

## Meet the 2017 USDF Youth Convention Scholarship Winners!

*The USDF Youth Convention Scholarships provide financial support to young dressage enthusiasts to help defray the expenses associated with attending the annual convention.*

### Kelsey Amos



**Kelsey Amos, Bermuda, 13**, is an active member of the Bermuda Equestrian Federation and its affiliates, the Bermuda Dressage Group and the Bermuda Horse and Pony Association. She trains with Bermuda national dressage coach Angela Halloran-Smith at Hinson Hall Stables. Kelsey started riding three years ago and loves riding as many horses as she can, especially Wiratoro, aka Tucker, the horse she leases. In 2017, she was lucky to find Pam Maloof of Faith Hill Farm, RI, and was able to compete on borrowed horses at the Youth Dressage Festival and the NEDA Fall Festival. She finds it a fun challenge to have a couple of lessons on a new horse and then go right into competition. Kelsey has competed up to First Level and FEI Children's Team and is working towards Second Level. Kelsey is a regular volunteer at any show she competes in, including the NEDA Fall Festival. Volunteering allows her to watch more experienced riders, meet new people and increase her knowledge in order to bring new people in to the sport. Kelsey also loves show jumping and trains regularly with Hinson Hall owner and coach, Mary Frances Gaglio. This was Kelsey's first time attending the USDF Annual Convention and she was excited to attend the education seminars and meet some of the top riders in the USA.

(Photo courtesy of Le-Ann Perry)

### *Sophia Chavonelle*

**Sophia Chavonelle, Windham, ME, 17**, has been in love with horses her entire life. Sophia joined the family of Vienna Farm in 2011, where she began her journey in dressage as both a rider and a working student under the tutelage of Tanya Rennie. Since then, Sophia has had the opportunity to ride several horses of all levels in clinics and shows around New England, including a lease with Tanya's mare, DeJure. Sophia and DeJure competed from Training Level through Third Level in three years, earning high placings at each level in their Region's Championships and Year End awards. In 2016, Sophia earned the prestigious USDF Youth Volunteer of the Year award for her "dedication to dressage and the ability to be a positive role model for other youth, through exceptional volunteerism," earning her the opportunity to attend her first USDF Convention. In the same year, Sophia fell in love with her first owned horse, W Spotlight, a 2008 Westfalen gelding by Sir Donnerhall. The pair showed at the FEI Junior level, and completed their first Fourth Level test at the end of the season. Sophia was honored to be able to attend the USDF Convention once again, and hopes to attend many more in the future.



## Katelyn Doyle



**Katelyn Doyle, Vacaville, CA, 15**, is an active member of the California Dressage Society, USEF and USDF and is currently training at the Christiane Noelting Dressage Center in Vacaville, CA. In the short two years Katelyn has been competing she has been honored with the *Seldom Seen Trophy* awarded to the highest placed purebred Connemara Pony ridden by a Junior at USEF/USDF dressage competition in the county, as well as becoming the Northern California Junior Champion at First Level just this past summer. In addition to her lessons you will find Katelyn at the barn on weekends and holiday breaks pitching in wherever possible – feeding, cleaning stalls, tacking up, veterinary care and all the other things that go along with becoming a good equestrian. Katelyn is also involved in the Horsemanship classes offered for the beginner kids at the Dressage Center. Over the years she has learned how to teach younger riders, resulting in strong, positive feedback from parents and kids alike. When Katelyn is not busy at the barn she volunteers her time at a therapeutic horseback-riding center with programs for special needs children and adults. This was the first year Katelyn attended the USDF Convention and found it very informative and is excited to begin to share some of the things she learned at the Youth sessions.

## Callie Jones

**Callie Jones, Henderson, KY, 19**, is a sophomore at Henderson Community College majoring in Agricultural Business with a minor in Agriculture Engineering. She is a member of D4K Program and the Kentucky Dressage Association and enjoys volunteering at KDA shows. Callie has been training with Angela Jackson for five years and has earned her USDF Bronze and Silver Medals. She and her horse, Don Filippo, have been on the Region 2 NAJYRC team twice and this year won a Silver Medal in the Team Competition. They finished fourth at the Festival of Champions and won the Fourth Level Freestyle at the US Dressage Finals this year. She will be moving to Florida for the winter to train and be a working student for George Williams. Outside of riding she enjoys volunteering and spending time with family and friends. This was her first time attending the USDF Convention and she felt it was such an honor to receive the scholarship. It allowed her to meet other aspiring youth and to learn about current happenings within USDF. She felt the sessions helped her further her education, which will help her better share her passion for Dressage and what USDF is all about.

