



UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN TEAM FOUNDATION, INC.  
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GLADSTONE, NJ 07934-0355

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*Enclosed:*  
**Your Supporter Newsletter!**



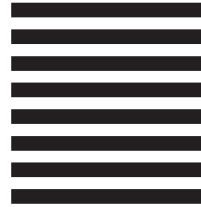
Inside: **A “Cinderella Story” made possible by YOU. Open Now!**





*Your first-class stamp will  
allow more of your gift to  
directly support the athletes.  
Thank You! →*

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**“We have such a huge family of supporters...  
so many people around us who make this happen.”**

– Laura Graves, Team Bronze Medalist, 2016 Olympic Dressage Team

September 3, 2018

Dear [CnAdrSal\_Salutation],

It's almost time...

The FEI World Equestrian Games, on our home turf in Tryon, North Carolina, are about to begin. *You can feel the excitement in every stable and training ring.*

You've been helping our athletes and their incredible horses train for this moment for years. For many, it's the goal—the dream—of a lifetime.

And, as you know, [salutation], it's not an easy path, climbing to the top of High-Performance equestrian sport.

As you look through *Our Team*—the first edition of our new United States Equestrian Team Foundation Supporter newsletter—created exclusively for supporters like YOU—you'll see the challenges behind every success...

★ From dressage star, Laura Graves, a true Cinderella story, who almost had to give up on her dream and sell her phenomenal but challenging “Diddy”...

★ To famed eventer, Boyd Martin, who has built his career from the ground up over and over, even running into a burning barn to save his horse, and his dreams...

★ To show jumper, Gigi McIntosh, paralyzed after a jumping accident, but back up on a horse six months later, and now a rising star in para-dressage...

**Without your support, [salutation], the dreams and potential of these athletes may never have been realized. It's why your gift today is so vital to the success of our United States Equestrian Team.**

*(over, please)*

1040 POTTERSVILLE ROAD ★ P.O. BOX 355 ★ GLADSTONE, NJ 07934-0355 ★ 908.234.1251 ★ USET.ORG

**★ UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN TEAM FOUNDATION – REPLY FORM ★**

**Yes!** I realize my support is essential to our success! Here's my gift to help our horses and athletes be the best of the best:

\$XX  \$XX  \$XX  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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My check, payable to **USET Foundation** is enclosed.

Please charge my gift to my credit card.  
*(See reverse)*

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To make a gift online go to [uset.org/ourteam](http://uset.org/ourteam)

Remember, unlike our competitors from many places around the world, our athletes receive NO government funding. It's up to us. To people like you and me.

The stories in your copy of *Our Team* will remind you just how essential you are to our efforts. It's an insider's look at the United States Equestrian Team—*your team*.

That's why I wanted to share this with you. Because it takes a huge team effort to get even one horse and athlete to a competition like the FEI World Equestrian Games.

And it all starts with the generosity—the dedication—of YOU and others who have supported and helped prepare our Team.

From identifying new talent, to giving young athletes a pathway to be their best at demanding international competitions, to coaching top combinations and transporting them all over the world...

**Your support makes it all happen!**

On behalf of our athletes, horses, their coaches and trainers, and every member of our Team...

Thank you!



Bonnie B. Jenkins  
Executive Director

P.S. When Olympian Laura Graves, whom you'll read about in your exclusive, insider edition of *Our Team*, was recognized recently for her amazing accomplishments, she said:

*"This is an honor, and more so a reflection of our community and the fact that what Verdades and I achieved this year would not have been possible without the generosity of the USET Foundation. This award is for all of you, and my amazing horse."*

As you send your gift today and watch our Team compete in Tryon, know that the medals won are a triumph for YOU and all the supporters who make this possible. I am so grateful for all you do!

Please complete and mail your contribution in the envelope provided to:

P.O. Box 355, Gladstone, NJ 07934-9955. We've paid the postage for you to speed your reply. *Thank you for your support!*

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VISA  MasterCard 3-digit security code from back: \_\_\_\_\_

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I would like 100% of my gift to go to (please check one box):

