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# DERBY DAY!



Photos by Marin Resnick

Kelly Champion, certified registered instructor at Mane Stream, helps Mane Stream equestrian Elliott Bentley ride Tink, the Region II horse of the year, at the Party in the Paddock on Derby Day, Saturday, May 6. Champion and Bentley are joined by Kathy Dermody, right, also a certified registered instructor at Mane Stream.

## Mane Stream tips its hats to the Kentucky Derby

**TEWKSBURY TWP.** – A collection of Kentucky Derby-style hats converged upon the fields of the Mane Stream equine therapy facility as families and friends gathered to celebrate Derby Day at the Party in the Paddock on Saturday, May 6.

Mane Stream is a non-profit registered charitable organization

whose mission is to improve the quality of life for individuals with physical, developmental, emotional and medical challenges through a diverse program of equine assisted activities, therapy services and educational initiatives.

Mane Stream is a designated Premier Accredited Center of PATH – Pro-

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Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International, which provides education, ac-

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Photos by Marin Resnick

**Above:** Event Coordinator Jen Dermody, center, is joined by volunteers Tina Corcoran, left, and Kerry Scholtz at the Party in Paddock on Saturday, May 6, at Mane Stream.  
**Below:** Lori Willard, center, was happily celebrating her birthday with Keith Willard, left, and Kathy Dermody at the Party in Paddock celebrating Derby Day on Saturday, May 6, at Mane Stream in Tewksbury.



# DERBY: Day at Mane Stream

creditation and resources for the equine assisted activities industry.

The Party in the Paddock celebrated the Run for the Roses, and raised money for Mane Stream's many programs, with traditional derby-style gala - with a twist.

The event began with Derby enthusiasts being able to vote for their favorite Derby runner in the guise of a member of Mane Stream's staff, online, prior to the big day.

The Derby runners included Kelly Champion, PATH International certified registered instructor, Horses for Healing coordinator, camp activity specialist, barn assistant, sponsored by the Buchsbaum family, Horseflight, Pine Woods Farm, Jeanne and Roger Rogalin; Alex Willard, barn manager, sponsored by Advantage Pools, Pine Woods Farm, Jennifer and Steve Smith, Amy and Steve Mahoney; Elke Phillips, riding instructor sponsored by The Cavaleiro Family, The Ginger Jar, Pine Woods Farm, M. Schmidt Landscaping; Angela D'Alessandro, riding instructor and barn assistant, sponsored by The Coffey Family, Pine Woods Farm, Melissa and Mike Renfer; and Renae Flanagan, volunteer coordinator, assistant, sponsored by Custom Cakes by Renae, Pine Woods Farm, Red Tail Farm and Jennifer and Steve Smith.

There was the ability to purchase a Red Rose Package up for bid which included a hand-painted lawn jockey, limited-edition Courtly Horseshoe from MacKenzie-Childs, Woodford Reserve Kentucky Derby Edition Bourbon and a set of a

Derby & Oaks glasses, and glasses containing tickets for "bets" for the horses running the Derby.

"We are selling cups for \$20, and in the cups are (prize) tickets," said Cate Hegeman, a Party in the Paddock volunteer. "So you can bet on the horses running the Derby today."

Hegeman said she was happy to be out on the beautiful spring evening, helping to raise money for this unique and needed facility.

"It's a nice day and I'm glad to be here supporting Mane Stream, and talking to people who are also supportive of Mane Stream," Hegeman said.

Elke Phillips, who was joined by her nephew, Patrick Donnelly, agreed with Hegeman's sentiments.

"It's great seeing like-minded people getting together," Phillips said.

Sally Walker also enjoyed getting to socialize with those with similar priorities.

"There is such a joy of sharing, and happiness here, (tonight), for such a good cause," Walker said.

Lori Willard, who was standing just outside the gala tent, was having a happy birthday celebrating her special day by donating for a good cause.

"This is the best way to spend a birthday," Willard said. "Around horses and good people for a good cause."

Grateful for those who came out to celebrate and support Mane Stream was Joyce Nicastro. Her granddaughter, Stella Nicastro, participates in Mane Stream's programs.

"Stella loves everything about Mane Stream," Nicastro said,

holding her hand to her heart while her granddaughter ran about, in her brown britches and dark brown boots, with the other children.

"I just love horses (at Mane Stream)," Karen Sabattis said. "My favorite is Mini."

With all the love, and support for Mane Stream in the air, Event Coordinator Jen Dermody, couldn't help but look around Mane Stream's fields with appreciation and adoration for all of those in attendance in her eyes.

"I'm so grateful we can bring events back to our facilities, and have fundraisers on our property so we can show people exactly what we do, here," Dermody said.

Emil Spadone, CEO and founder of sponsor HorseFlight and Redfield, said he appreciates the significance of the program Mane Stream offers.

"Our hats are off to their staff for the hard work and compassion they dedicate to the Mane Stream students," Spadone said.

"We are proud sponsors and look forward to our continued affiliation with this organization."

Mane Stream thanked the sponsors of Party in the Paddock, including The Greifeld Family; Kathy and Hal Kamine; Red Tail Farm's Maureen and Steve Bezer; In Memory of Jenny and Phil Casciano; In Memory of Anne Irene, Karen and Steve Kaufhold; Jeanne Rogalin of Midtown Direct Properties/Keller Williams Properties; and Redfield Farmand/The Saladino Family.

For more information, visit [ManeStreamNJ.org](http://ManeStreamNJ.org).