



**EQUEST  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

AMY GREEN  
CHAIRMAN

BROOKE BAILEY  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

MARIANNE FAZEN, PH.D.  
SECRETARY

DANIEL VALENTINE  
TREASURER

ERIKA BURTON  
RYAN CASEY  
HARLEY COZEWITH  
ELIZABETH DACUS  
AMANDA GADISON

TIM GAVIN  
CLINT HAGGERTY  
FINLEY KONRADE  
NATALIE LOW LADRIERE  
LISA LAUGHLIN  
MEGAN MARTIN  
ELISSA MCCLURE  
MEREDITH MCKAY  
STEVE SWENSON

FELICIA POWELL  
EX-OFFICIO  
EQUEST WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

SINA BUECKLE  
EX-OFFICIO  
JUNIOR LEAGUE OF DALLAS

ERIC LINDH  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**WHO:**

**Chairs:** Melinda and Mark Knowles  
**Honorary Chair:** Lynn McBee  
**Underwriting Chairs:** Nancy Carlson, Alison Malone and Stacey Walker  
**Auction Chairs:** Nancy Gopez and Maggie Cooke Kipp  
**Reservations Chair:** Bonner Allen  
**Patron Party Chair:** Amy Turner  
**Citation Award Honoree:** Carol Huckin  
**Founders Award Honoree:** Leslie and Hawkins Golden  
**Emcee:** Calvert Collins-Bratton  
**Entertainment:** The Manhattan Orchestra of The Jordan Khan Music Company

**WHAT:**

The Blue Ribbon Gala, now in its 45<sup>th</sup> year, is a Texas-chic, upbeat and elegant evening affair that typically draws more than 600 social, civic, and business leaders from across the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Proceeds support the mission of Equest to enhance the quality of life for children and adults with diverse needs by partnering with horses to bring hope and healing through equine-assisted services. Equest is a PATH International Premier Accredited Center.

**WHY:**

Across the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there are more than **70 million** individuals living with a disability. More specifically, in the North Texas area alone, more than **800,000** individuals are living with a disability, and obesity rates for children with disabilities are **33%** higher than for children without a disability. Further, **1 in 31** children are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.

For more than 45 years, Equest has been at the forefront serving the North Texas community by enhancing the quality of life for those with diverse needs. As the first therapeutic horsemanship center in Texas, Equest is an industry leader in the equine-assisted services. Through the years, Equest has served thousands of children and adults with physical, cognitive, and socio-emotional needs through the human-horse connection, helping them achieve milestones that were sometimes deemed unachievable. Over and over, we hear from parents that the movement of the horse, the heartfelt connection between client and horse, and the dedication of Equest's staff and volunteers, creates lasting impact that cannot be compared to any other therapies.

The life-changing and supportive effect of Equest programs continue to transform and positively support more than 2,000 clients annually. Humans. Horses. Hope. Come be a part of the magic that happens at Equest everyday!

**WHEN:**

Saturday, April 25, 2026

**WHERE:**

Gilley's Dallas, 1135 Botham Jean Blvd, Dallas, Texas 75215