



# Staying Connected



## Our Riders

Connections would like to introduce 3 of our riders to you.

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Andrea Baldwin



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**Connections**

11585 E. Purple Sage Road  
Cornville, Arizona 86325

Phone: 928-639-0791

Fax: 928-639-0791 (call first)

E-mail:

connections@commspeed.net

We're on the web!

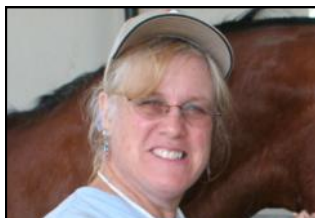
www.ConnectionsAZ.com



**Donald McCulloch** has been riding with Connections for 6 years. He began riding Jessie, with the help of a leader & two side walkers. Since Donald had never been able to walk, he had not developed balance. Riding has increased Donald's balance, coordination and muscle relaxation. He no longer needs a leader and has graduated to a new horse—T.C. He and T.C. are becoming quite accomplished at trail courses. When asked what Connections has meant to him, Donald said, "It gave me hope."



**Julie Garrett** has been riding with Connections for 4 years. Julie arrived at our barn very shy and fearful of horses—Boy, has that changed! Julie has graduated from a quiet little mare named Pelli, to our gentle, but flamboyant, Asia. Now, our shy Julie greets everyone with hugs. She is our student trainee for new volunteers in their first sessions. Julie says she loves riding and "Connections has built my confidence & self-esteem."



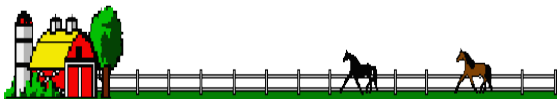
**Jodi Cutts** has been coming to Connections for 3 years and rides Asia. Jodi has become a sensitive, competent rider by overcoming her fear. In addition to her riding skills, Jodi is quite an artist and recently presented us with a portrait that she had painted of Asia. Jodi said, "This is my way to thank Asia and everyone who has helped me."



Jodi presents her artwork to  
Andrea & Jordan Baldwin.



Asia admires his portrait and  
shows his approval to Jodi.



## Message from the Director - Andrea Baldwin



After the Renovation  
Tack Room (top)  
Vet/Feed Area (bottom)



We are feeling the loss of our friend, and board member, M.J. Gosselin, due to relocation to Colorado with her husband, Toma. M.J. was our graphic designer and created many special projects, such as our last newsletter. Upon her departure, M.J. donated a sign for the entrance to Connections. A big thank you from everyone at Connections. We will miss you!

We were unsure how to cope with our production needs, but magic *does* happen at Connections! In walks Leslie Menninger, with skills galore and a cup of creativity that overflows. We are very grateful to welcome Leslie to our Board of Directors! Many new and exciting projects have been completed, or are near completion.

Leslie has produced a DVD about the program and it is awesome! Please contact us if you could use a copy to help raise funding for Connections.

Volunteer Hoppy Menninger, and his trusty side-kick, Tony LiVolsi, built a much needed wheelchair ramp for our loading platform. They also did a complete make-over of the waiting area, tack room & vet/feed room.

If you get a chance to visit, we have a beautiful metal and wood park bench that was donated by Lorrie & Al Adeler, who are Connections volunteers/supporters. The bench contains plaques in memory of our beloved horses who have passed to greener pastures; Tico, Molly & Kocheeze. They will never be forgotten!

Our web site is up and running, with only a few things to do to make it complete. This is a tremendous tool for Connections and it's all due to a lady named Vicki Weston—a lady with a heart as large as her smile—who is sponsoring the site. She got the ball rolling and it hasn't stopped since!

All of the above have been accomplished through donations. A wonderful Volunteer Recognition BBQ was held in June. Thanks to Rex & Mildred Lawman for making this event possible with their thoughtful donation. We all had a great time. Past and present volunteers got to meet one another, Rosey gave cart rides and we watched our new Connections DVD. We hope to make this an annual event!



Volunteer Recognition BBQ

Connections has two new family members—Serafina & Celeste, fondly known as our Capricious Caprines. Our justification for adding 2 three-week-old baby goats was the rising cost of fuel. They will replace our weed whackers—thus saving us money and freeing up staff & volunteer time! Everyone is in love with Serafina & Celeste. Our riders & volunteers really enjoy giving them their bottles and watching their antics. Visit our web site to see more photos of them.

These are some of the highlights of the past 4 months...and the year isn't over yet!

