

EDRA'S MARY & ANNA MEMORIAL YOUTH FUND

HISTORY.

In the winter of 2017/18, the Pacific Northwest endurance community lost two icons – Anna Sampson and Mary Nunn, both who started their endurance careers in the 1980's.

Mary had 4,345 competitive miles, was a skilled horsewoman, training and starting horses for herself, her children and grandchildren. She was the epitome of a super volunteer – ride manager for several “crown jewel events” in the region. She also worked on various endurance club committees, was an award sponsor, coach, mentor, and confidant to all involved in the sport.

Anna accumulated 3,685 competitive miles, was a ride timer/secretary extraordinaire and demonstrated the essence of what it means to “give-back.” Anna was a foster parent to many a child, helping them to become mature, capable adults. She may have been considered Mary's sidekick, but she was just as strong and talented.



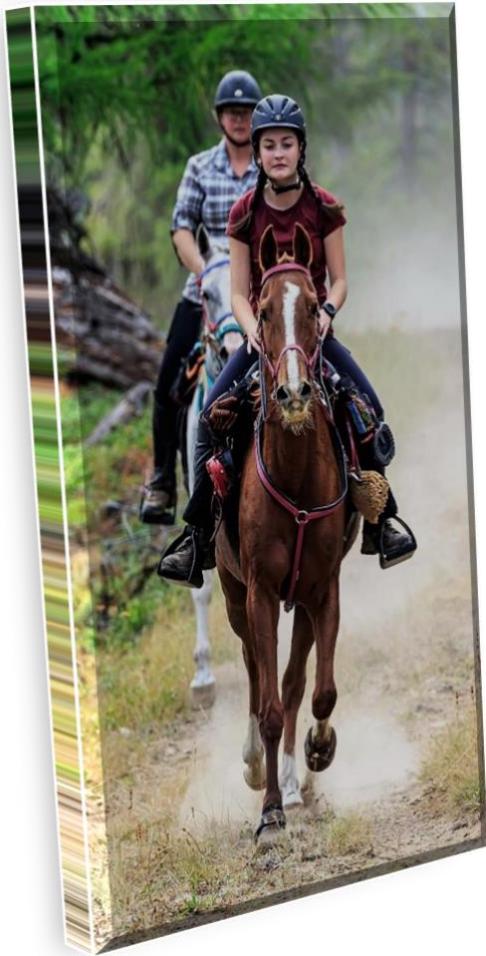
What adds to the legacy of these two amazing women, is their bond of friendship. They were neighbors, they rode together, their families grew up together and were part of the glue that joined them. They were so connected that you could not say one of their name's without saying the other's.

This duo loved supporting individuals new to the sport, but even more, they loved supporting junior and youth riders. Nothing more made Mary and Anna beam with joy than when they were around kids, family and horses.

HONORING THEIR LEGACY.

In trying to identify the “right thing to do” one simply had to look at how Anna and Mary chose to live their lives. They gave to everyone, welcomed everyone, respected all – but children were a constant priority. Mary would train and prepare a horse so that it would be a safe mount. Anna, brought children into the Sampson home with love and security... giving them a solid foundation upon which to grow and bloom.

So, with their passing, the Equine Distance Riding Association (EDRA) wished to pay tribute to the many gifts the duo had bestowed upon those who participate in the sport of long-



distance riding and chose a way that would further Mary's and Anna's priorities. Thus, the Mary & Anna Memorial Youth Fund was established.

The Fund pays for half the full-price ride entry fee for any child under age 18 who enters an event recognized by Pacific Northwest Endurance Rides, Inc.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS THUS FAR. Since the Fund's inception in 2018, over 100 different children have benefited from 564 ride entry subsidies. The Fund has paid out over \$19,000 and ride managers have provided an additional \$10,000 of in-kind donations, equating to almost \$30,000 in financial assistance. Additionally, many ride managers in the Pacific Northwest have adopted a "kids ride free" pricing policy, making the region a leader in building an equestrian sport that is financially attractive and viable for children and their parents. Collectively the endurance community in the Pacific Northwest welcomes and supports future generations of riders, building opportunity for those children interested in the challenge of the contest so many of us love.

2023 FUNDRAISING EFFORTS. Ride Managers Darlene & Max Merlich have committed to donating proceeds from the Mary & Anna Memorial Ride. The ride takes place on May 27 & 28 at the Outback Station Event Center in La Pine, OR and is sanctioned by AERC. A bonus for 2023 is that participants will be using the same course as is scheduled for the 2024 AERC National Championships.

Two weeks later on June 10, 2023 EDRA Ride Managers, Sue & Dennis Summers, have committed to donating proceeds from the Trout Lake 100. The ride takes place out of the Mount Adams Horse Camp in Trout Lake, WA. The ride is both an EDRA endorsed event and will also include the United States Equestrian Federation Pacific North Zone Championships which includes a 100-mile event for adults and a 75-mile Youth/Young Rider championship. USEF Novice Qualifiers will also be offered in the 25, 50, 75 and 100-mile distances.



Want another creative way to contribute? EDRA member and owner of American Trail Gear, Alexis Berryman (<https://americantrailgear.com/>) is donating all proceeds from the sale of Mary & Anna caps. Buy a cap and you are supporting the legacy and the kids!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. On this site you can find our annual reports for 2019 through 2022, along with instructions for ride managers on how to access the fund for reimbursement of up to 50% of the full-price ride entry fee for children under age 18 (as of January 1st for events that are recognized by PNER.



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ALL DONATIONS ARE USED EXCLUSIVELY TO PAY FOR RIDE ENTRY FEES FOR CHILDREN.

