

News Release

CASA Mental Health

Equestrians compete to support youth mental health

Emily's Memorial Horse Show takes place at Amberlea Meadows from Thursday, Aug. 24 through Sunday, Aug. 27, 2023. This annual equestrian event sees upwards of 200 attendees and riders who compete, develop their skills in dressage and jumping and spend the weekend campout-style, among peers with a passion for mental health. The dressage show is on Thursday and Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and the jumpers show is Saturday and Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 4:40 p.m.

Rick and Stephanie Taylor began the Emily Taylor Legacy Project in honour of their daughter Emily who tragically lost her battle with depression at just 17 years old. Emily's love of horses spurred the Taylors to establish Emily's Memorial Horse Show in 2019, and the event has since raised \$40,000 for CASA House recreational programs, the equine therapy program and other CASA initiatives.

The horse show brings people together from across Alberta to support mental health care for children, youth and families. Riders also encouraged to personally fundraise in support of the cause. All of the proceeds are generously donated to CASA.

"We founded the Emily Taylor Legacy Project and organize annual events like Emily's Memorial Horse Show because it connects us to our daughter and keeps her legacy alive."

- Rick and Stephanie Taylor

"CASA Mental Health could not do its work without the generosity of families like the Taylors. This event is another example of how Rick and Stephanie continue to make a difference in the lives of children, youth and families across Alberta in memory of their daughter. Money raised through this event enables CASA to deliver mental health care services to more kids, wrap services around the entire family and ensure effective transitions from our services to the community so families can thrive."

- Bonnie Blakley, CASA Chief Executive Officer

Media Availability:

Media are invited to speak with Rick and Stephanie Taylor about their advocacy and fundraising efforts in honour of their daughter Emily.

When: Friday, Aug. 25, 2023, between 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Where: Amberlea Meadows Equestrian Centre, [6645-156 Street SW, Edmonton, AB T6Y 0C1](#) (10 minutes south of the Anthony Henday)

Who: Rick and Stephanie Taylor (Emily's parents) and a CASA representative

For more information or to confirm an interview slot, please contact:

Megan Hunka, Communications Specialist, CASA
587-986-2673 (cell) or mhunka@casaservices.org



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About CASA Mental Health:

CASA Mental Health is an established non-profit organization delivering holistic, culturally safe wrap-around mental health services to Albertans aged three to 18 and their families. CASA provides mental health service to the missing middle – mental health treatment for diagnosed children and youth, in between primary and community care, and acute treatment in hospital.

CASA's team of mental health professionals are trauma experts committed to delivering service in collaboration with community partners. This includes assessment and treatment for up to 4,000 children, youth, and their families each year, from community outreach settings to intensive treatment programs.

About the Emily Taylor Legacy Project:

On Nov. 18, 2013, Rick and Stephanie Taylor's beloved 17-year-old daughter Emily tragically lost her battle with depression. The Taylors established the Emily Taylor Legacy Project to honour Emily's memory and to help other youth struggling with their mental health.

Through the Emily Taylor Legacy Project, the Taylors have organized Emily's Memorial Motorcycle Ride, which has raised over \$110,000 since 2016, and Emily's Memorial Horse Show, which has raised over \$40,000 since 2019. All funds raised through these initiatives are donated to CASA Mental Health.

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