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# Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Lehman Engineers Trail Event Raises \$22,385.46 for *Dreams Go On***

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Hollidaysburg, PA – The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Lehman Engineers Horse Trail Ride & Trail Walk to benefit *Dreams Go On* was held on Sunday, September 5, at Canoe Creek State Park. The event generated a record breaking **\$22,385.46** for *Dreams Go On*, a non-profit therapeutic Horseback riding organization for adults and children who are physically challenged, receive mental health, behavioral health or family therapy services. Joe Lehman, Jr., President of P. Joseph Lehman, Inc., Consulting Engineers stated, "This event is near and dear to our hearts at Lehman Engineers. Many of our employees work for many months behind the scenes and on the planning committee to organize and improve the event each year. We believe in the mission of *Dreams Go On* and are pleased to support this unparalleled therapeutic horseback riding program founded by my sister, Sue Lehman. It's important to our family to support this activity that helps so many young people in our area. There's no better way to lift the spirits of a child or young adult than to place them on a horse. I am very

grateful to be able to continue to help *Dreams Go On* and appreciate the many sponsors that come back year after year."

Riders and walkers at the event had the opportunity to meet Tomasz Dorabiala and Aaron Rose, the 2016 *Dreams Go On* Trail Ride & Trail Walk Ambassadors. Both riders have been taking therapeutic horseback riding lessons for over 15 years together. The *Dreams Go On* Celebrity Emcee, Joe Murgo, Chief Meteorologist at WTAJ -TV10, along with Betsy Lehman, event chairwoman and Special Projects Director at Lehman Engineers, and Debbie Kelly, Program Manager for *Dreams Go On*, hosted the early morning activities by welcoming all to the 2016 Lehman Engineers Horse Trail Ride & Trail Walk. *Dreams Go On* volunteers, *Dreams Go On* riders, and their families, greeted the riders and walkers on the beautiful fall morning and all enjoyed watching Aaron Rose take a short therapeutic horseback ride to start the event. Joe Murgo thanked the participants, volunteers, and *Dreams Go On* riders and their families for supporting the event before giving a warm send off to the beautiful horses as they headed toward the bridle loop trail and later to the trail walkers as they embarked together on the handicap-accessible Lake View loop and later on the Limestone Trail at Canoe Creek State Park. Riders enjoyed a 2.5 hour trail ride led by *Dreams Go On* Therapeutic Riding Instructor, Karen Strayer. All trail riders and walkers received a free event t-shirt.

Event participants and the children and adults who ride in the *Dreams Go On* therapeutic program and their parents or guardians were also invited to a delicious BBQ chicken lunch provided by Imler's Poultry. Landon Focht, of Imler's Poultry, led a team to barbeque the chicken on location the morning of the event. Other in-kind food donations and talent to support the event came from the generosity of the following sponsors: Hoss's Steak and Sea House, Sheetz, Blair County Beverage, Roaring Spring Water, Troutfitters, The Press Box, and Prime Design Solutions. Mrs. Ruth Keller baked homemade cookies for all participants to enjoy. The Sheetz Brothers Coffee Truck was on sight providing free coffee, smoothies, and MTO milkshakes to

event volunteers and participants. The Sheetz Coffee Truck staff also collected donations for *Dreams Go On* at the mobile beverage station.

The event also featured a silent auction with items donated by volunteers, sponsors and area businesses. Children participated in many arts and crafts, and face painting. The children's activity area, event set up, registration, trail guidance, and many other aspects of the event was staffed by Dreams Go On volunteers and 30 student volunteers from Saint Francis University sorority Phi Lambda Psi and Penn State Altoona Sheetz Fellows. The servant leadership from the university groups was exceptional.

