Equest's 46th Annual

Blue Ribbon Gala

HUMANS. HORSES. HOPE.

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Dear Friend,

As we celebrate the **46th Annual Blue Ribbon Gala**, we invite you to partner with Equest by becoming an underwriter for one of the most important fundraising events of the year. Your investment will help ensure the success of this event while directly supporting the life-changing equine-assisted services that Equest provides to children and adults with diverse needs throughout North Texas.

On Saturday, April 24, 2027, guests will gather in the Al Hill Jr. Arena at the Texas Horse Park for an unforgettable evening celebrating the healing power of horses and the remarkable impact of Equest's programs. We are honored to have **Lisa and Charles Berger** serve as our Honorary Chairs for this special evening. We are also proud to recognize two exceptional champions of Equest: **Ballew Foundation**, who will receive the prestigious **Citation Award**, and **Leslie Kennedy**, who will be presented with the **Susan Schwartz Founder's Award** in recognition of their extraordinary commitment to our mission.

For more than 45 years, Equest has enhanced the quality of life for individuals with physical, cognitive, and social-emotional needs through innovative equine-assisted services. Every day, participants build confidence, independence, strength, and hope through the unique bond they share with our horses. As the need for our programs continues to grow, so does the importance of generous community partners like you.

The Blue Ribbon Gala has become one of Dallas' premier charitable events, welcoming more than 600 guests while raising critical funds that make our mission possible. Underwriting support plays a vital role in the success of the evening by helping offset event expenses, allowing more of every dollar raised to directly benefit Equest's therapeutic programs and the individuals and families we serve.

Enclosed you will find the 46th Annual Blue Ribbon Gala Underwriting Contract, outlining the many opportunities to support this special evening. You may complete and return the enclosed form or simply scan the QR code to submit your underwriting commitment online.

Thank you for considering an investment in Equest's mission. Your generosity makes it possible for more children, veterans, and adults with diverse needs to experience the confidence, independence, and joy that come through the healing power of horses.

Warmest regards,

Nicole & Guntram Merl
Gala Co-Chairs

Lisa Bhattacharya
Gala Co-Chairs

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SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

☐ GRAND CHAMPION | $50,000

- 3 tables of 10 (30 guests) at Gala with superior seating, with 15 Raffle Tickets
- Complimentary VIP valet parking for 30 guests at Gala
- Invitation for 20 guests to Patron Party, with valet parking
- Special Gifts for table hosts
- Exclusive Gittings session & Portrait Package with Equest's Mini Horses
- Premium branding visibility on all printed and digital event signage

☐ CHAMPION | $25,000

- 2 tables of 10 (20 guests) at Gala with priority seating, with 10 Raffle Tickets
- Complimentary VIP valet parking for 20 guests at Gala
- Invitation for 10 guests to Patron Party, with valet parking
- Special Gifts for table hosts
- Exclusive Gittings session & Portrait Package with Equest's Mini Horses
- Premium branding visibility on all printed and digital event signage

☐ RESERVE CHAMPION | $20,000

- 2 tables of 10 (20 guests) at Gala with priority seating, with 10 Raffle Tickets
- Complimentary VIP valet parking for 20 guests at Gala
- Invitation for 10 guests to Patron Party, with valet parking
- Special Gifts for table hosts
- Exclusive Gittings session & Portrait Package with Equest's Mini Horses
- Branding visibility on all printed and digital event signage

☐ JUMPER CHAMPION | $15,000

- 1 table (10 guests) at Gala with preferred seating
- Complimentary valet parking for 10 guests
- Invitation for 5 guests to Patron Party, with valet parking
- Name recognition on all printed and digital event signage

☐ BEST IN SHOW | $10,000

- 1 table (10 guests) at Gala, select seating
- Complimentary valet parking for 10 guests
- Invitation for 2 guests to Patron Party, with valet parking
- Name recognition on all printed and digital event signage

☐ HIGH POINT | $5,000

- 1 table (10 guests) at Gala, select seating
- Complimentary valet parking for 10 guests
- Name recognition on all printed and digital event signage

UNDERWRITING OPPORTUNITIES

☐ BANQUET | $50,000

- Grand Champion benefits, **plus** Banquet billed as presented by "Logo/Name," along with dedicated social posts and recognition in all Gala Press.

