

The Walk Manager of the Central-North Florida Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, Katie Rizer, recently congratulated the Board of Directors of Ocala/Marion County's horseback trail riding nonprofit, Sun Country Trail Blazers Inc, for raising an astounding \$15,169 for the Walk to End Alzheimer's!! The club's *Ride For The Cure* is Marion County's top fundraising team so far this year. Club officers extend a heartwarming thank you to Treasurer and Team Captain, Marilee McGinnis, for coordinating the Alzheimer chapter's only horseback team for three consecutive years. Acknowledgment is extended to the event's Platinum \$1000 sponsor: JM Gibson Mechanical; Gold \$500 sponsor: Mariner Wealth Advisors; and Silver \$350 sponsor: General RV Center.

The weekend event took place Sept. 30- Oct 1, 2023 at the Florida State Park Shangri-La Trailhead & Campground of the Marjorie Carr Cross Florida Greenway. Twenty-three equestrian campsites were reserved for the weekend; campers enjoyed a Friday cookout sponsored by Sam's Club and Winn-Dixie, and Sunday morning scavenger hunt. Besides camping, the other main draw was the Saturday morning poker ride with the purple decorated horse and rider contest, the color for Alzheimer's awareness. This year's energetic riders were not discouraged by the day's drizzly cloudy skies. Over 40 businesses contributed items to the silent auction and drawing. A pleasant surprise for participants were the cereal bars donated by Trader Joe's. Energy bars and gluten free muffins donated by Earth Fare were snacks enjoyed by horse and rider pairs. The Alzheimer's Association had an Info Booth on *Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body*. Flex Boots, Synchrony Chiropractic were booths highlighted for equine wellness. Marion County Search and Rescue were available for first aid and Florida Mounted provided parking guidance for horse trailers.

Sun Country Trail Blazers Inc is gearing up to host Ocala's 2024 Run Ride Roll Relay the morning of March 23, 2024 at Shangri-La Trailhead. The relay will follow a similar format with teams of 3 for the run, horseback ride, and mountain bike portions of the relay. New in 2024, organizers offer weekend camping March 22-24 at Shangri-La Campground. Proceeds from this fundraiser event are for equestrian trail maintenance of the Marjorie Carr Cross Florida Greenway through Sun Country Trail Blazers Greenway Volunteers. Visit [Suncountrytrailblazers.org/RRR](https://suncountrytrailblazers.org/RRR) Relay or Facebook at Run Ride Roll Relay for registration information on the weekend events and Greenway trail maintenance sponsorship.