

#### ADMINISTRATION

Gari Merendino  
*Executive Director*

Chris Swan, MSPT  
*Program Director*

Cherie Hammer  
*Development Director*

Marty Raynor  
*Horse and Barn Manager*

Bonnie Sterngold  
*Administrative Manager*

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Casey Terribilini, D.C.  
*Chairperson*

Susan Lang, OT  
*Vice-Chairperson*

Bruce Fielding  
*Treasurer*

Anne Van Camp  
*Secretary*

Paul Barulich, Esq.  
*Compliance*

Wayne Browning, D.V.M.

Peter Caraher

Andrea Church

Nancy W. Collins

Christopher Dunn, M.D.

Chris Iverson

Nicola Liu, Esq.

Gari Merendino

Larry Pelzner

Jenny C. Smith

#### ADVISORY COUNCIL

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C. Budd Colby, Ph.D.

Don DeFranco

Steven Flynn

Bill & Lee Ann Gilbert

Betsy Glikbarg

Susan Martin

Armando Muela

Dee Tolles - Emeritus

Rebekah Witter

June 20, 2018

Dear NCEFT Community,

We would like to share some important news with the entire NCEFT community: After growing and leading the organization for more than a decade, Gari Merendino has made the decision to retire from his role as NCEFT Executive Director by the end of 2018.

Gari discovered NCEFT in 2005 thanks to his love of horses, beginning his journey with the organization as a volunteer "side walker." With successful experience in business operations and a keen eye towards operations improvement, he expanded his commitment to NCEFT by accepting positions of increasing responsibility.

As the barn and Operations Manager in 2007, Gari and the NCEFT team successfully navigated the move from the original NCEFT Woodside location to our beautiful, 12-acre property on Runnymede Road. Gari was promoted to Executive Director in December 2008 and never looked back.

The organization has thrived while under Gari's care, fulfilling the NCEFT mission to help children, adults, Veterans, and first responders reach beyond their boundaries – thanks also to the talent and dedication of our staff, volunteers and advisors; the generosity and loyalty of our expanding community of donors, and of course our ever-faithful herd of therapy horses.

The Board of Directors has launched a thoughtful transition plan and has embarked on an executive search based on a role description that matches the current and future needs of the organization. We have enlisted the support of outside resources and key constituents to find our new Executive Director.

Gari's commitment to NCEFT will continue beyond his retirement, as he will remain in service on our Board of Directors. We also plan a transition period where Gari will be in a supporting role as the new Executive Director comes up to speed.

We are confident we will find someone uniquely qualified to continue Gari's legacy, and we will oversee a successful transition to the benefit of our patients, clients and families; staff, volunteers and donors. We ask each of you to embrace this change, and we welcome and thank you for your support during the transition. We will keep you informed as we progress over these months ahead.

Sincerely,



Casey Terribilini  
Chair, NCEFT Board of Directors



Susan Lang  
Vice Chair, NCEFT Board of Directors