☐ RECEPTION | $25,000

- Champion benefits, **plus** Reception underwritten by recognition, along with dedicated social posts and recognition in all Gala Press.

☐ PATRON PARTY | $15,000

- Jumper Champion benefits, **plus** Patron Party underwritten by recognition, along with dedicated social posts and recognition in all Gala Press.

SOLD

☐ FLORALS | $10,000

- Best in Show benefits, **plus** Florals underwritten by recognition, along with dedicated social posts and recognition in all Gala Press.

SOLD

☐ VALET | $10,000

- Best in Show benefits, **plus** Valet underwritten by recognition, along with dedicated social posts and recognition in all Gala Press.

☐ RAFFLE | $10,000

- Best in Show benefits, **plus** Raffle underwritten by recognition, along with dedicated social posts and recognition in all Gala Press.

☐ PHOTOGRAPHY | $5,000

- High Point benefits, **plus** Photography underwritten by recognition, along with dedicated social posts and recognition in all Gala Press.

SOLD

☐ PRINT | $5,000

- High Point benefits, **plus** Print underwritten by recognition, along with dedicated social posts and recognition in all Gala Press.

☐ SWAG BAG | $5,000

- High Point benefits, **plus** Swag Bags underwritten by recognition, along with dedicated social posts and recognition in all Gala Press.

UNDERWRITING PAYMENT OPTIONS

☐ I am unable to attend, please accept by donation of $_____
☐ I (We) request that this gift remain anonymous
☐ I (We) decline all benefits (only the contribution in excess of the benefit package value is deductible as charitable contribution)

BY MAIL:

Please select your sponsorship level above and return this form with your payment to:
Equest
P.O. Box 171779
Dallas, TX 75217
Attention: Gala

ONLINE:

Scan the QR code to make your payment online.

GALA EVENT PAGE:

Scan to visit our Gala event page for event details and information.

QUESTIONS: Email gala@equest.org or contact Angela Escamilla, Events & Communication Manager at (972) 412 - 1099 ext. 209

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ERIC LINDH
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

WHO:

Co-Chairs: Nicole & Guntram Merl and Lisa Bhattacharya
Honorary Chairs: Lisa & Charles Berger
Citation Award Honoree: Ballew Foundation
Founders Award Honoree: Leslie Kennedy
Emcee: Jody Dean
Entertainment: The Manhattan Orchestra of The Jordan Khan Music Company

WHAT:

The 46th Annual Blue Ribbon Gala is Equest's signature fundraising event, bringing together more than 600 community, civic, and business leaders from across the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex for an unforgettable evening of Texas-inspired elegance and celebration. Proceeds from the Gala directly support Equest's mission 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 activates and therapies. Equest is proud to be a PATH International Premier Accredited Center, recognized for excellence in equine-assisted services.

WHY:

The need for therapeutic services continues to grow, with more than 800,000 individuals in North Texas living with a disability and 1 in 31 children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.

For more than 45 years, Equest has been transforming lives through the healing power of horses. As Texas' first therapeutic horsemanship center and a PATH International Premier Accredited Center, Equest has helped thousands of children and adults with physical, cognitive, and social-emotional needs achieve meaningful milestones through equine-assisted services.

Today, Equest serves more than 2,000 clients annually, providing hope, healing, and growth through the unique partnership between humans and horses. With the support of our donors, volunteers, and community partners, we continue to make life-changing equine-assisted services accessible to those who need them most. **Humans. Horses. Hope.**

WHEN: Saturday, April 24, 2027, at 6:00 - 11:00 pm

WHERE: Equest, 811 Pemberton Hill Road, Bldg.4, Dallas, TX 75217

Visit equest.org/gala for event details and information.