



\$35,000 in Scholarships Awarded Through the D4K Christian Kennedy Memorial Fund

Thank you especially to Anne Baber Wallis, Oded Shimoni, OS Dressage, and the many generous donors for making these scholarship opportunities possible.

Dressage4Kids is thrilled to announce the recipients of \$35,000 in scholarships awarded through the D4K Christian Kennedy Memorial Fund.

Adison Wallinovich has been named the recipient of the \$15,000 D4K Christian Kennedy Young Adult Scholarship, which will support training with Oded Shimoni. Emily Keithley and Sage Smith have each been awarded a \$10,000 D4K Christian Kennedy Training Grant.

D4K Christian Kennedy Young Adult Scholarship Recipient: Adison Wallinovich

At just 20 years old, Adison Wallinovich of Stevensville, Maryland, has already built a life around horses. Adison began vaulting at age six before moving into jumping and eventually finding her passion for dressage. She has earned her USDF Bronze Medal and is pursuing a degree in Psychology. Adison trains with Hannah Irons and is developing her partnership with Red Chili, a nine-year-old Belgian Warmblood. The pair recently made their Fourth Level debut, earning scores up to 67%, and Adison is looking forward to bringing Chili to Florida as she continues her education and works towards the FEI levels. For Adison, dressage is about far more than competition. The sport has taught her dedication, discipline, and the value of continuous learning not only as a rider, but as a horsewoman.

Chloë Meyerhoff, EEBW CEP, describes Adison as follows: “Addie is one of the most capable, dedicated and talented riders I work with. What I find most impressive about Addie is her incredible work ethic. She wears the hat as assistant trainer, barn manager, groom, rider, and so much more. While her workload is intense, her passion for horses and riding shine through so brightly that she always has a smile on her face and a great excitement for her next ride. Addie is tactful, smart, and always ‘horse first’.”



Addison Wallinovich and Red Chili, photo credit: Joanna Jodko Photography

Addison writes, “I am incredibly thankful for everyone who made this scholarship and opportunity possible. Being able to go to Florida and train with Oded Shimoni is such an amazing opportunity, and I truly appreciate the support and belief in me. A huge thank you to Hannah Irons for getting me to this point and for trusting me with Chili, and for allowing me to learn and grow with such an incredible horse.”

D4K Christian Kennedy Training Grant Recipient: Emily Keithley

19-year-old Emily Keithley of Portage, Michigan, has been part of Dressage4Kids since 2022. Emily has participated in D4K Kundraun TEAM Clinics and the D4K Winter Intensive Training Program, and her horse, Dinamico HM aka “Dino”, came into her life through the D4K Horse Donation Program. Emily is a USDF Silver Medalist and is schooling I-2, with the goal of bringing Dino to Grand Prix. Emily trains with Kim Sullivan and plans to use the Training Grant to further her training with David Marcus and Nicholas Fyffe.

Elisabeth Ruiter writes, “Emily demonstrates the kind of sportsmanship, kindness, and work ethic that inspires those around her and reflects the values we strive to instill in our stable community. She has proven that true horsemanship extends far beyond competition – it is reflected in the way she cares for her horse, supports her peers, and gives back to her community.”



Emily Keithley and Dinamico HM

Emily writes, “I am beyond excited and honored to receive this grant. I believe it will be fundamental in taking my horse and I to the next level. Our partnership started at training level and has bloomed into far beyond what I could have imagined learning the pieces of the Grand Prix. I wouldn’t have been able to do any of this without Dressage4Kids supporting my horse and me throughout our entire journey. I am still in shock getting to have this amazing opportunity and I can’t wait to soak in as much learning as possible!”

D4K Christian Kennedy Training Grant Recipient: Sage Smith

18 year-old Sage Smith, from Crescent, Oklahoma, followed an unconventional path into dressage. She grew up trail riding, but did not begin formal riding lessons as a child. Instead, much of her early athletic career was spent in competitive gymnastics, which she pursued from age six until a series of injuries led her to retire from the sport in 2022. Sage then began taking riding lessons and competing in breed shows with Gypsy Vanners, including both Western and classical dressage. About two years ago, she set herself the goal of earning her USDF Bronze Medal on her Gypsy Vanner and began focusing more seriously on dressage. She quickly fell in love with the sport – and began setting her sights higher. After learning about the North American Youth Championships (NAYC), Sage made competing there her next goal. Riding her KWPN mare Journey, she qualified for NAYC in 2025, where the pair earned a team silver medal and placed sixth in the individual Freestyle. Today, Sage is a USDF Silver Medalist and 11-time WDAA Western Dressage World Champion. In 2026 she had the opportunity to attend the D4K Winter Intensive Training Program (WIT), where she spent the winter in Florida learning from and riding with top professionals in the dressage field. Following WIT, she began working as an assistant trainer in Texas, training Gypsy Vanners. Sage has also begun online classes at Oklahoma State University to pursue a degree in business marketing. Sage currently trains with Robin Hessel and plans to use the D4K Christian Kennedy Training Grant to train with Olivia LaGoy-Weltz.

Jackie Rollins writes: “From the very start, Sage demonstrated a rare combination of grit, humility, and natural feel for horses. She was eager not only to ride but to understand the why behind every training decision. She has become a thoughtful, capable horsewoman who approaches each horse as an individual deserving patience, clarity, and respect.”



Sage Smith and Journey, photo credit: Patrick Smith

Sage writes, “I am deeply grateful and very blessed to have the opportunity to return to Florida this winter to continue my dressage training, and I look forward to expanding my knowledge of training and riding upper-level dressage horses as I pursue this passion and share it with others.”

While Adison, Emily, and Sage have followed different paths into dressage, all three embody qualities at the heart of Dressage4Kids: a commitment to the horse first and a commitment to learning.

Dressage4Kids extends its congratulations to Adison, Emily, and Sage, with deepest gratitude to Anne Baber Wallis, Oded Shimoni, OS Dressage, and all of the donors whose generosity makes these scholarships possible.

The Christian Meriwether Kennedy Memorial Fund was established with Dressage4Kids to support Dressage4Kids' mission to develop youth riders through training that promotes horsemastership, 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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