forward this program to grow and adapt in ways I could have imagined.

Coming out of the pandemic, PARD was very eager to get the program back to pre-pandemic operating levels. With a growing waiting list, and some volunteers reluctant to return in 2021, PARD wanted nothing more than to see riders on horseback with smiling faces. But early in the spring the Derecho storm devastated the barn at our host farm, Wendon Hills, and the program was put on hold while clean up and recovery took precedence. With so many of our volunteers focusing their efforts at the farm



and at home, PARD ran a smaller program, and our certified instructors continued to offer a high-quality program to those grateful for the opportunity to participate.

In order to expand the program, PARD found itself in a ‘horse deficit’. The search for the perfect therapy horse led PARD to strike a new deal with Wendon Hills as the end of the 10 years lease was approaching. After some discussion and negotiation, PARD and WH have entered into a new agreement that gives PARD access to a wide variety of Wendon Hill’s horses suitable for our therapy program. PARD cannot thank WH enough, along with their staff and ‘family’ for their ongoing support of our program.



As a way to give back to WH, each summer our wonderful board and volunteers put much work into planning the popular Games Show in September. However, after torrential rains washed out the show in 2022, the decision was made to move the show back to August in 2023 in hopes of brighter, sunnier



days! Of course you've heard the saying "when it rains, it pours"...around the same time as the show, PARD learned that its charity status had been revoked for "failure to file" with CRA. PARD quickly refiled the missing reports, but the process to reinstate the charity status has been a tedious road to navigate. The review, which was expected to take 9 months, is now on hold due to the CRA strike, and PARD anticipates delays in issuing donation receipts this year (2023)

However, despite some difficulties PARD had to overcome this year, one thing has not changed; the love and dedication the volunteers, riders, and our entire community has shown for PARD. Entering into our 40th year this year, we are ever-grateful for those that have supported us over the years. You keep our future bright and sunny!

Angela Muir

April 27, 2023

