

Volunteer Spotlight - Shannon C.

Saturdays during our Spring/Summer riding session wouldn't be complete without our dedicated teenage volunteers. Each year, TRI welcomes a number of teens to our program and we are always thrilled to watch them "grow up" with us! They grin through some of volunteer Rick C.'s "wonderful" jokes, and often get up way too early on Saturday mornings to assist our riders.

In this edition of the Volunteer Spotlight, I'd like to introduce you to one of our volunteers who is just getting ready to graduate from high school. Shannon C. began volunteering with us in April of 2016, and has quickly become a fixture on our Saturday morning team. Shannon has an amazing positive attitude and is always willing to do whatever we ask! She develops great relationships with "her" riders and makes them feel comfortable and confident as they advance their horsemanship skills.

In her short time at TRI, Shannon has developed a special connection to our program—so much so that she opted to have her senior pictures taken on our beautiful farm with one of her favorite program horses, Serena. I'll let Shannon take it from here, and tell you a little bit about her experience at TRI, and how it has influenced her future plans:

"I came across TRI completely by chance, I was getting my haircut on a walk-in and the lady asked me what I want to do when I grow up and my answer--being the same since 7th grade--was I wanted to work as a therapeutic riding instructor. Little did I know, her daughter used to

volunteer at TRI and she set me up with information and I started April 2016.

I enjoy it because the smiles on the riders' faces when they are able to accomplish the once-thought 'impossible' is the most rewarding thing someone could ask for. Also, the entire environment of TRI is like no other and the people are one of a kind.

The only challenge is keeping my arm up on the horse the whole class ;) But in reality, any challenge is worth it! My plans are to go to the University

of Findlay and get a dual degree in Equine Studies and Marketing. My dream is to eventually open up my own horse riding facility that offers regular and therapeutic riding. TRI has helped confirm this dream of mine and get the experience needed to start my journey."

Thank you, Shannon, for all of your service to TRI! We all wish you the very best with your future plans!

Jennifer Beyer -
Volunteer Manager



Volunteer Shannon C. with her favorite TRI horse, Serena!