



Three D4K Christian Kennedy Scholarships Awarded

Thank you especially to Oded Shimoni, Lars Petersen, and to the many generous donors for making these scholarship opportunities possible.

Three very special scholarships have been awarded:

- D4K Christian Kennedy Young Adult Scholarship
- D4K Christian Kennedy training with Lars Petersen Scholarship
- D4K Christian Kennedy Training Grant

D4K Christian Kennedy Young Adult Scholarship

Tegan Pedigo is a nineteen year-old from Rustburg, Virginia. With a seasoned dressage trainer as her mother, Tegan cannot remember learning to steer or post, but can remember begging for more time on a horse by the age of three. From there, she dabbled in dressage, jumping, and eventing, until she turned eleven and did her first Dressage4Kids TEAM Clinic. Since attending her first clinic with Lendon Gray in 2019, she has since participated in the D4K ACT Program (Advocacy, Community, and Team) and the D4K Training4Teaching Program. Tegan has also participated in the D4K Summer Intensive Training Program (SIT) as a stable management intern and has attended the D4K Winter Intensive Training Program (WIT) three times, once as a stable management intern.

Kerrigan Gluch writes, "Throughout the program, Tegan consistently impressed me with her professionalism, attention to detail, and willingness to step up wherever she was needed. She was always polite, eager to take on responsibilities, and proactive in her approach. Beyond her formal duties, she frequently offered her help with the horses I had at the farm — a gesture that spoke volumes about her work ethic and genuine investment in the success of those around her."

Upon learning of the scholarship award, Tegan writes, "I am deeply grateful and honored to receive the Christian Kennedy Young Adult Scholarship, which will allow me to further my experience during the 2026 Florida season. This opportunity to learn and grow at such a pivotal moment in my life and career is truly beyond anything I could have hoped for, and it is made possible only through the generosity of all those who support the Christian Kennedy Young Adult Scholarship."



D4K Christian Kennedy training with Lars Petersen Scholarship

Michaela Cannon is a twenty year-old from Kernersville, North Carolina. Her horse, Frodo, is a 9 year-old Hanoverian gelding that she received this winter through the D4K Horse Donation Program. Michaela attended the D4K WIT (Winter Intensive Training) Programs in 2024 and 2025 and has also participated in the D4K TEAM (Training, Education, And Mentoring) and D4K ACT (Advocacy, Community, and Team) Programs. Michaela currently attends school at Liberty University, working towards a bachelor's degree in business. She hopes to continue her partnership with Frodo for years to come, with goals of NAYC and training through Grand Prix.

Denise Steele writes, "Michaela consistently demonstrates a thoughtful, horse-first approach. Her understanding of true horsemanship is clear in everything she does; she genuinely cares for the well-being of the horses and always goes the extra mile to ensure they receive the best possible care."

Upon learning of the scholarship award, Michaela writes, " I am very excited and looking forward to the opportunity to train with Lars Petersen! Thank you!"



D4K Christian Kennedy Training Grant

Emalee Walker is a twenty-three year-old from Dallas Center, Iowa. Emalee grew up in a large family where horses were always part of life. Too young to join Pony Club alongside her sisters, she quickly learned that if she wanted to ride, she had to work hard and be resourceful. From riding a one-eyed pony she couldn't steer, to an Arabian who only had eyes for her sister, to starting her first off-the-track three year-old Thoroughbred at age 13, Emalee discovered grit, perseverance, and a deep respect for the process of learning with horses. At 16, her sister - also a dressage trainer - entrusted her with Grenade, a cheeky and opinionated partner who has become her greatest teacher. Together, Emalee and Grenade earned their USDF Bronze Medal and are now pursuing Silver while schooling the foundations of FEI. Their partnership has taken them across the country, working under top professionals and learning from some of the best in the industry. Emalee is stepping into her role as a professional rider and trainer. She has participated in D4K's

Training4Teaching Program and is committed to sharing her knowledge through teaching, furthering her own competitive career, and completing her academic education alongside her work with horses.

Kristi Storey writes, "Emalee's strong work ethic and dependability are evidenced in horses that are well-cared for and treated with utmost humane respect. She leads with a soft heart and hands, followed by a quiet, steady spirit. Three words to personify Emalee are: Commitment, Trustworthy and Leadership. I am excited for Emalee to receive this generous scholarship."

Upon learning of the scholarship award, Emalee writes, "First and foremost, I want to extend my heartfelt thank you to Christian's family, Anne Baber Wallis, and Dressage4Kids. With this grant, they have helped turn so many riders' dreams into plans, and I feel truly privileged to accept it in Christian's honor. I wish I could have met him - we were close in age, and his story of coming from Iowa and knowing the struggles of trying to make it in this sport gives me such a profound sense of being seen and understood. I am also deeply grateful to all of the D4K contributors, whose generosity makes opportunities like this possible, and to Lendon Gray for her time, patience, and unwavering dedication to supporting young riders. Their belief in riders like me is a reminder that our sport is built not only on discipline and hard work, but also on encouragement and giving back - values I hope to carry forward in my own journey as a rider, trainer, and teacher."



The Christian Meriwether Kennedy Memorial Fund was established with Dressage4Kids to support Dressage4Kids' mission to develop youth riders through training that promotes horsemanship, riding, sportsmanship, education, and fun.

To donate to this Fund, visit <https://dressage4kids.org/donate/> or contact Mary Livernois at d4k.org@gmail.com.

About Dressage4Kids

Dressage4Kids, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization incorporated for the express purpose of providing educational and competitive opportunities for youth riders and the adults who support them.

<https://dressage4kids.org>

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