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Community Connections | Alatheia celebrates evening of extraordinary women

Julie Lindholm Aug 10, 2018



Zennea Nelson stands behind her daughter Crystal Chevelle, one of the women Alatheia recognized in July. Chevelle, who suffered a traumatic brain injury at age 18, is a new rider at the center.

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There was a sellout crowd at the 5th Annual Alatheia Little Black Dress event with over 100 women dressed to the nines and ready to support Alatheia Therapeutic Riding Center. This year's theme was "Diamonds and Pearls" and was hosted at the newly remodeled Wenatchee Golf and Country Club on July 27.

This spectacular fundraising event was a record-breaking success, raising over \$50,000 in sponsorships and annualized donations, all of which support programs serving riders with special needs! "Diamonds and Pearls" met 14 percent of the 2018 budget and will directly benefit Alatheia riders.

Alatheia Executive Director Nancy Grette said, "The response of this great community towards our work and mission has been absolutely overwhelming. Clearly the people of the Wenatchee Valley stand behind and join our mission to change lives with the healing power of horses. We are grateful and so honored."



To kick off the fun night, Grette announced Alatheia Riding Center has started the process of purchasing 12 acres in the Sunnyslope area to build a new facility. With a larger facility Alatheia will be able to expand their programs and increase the number of riders from approximately 90 to 150 per week. The center is planning its capital campaign to raise funds to build the new facility.

Alatheia celebrated two extraordinary women during the event.

Beth Dobbs was presented with the Alatheia Advocate Award for her generous support of the organization and their mission. Dobbs is well known as a champion of causes that make this valley a better place, especially for at-risk youth and those in need. Alatheia applauds her

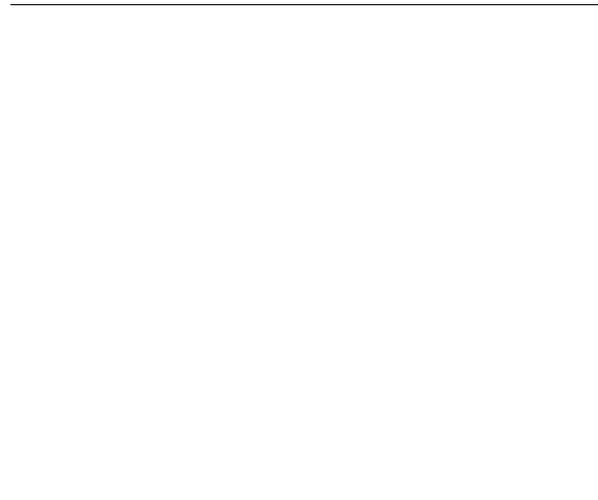
commitment to children and adults with special needs through her tireless efforts on their behalf.

Crystal Chevelle, a new Alatheia rider, was the next extraordinary woman to be recognized.

Shortly before her 18th birthday, Crystal was in a Jet Ski accident and was not expected to survive. The resulting traumatic brain injury has kept her in a wheelchair and unable to continue her passion of horseback riding for 15 years. Crystal now rides weekly at Alatheia Riding Center and is making progress towards more independence in the saddle. Crystal sang for the guests, and what began as applause quickly turned into a teary-eyed standing ovation.

"Crystal is an inspiration to everyone she meets," said Grette. "We are awed by her determination and perseverance."

Since the non-profit started in 2011, Alatheia has grown from 12 riders per week to approximately 90 and from three horses to the current nine. More than 120 volunteers provide assistance to the riders in their weekly lessons.



Visit alatheiaridingcenter.com to view our new video and learn more about Alatheia Therapeutic Riding Center.

Julie Lindholm is the administrative manager at Alatheia Riding Center.