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Vaulting  Where needed most

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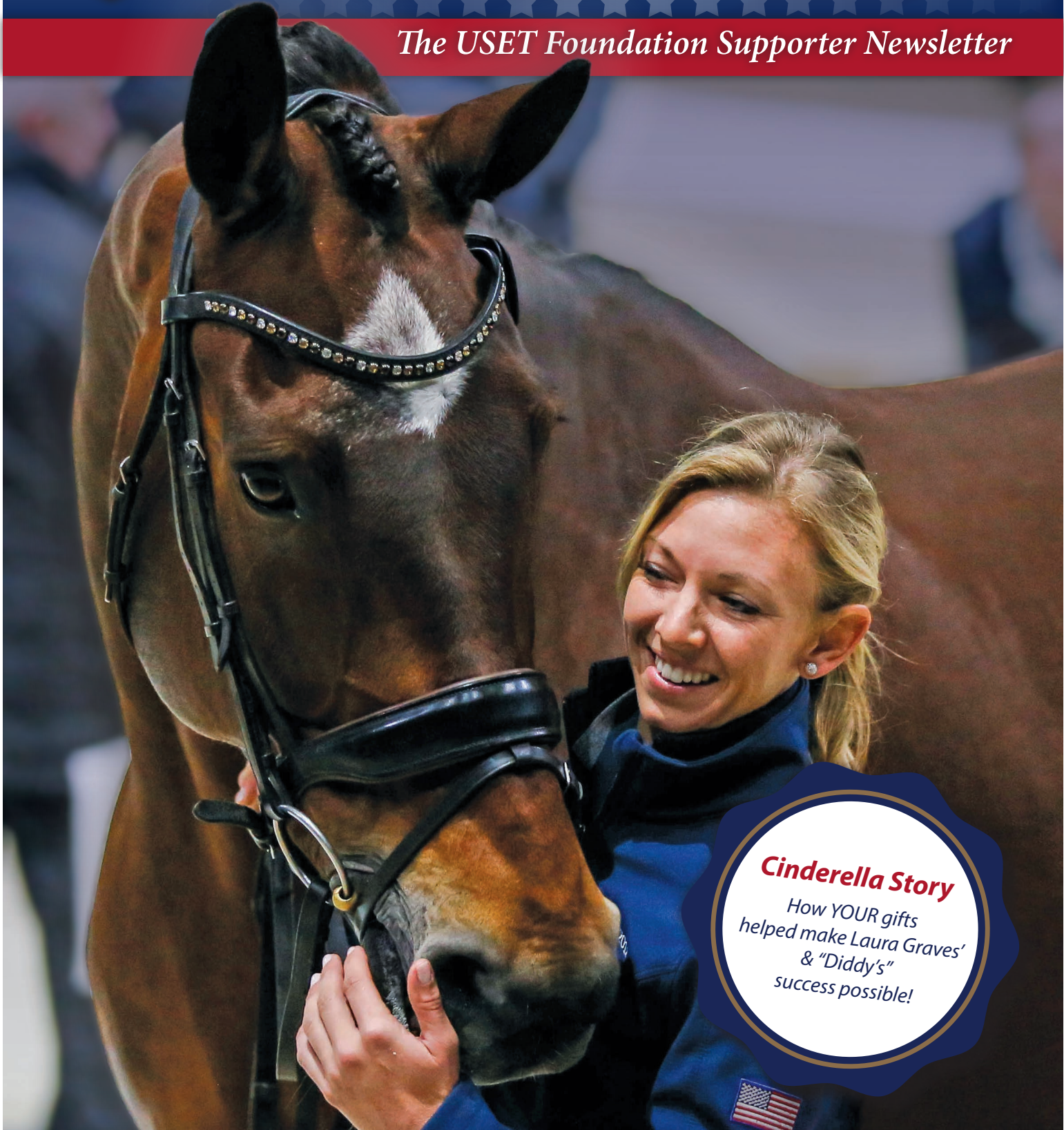




Fall 2018

# OUR TEAM

*The USET Foundation Supporter Newsletter*



## ***Cinderella Story***

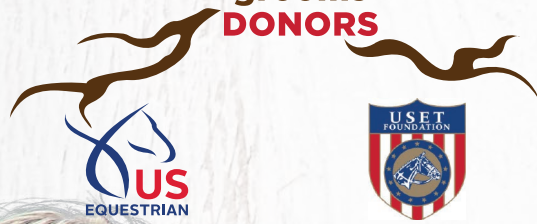
*How YOUR gifts  
helped make Laura Graves'  
& "Diddy's"  
success possible!*

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# The Team Behind the Team:

## It All Starts with YOU!



### **Our United States Equestrian Team**

has set its sights on big wins at this year's FEI World Equestrian Games in Tryon, North Carolina. Our athletes are excited, ready to show the world what they're made of...

And it's all because of supporters like you—the team behind our United States Equestrian Team!

You make it all possible. From the coaches and trainers, to veterinarians and physiotherapists, to grooms and shippers... it really is a team effort!

