

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.

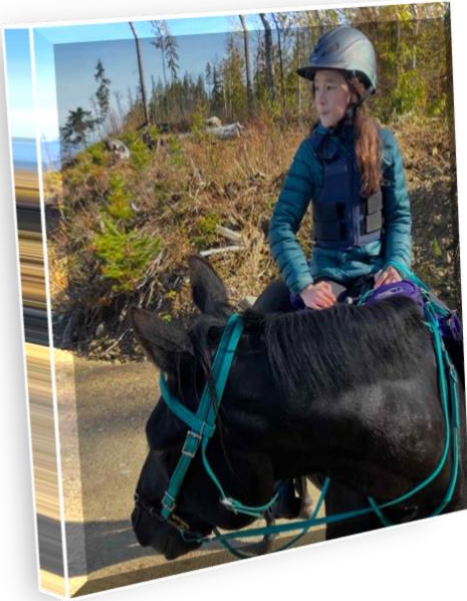
This duo loved supporting individuals new to the sport, but even more, they loved supporting junior and youth riders. Nothing more made Mary and Anna beam with joy than when they were around kids, family and horses.

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, 135 different children have benefited from 746 ride entry subsidies. The Fund has paid out approximately \$27,000 and ride managers have provided an additional \$13,000 of in-kind donations, equating to over \$40,000 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.

2024 FUNDRAISING EFFORTS. Ride Managers Darlene & Max Merlich are championing the cause by supporting a raffle at the AERC National Championship that will exclusively benefit the Mary & Anna Memorial Youth Fund. The event runs August 15-17 at the Outback Station Event Center in La Pine, OR and is sanctioned by AERC.

EDRA volunteers and National Championship committee members are focused on securing raffle donations from businesses and individuals to make world-class raffle. If you are interested in making a donation to the raffle, please contact Sue McLain at mamrraffle@gmail.com

Want another creative way to contribute? EDRA member and owner of American Trail Gear, Alex Berryman (<https://americantrailgear.com/>) is donating 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 2023, 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.



[Link to Instructions & Form to Request Reimbursement](#)

[Link to 2019 Annual Report](#)

[Link to 2020 Annual Report](#)

[Link to 2021 Annual Report](#)

[Link to 2022 Annual Report](#)

[Link to 2023 Annual Report](#)

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

JOIN IN ON SUPPORTING OUR FUTURE!