Thank you to the above individuals, and to those not named, who show up every week to sidewalk, clean stalls, groom horses, do accounting, secretarial and all of the other jobs that are vital to Connections' continuing success!

At this time, with hat in hand, or maybe I should say, "with feed bag in hand," I am asking for your help—on behalf of every 2-legged and 4-legged member of the Connections family. As you have read, Connections has grown and a lot of progress has been made. Those of us here, who are fortunate enough to be hands-on, need your help to continue our labor of love.



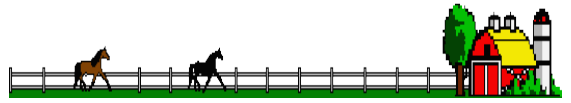
Serafina & Celeste  
are Toggenburg goats



### Feed Bag Parties

Have a great time with friends  
& raise money for Connections





# Riding Scholarships

Very few of our riders – about 25% - can participate without financial assistance through a full or partial scholarship. Whether it is clients with physical and cognitive challenges, or clients with emotional and behavioral challenges, their ability to contribute to the cost of their sessions creates only 27% of our needed income. Contributions generate the majority of the funds necessary to keep our program going.

### The riders need your help!

You can help by making a one-time donation or by establishing a Named Scholarship Fund in your name, your family’s name or in memory of a loved one. How often at holidays, or on special occasions, do our loved ones want to show their love or appreciation by doing something special for us? How many of us really need more stuff?

Our Named Scholarship Fund is a wonderful way to make those occasions really special by helping our Connections riders continue to ride.

**To start your Named Scholarship Fund**, all you have to do is pick a name, such as The Smith Family Fund or The John Doe Memorial Scholarship Fund, fill out the form below, and make your donation.

Named Scholarship funds may be established at different levels. In appreciation for your donation, we would like to give you some special gifts—all of which have been donated to Connections.

#### \$200 Level

- Connections DVD — to help encourage others to donate to your fund

#### \$500 Level

- Connections DVD
  - Connections Note Cards

#### \$1000 Level

- Connections DVD
  - Connections Note Cards
    - Connections Tote Bag



**Help keep our clients smiling and riding!**



“Contributions generate the majority of the funds necessary to keep our program going.”

“Our Named Scholarship Fund is a wonderful way to make those occasions really special by helping our Connections riders continue to ride.”



### Named Scholarship Fund

#### Name of Fund

Name (Please Print)

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone

Signature

\$200.00

\$1,000.00

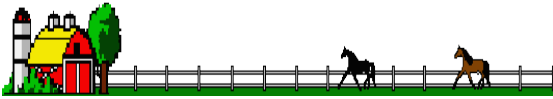
\$500.00

Other

Check Enclosed

Check Number \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Connections Equine Therapy Program  
11585 E. Purple Sage Rd.  
Cornville, AZ 86325



**DONATION FORM**

I would like to donate:  \$5.00  \$10.00  \$20.00  \$30.00  Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to adopt \_\_\_\_\_ for:  6 months @ \$600.00  12 months @\$1,200.00

(choose from: Asia, Jessie, Nickie, Rosey, Sunny, Tinker or T.C.)

**Yes!** I'd like to become a monthly **CONNECTIONS** supporter for \_\_\_\_\_/per month

Please Print:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer; please contact me

Donations to Connections Equine Therapy Program are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**11585 E. Purple Sage Road, Cornville AZ. 86325**

Phone: (928) 639-0791

connections@commspeed.net

www.ConnectionsAZ.com

(Please clip and mail with your contribution to 'CONNECTIONS' at the address above)



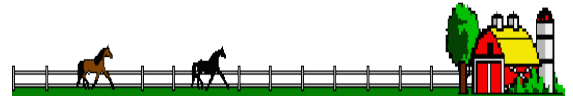
**THANK YOU!**

To the following businesses & individuals for your much needed support in 2006:

- |  |                          |                                 |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Al & Lorrie Adeler                         | Adelaide & Jim Cannata   | W. Wayne Miller                 |
| James Arnold                               | Francesca Cerutti-Harris | Betty Richardson                |
| Mandy Arnold                               | Bob & Ellie Cocozella    | Judy Roubal                     |
| Andrea Baldwin                             | Raymond & Kathy Danahy   | Cynthia Santagate               |
| June Barnett                               | Jane & Ron Feinstein     | Megan Souter & Brian Johnson    |
| Basha's Thanks A Million Program           | Toma & MJ Gosselin       | Tony Stowers                    |
| Steve & Corinne Bennington                 | Patricia Kramer          | Kim, Dan, Brett & Marissa Tyler |
| Simon Blom                                 | Rex Lawman               | Dorothy Valcarcel               |
| Sally Braun                                | Susan Link               | Stan & Vicki Weston             |
| Michael & Patricia Breyfogle               | Hoppy & Leslie Menninger | Sandra & Mitt Winstead          |
| Caballos Del Sol Benefit Trail Rides, Inc. | Jean Menninger           |                                 |

It's always risky to thank individual donors for their support because there's the chance that we've missed someone.