Steadfast supporters like you keep our Teams in all eight disciplines—dressage, driving, endurance, eventing, para-dressage, reining, show jumping and vaulting—at the pinnacle of high-performance equestrian sport!

You support our Team on every level—from identifying and developing top talent, to providing the coaching and support world-class athletes and horses need to compete at their peak internationally.

In these pages you'll read some of the incredible success stories you've made possible through your support for the United States Equestrian Team Foundation, from veteran athletes like Boyd Martin to the next generation of talent like Lucy Deslauriers.

You make all the difference. You carve out the path to success—and to victory! Thank you! ★



**"We sometimes forget that it's more than just us and the horse."**

— Laura Graves, *U.S. Dressage Champion*



# You helped Boyd turn Tragedy into Victory!

**Boyd Martin is no stranger to success**, or working hard to get it... over and over.

In 2007, he left a career in Australia to pursue international eventing in America. After again establishing a thriving career, disaster struck when a barn fire claimed six of his horses and injured famed 2010 WEG mount, Neville Bardos, who Boyd rushed into the flames to rescue.

After the fire, Boyd and Neville, against all odds, fought back to the top to finish seventh in the arduous Burghley CCI4\* in England.

"I would like to thank all of the people that have supported my teammates and me through the USET Foundation."

- Boyd Martin

But there was one goal this Olympian athlete still chased: winning a medal. The 2015 Pan American Games was his moment.

There, our United States Equestrian Team chased down Gold—a victory for the eventing team, for America and, especially, for Boyd. "We had to fight for it pretty hard," he says. "I was proud to be a part of a winning team."


And it was all possible thanks to the support and belief of donors like you.

"I would like to thank all of the people that have supported my teammates and me through the USET Foundation. Without your donations we would not have the international competition opportunities or the staff and logistical support that are critical to being competitive on the world stage," says Boyd. "Go Team USA!" ★



Photo by Mary Adelaide Brake





"I've always had my Prince Charming... just maybe he was a frog for a while."

- Laura Graves

Photo by Shannon Brinkman

# Laura

## A "Cinderella Story

**Ten years ago**, Laura Graves was a hairstylist, and Verdades (a.k.a. "Diddy") was nearly impossible to ride. Thankfully for our United States Equestrian Team, both things changed!

Laura left her budding career, moved to Florida, and found a stable where she could work in exchange for lessons. There, she continued training her talented—but impossible—horse.

**Laura calls the support you give athletes and horses "life changing"—and those aren't mere words...**

In 2013, she applied to participate in a developing athlete clinic conducted by Debbie McDonald. By 2014, she was training with Debbie which eventually led her to a spot on the Team, and supporters like you into her life.

**"I've learned the hard way that having the dream and working hard isn't necessarily enough. There is no way I could have done it without financial help**

**from the USET Foundation."**

Without it, "You're saying, 'I need to go to this competition, so I won't have health insurance this year,' or, 'He (Verdades) can't have his supplements because it's not in the budget.' Having the USET Foundation's support allows us to live a healthy lifestyle and maintain ourselves and our horses as world-class athletes without the fear of being unable to afford rent or board."

"I came in with no expectations," Laura said, remembering when she first joined the team. "When you're at the bottom... There's nowhere to go but up."

And up she went! From a personal best score and Team Bronze at the Rio Olympics, to preparing to compete in yet another World

*A fairytale is exactly what I feel like*





# Laura & "Diddy"

"YOU helped write!"

Equestrian Games this year, the unstoppable pair just gets better and better.

Just this spring, they bested Germany's Isabell Werth and Weihegold OLD, the number one combination in the world, for the second time, while scoring yet another personal best.

**Thanks to you, Laura and Verdades are rising stars, and the best is yet to come! ★**



Photo by Annan Hepner

## Oh What a Horse! **Verdades, aka "Diddy"**

**With money tight, Laura's family bought a foal—sight unseen.** When he arrived from the Netherlands, it took three men at the quarantine station to get the six-month-old into their trailer.

On many days Laura couldn't even saddle the Dutch Warmblood gelding. When she did, he often panicked and threw her, so hard one time that she broke her back.

Still, Laura knew he was special. It "felt incredible" when she rode him. And yet, her dream seemed so far out of reach.

So she pursued another career, and made the impossible decision to put her beloved, frustrating "Diddy" up for sale.

Luckily, no one wanted him.

No one else could even sit on the shy, spirited horse. So she threw everything, her whole life and every cent, into one more shot...

And, with your support, it worked!

Now an Olympic medalist, Laura says "Diddy" is still a challenge. He makes winning look easy, despite the long, hard road he and Laura traveled.