Registered trail riders and walkers were asked to hold fundraisers and collect donations and pledges for the event. The top-fundraising trophy in the individual category for the horse trail ride was presented this year to Pam Wilt with a \$115 donation. Second and third place trophies were awarded to Karen Anderko and James Kensinger with \$100 and \$30. The top fundraising horseback riding team trophy was given to Team Path Valley Saddle Club for their \$410 contribution. The team included Chrissy Knight, Norma Shoop, and Carol Daniel. The top fundraising trophy in the individual category for the trail walk was presented to Daniel Weitzel with a \$152 donation. Second and third place trophies were awarded to Anna GORITY and Sophia McMillan with \$100 and \$95. The top-fundraising trail walk team trophy was awarded to Team Rose, represented by Dave, Cathy, and Aaron Rose with a \$120 donation. With a score of 34, Paul Vaughn won the disc golf contest and prize pack from Point of Fitness and Comfort Inn of Altoona. Event photos can be viewed at: <https://www.icloud.com/sharedalbum/#B0N5GBXX1tfswi>.

Deb Kelly, Program Manager for *Dreams Go On* stated, "It is always a pleasure to work with Betsy and her team each year! We are grateful for the continued support from Lehman Engineers and are pleased to see the Lehman Engineers Horse Trail Ride & Trail Walk continue to grow each year. This fundraising event is our largest and most anticipated!"

The 2016 Lehman Engineers Horse Trail Ride and Trail Walk Committee included: Betsy Lehman, Sherrie Ayers, Ethan Weyant, Allan Derr, Tiffany Bryant, Annette Lehman, Rhonda Burchfield, Laura Koss, Brenda Fix, Deb Kelly, and Terry Wasovich. They appreciate the support from management team and staff at Canoe Creek State Park, many volunteers, and title sponsor: P. Joseph Lehman, Inc., Consulting Engineers. The 2016 horseshoe sponsors of the event were Smith Transport, Inc. and Holliday Real Estate, LLC. Stirrup sponsors included: Health South Rehabilitation Hospital of Altoona; The Markosky Engineering Group; Empower Business Solutions; Young Oakes Brown and Company; Kohl's Department Stores; M&T Bank; and Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield. T-shirt sponsors included: French Engineering, LLC; Bill Shuster for Congress Committee; Ameriserve Bank; Degol Carpet; Wolf Furniture; The RADD Development Company; Bartolotta Vision Care; The Kiwanis Club of Altoona; and 1<sup>st</sup> Summit Bank. Dream Trail Marker Sponsors included: Drenning Leasing, Inc; Seltzer Financial Strategies; Ward Transport & Logistics; Stuckey Ford and Subaru; Homewood at Martinsburg; Sheetz, Inc; S&T Bank; Cesare Battisti Mutual Benefit Association; NAC, Inc; Reclamere, Inc; The Hite Company; Saint Francis University; Comfort Inn/Comfort Suites of Duncansville and Altoona; Grove Miller Engineering; Urban & Blattenberger, PC; and Clearfield Bank and Trust. Many other businesses and individuals supported the event and contributed to the auction.

To Volunteer with *Dreams Go On*, visit [www.DreamsGoOn.com](http://www.DreamsGoOn.com) for more information. The therapeutic horseback rides will begin again in March of 2017. For more information about *Dreams Go On*, please visit [DreamsGoOn.com](http://DreamsGoOn.com).

### **PRESS PHOTO ATTACHED:**

Volunteers from Lehman Engineers and Planning Committee Present check to *Dreams Go On* (from left): Sherrie Ayers, Office Manager; Joe Lehman, Jr., President; and Laura Koss, committee member and volunteer; presented a \$22,385.46 check from the 2016 Lehman Engineers Horse Trail Ride & Trail Walk to benefit *Dreams Go On* to Deb Kelly, DGO Program Coordinator.



**For Press Use:**

**Additional Event Photos Available at:**

Nice pictures of the horses and participants at the event can be found at <https://www.icloud.com/sharedalbum/#B0N5GBXX1tfswi>. Please feel free to use any photos. Thank you! Betsy Lehman