Here's hoping that we haven't missed **you!** If we have overlooked naming you for your contribution, we sincerely apologize and thank you for your generosity.



## Hay Shortage & Vet Bills

With all of the progress & growth Connections has made this year, we find , at this time, that **we urgently need financial help.**

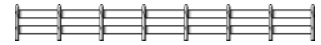
Once again, as many of you are aware, fuel prices have sky-rocketed and thereby effected our feed costs. We thought last year was bad, but with the drought in so many states this year, the hay shortage is even worse! What hay we can find, is very expensive, but we feel that it is important to buy enough hay to ensure that we will be able to get through the winter — until next spring’s hay is available.

Our herd needs 2.4 tons of hay per month and we are being advised to buy enough to get us through May of 2007. This is about 21 tons of hay! We have located a source of quality hay and need to act quickly to purchase our supply before it is gone. The market is fluctuating, but our cost is estimated, at this time, to be close to \$6,000.00.

We are also incurring a substantial Vet bill with Jessie & Asia. Jessie has been diagnosed with Cushing’s Disease, which will require some on-going testing & medication. The good news is, it’s treatable! Asia is still undergoing testing for a condition that is causing anemia and some fatigue.

These horses are two of our best therapy horses and we desperately need to keep them healthy. At today’s prices, in our area, it would cost from \$4,000 on up to replace them!

Due to the summer heat, we cannot serve our clients. Without our clients, the small percentage of revenue they create is not coming in right now. **Funds are immediately needed!**



**“We thought last year was bad, but with the drought in so many states this year, the hay shortage is even worse!”**



## Featured Connections Horse

Hi! I’m Asia. I am a Sagittarius and I’m a 21-year-old bay Arabian gelding. I was born in Arkansas and, because of my attractiveness, was shown as a baby. Then I moved to Arizona where I began to compete in various show events, allowing me to express my talents and keep me from being bored. Idle hooves are the devil’s workshop! I’ve now worked at Connections for six years. Although my stature is not great, I’m known as “little big man” around the barn. I have a great sense of humor, love pulling pranks, and I’m very dramatic and expressive. (Some would call it flamboyant.) I’m arrogant and sensitive. My sensitivity to the clients’ needs is one of my best attributes. I seem to be able to sense their needs, both physically and emotionally. I will even signal my leaders during sessions, by nibbling on their arm, if a client becomes off-balanced. I’d like to be able to continue this work into my golden years. If you’re attracted to elegant refinement, with a great intellect and sense of humor, please adopt me. If you wish to adopt me, or any of my herd buddies, please see the donation form. We really appreciate any help that is given to us.



## Becoming a Volunteer

We could not operate without the dedicated help of our faithful volunteers. Please consider helping by BECOMING A VOLUNTEER. Volunteers are the lifeblood of the program. There are many areas in which volunteers can find a way to share their talents or learn new ones. Areas of opportunity are:

- Feeders ● Leaders ● Side Walkers ● Horse Care ● Barn Care ● Special Maintenance, Work Crew, Garden Work, etc. ●
- Gatekeepers ● Riding Team ● Volunteer Coordinator ● and MUCH MORE ●

**WARNING:** Volunteer Service at Connections may become addictively enjoyable. You could find yourself spending more time with us than you anticipated

It takes many hearts, hands and hooves to keep this program growing!

CONNECTIONS  
11585 E. Purple Sage Rd.  
Cornville, AZ 86325  
www.ConnectionsAZ.com



## Herd Happenings



Welcome to newcomer T.C., AKA “Too Cute”!

Thank you to Lorelee Daniel for entrusting her 10 year old quarter horse gelding into our care by donating him to Connections.

T.C. has settled in nicely and has become a real workhorse (yes, pun intended) in the program.

Another heartfelt thank you goes to Nancy Kendall and her daughter, Maddie, for their donation of Rosey.

Rosey is a darling little registered American Shetland Pony—perfect for our tiny tots and smaller riders.

Everybody loves Rosey...especially when she’s driving her cart!