"We grew up together," she explains. Their bond, their harmony is "amazing, we're so connected... He's amazing." ★





# Future of the Sport:

## The Young, New Talent You Help Develop

### **Introducing Lucy Deslauriers and Hester**

*She has the commitment and talent. She has the dream. And, thanks to generous supporters like you, she has the right pathway to realize her potential. Today, she truly is a rising star!*

Lucy won her first national title at age 13 in the 2012 USEF Pony Finals. But, thanks to supporters like you, she really exploded onto the show jumping stage with her long-time partner, 13-year-old Belgian Warmblood Gelding, Hester. In 2015 they won individual gold at three national young rider championships.

**The High Performance Developing Rider/Under 25 (U25) programs—that you and other generous donors make possible—are critical for young riders like Lucy, as she explains.**

“When you go directly from the High Juniors to the Grand Prix level, there’s a very big gap.” But she and Hester were prepared when they took that next step to the 5\* level in 2016.

“The U25 division helped me get more comfortable at the higher level of competition, not just in the height, but I think also competing with more seasoned riders... in various arenas.”

This year, after a shoulder injury forced a two-month hiatus, Lucy came back stronger than ever, clinching her biggest career victory to date when she and Hester came in first in Round 12 of the

World Equestrian Festival Challenge Cup.

Hester, whom Lucy describes as “naturally super-fast” and also “a bit of a Diva,” has been with her for more than five years now. Lucy knows she can count on her partner “to give his 200% every time.”

You’ll want to keep an eye on this pair, and when you do, remember... you are playing a critical part in their success! ★



Photo by Taylor Renner





# You Helped Her Find—and Reach!— New Heights When a Missed Jump Brought Her World Crashing Down

**Margaret “Gigi” McIntosh began riding at seven.** She progressed successfully through the ranks, but never imagined herself as an Olympian: “I was just an amateur.”

Then in 1999, one jump changed everything. Her horse’s legs “caught in the top of the jump like a rabbit in a snare... the next thing I knew I was lying there and I couldn’t get up.”

Gigi had broken her C6 vertebrae, resulting in incomplete quadriplegia.

But she also found a new fire and determination—first to survive her injury, then intensive physical

therapy—then to mount back up... just six months later!

With her para-dressage partner, Rheinlander mare Rio Rio, she set her sights on the 2016 Paralympic Games.

And with your help, they made it! Gigi says, “I was truly impressed by the attention to detail and the support from the USET Foundation.”

She hopes to continue to see the para-dressage programs grow, and she knows that hope rides on your dedication: “Going forward, our competitive advantage and experience depends on supporters.” ★

“I was truly impressed by the attention to detail and the support from the USET Foundation”

– Margaret McIntosh



Photo by Lindsay Y. McCall



# Donor SPOTLIGHT:

## *Eva-Maria Adolphi*



### ***"If You Love Something, Support It"***

Eva Adolphi has a passion for dressage. "It's like gymnastics for the horse," she explains—it's about problem-solving, being diplomatic, gentle, and methodical.

According to Eva, her mother, who brought her here from Germany in 1952, "was the horse-crazy one." And she passed along that love to her daughter. Together, they helped found the Utah Dressage Society, and Eva was active in the group for over thirty years. She also competed for a time, joking about her success: "I stank—but everyone else stank worse!"

Because competing wasn't her true passion, Eva became a technical delegate helping run competitions. But she wanted to do even more, so she decided: "I'm going to support this stuff wherever I can."

Ever since, she's been loyally backing her Team

through the United States Equestrian Team Foundation—for two decades. "I started out by just giving \$25. But then as I went along, I could give a little bit more," she explains, adding...



*"If you love something, support it. It doesn't have to be a lot of money, because if everyone gave just ten dollars, it would be a tremendous total amount for the Team."*

**Like you, Eva is an essential part of something big. "I feel proud of what we do. I'm very excited when somebody from our country wins and does well... My little bit makes me feel like I am a part of the Foundation, a part of the Team, and that's a good feeling."**

## ***Your Legacy of Love—for High Performance Sport***

***Every gift to the United States Equestrian Team Foundation*** is an investment in the future of our Team. When you provide pathways to develop new talent like Lucy and Hester—or like Laura and "Diddy" just a few years ago—you keep our Teams performing at the peak of excellence.

Did you know there's another way you can safeguard

the future of the sport you love? Through Planned Giving, you can leave a lasting legacy that will advance the sport—and keep our Team on top—now and for generations to come.

To learn more about joining the Heritage Society by including the United States Equestrian Team Foundation in your estate plans, please call us at (908) 234-1251.