



The Egusquizas are Reaching for Autism

by Julie Jutten and Stephanie Rodrigue

Reaching for Autism” is the brainchild of NHSRA alumnus Chad Mudd who qualified in the late 1980’s for the National High School Rodeo Finals all four of his high school years. A Louisiana High School Rodeo Association All-Around Cowboy, he has never exchanged his prowess in the arena for his renowned excellence in the court room as a litigator. His truck is always just outside the door of law firm, Mudd, Bruchhaus and Keiting, in Lake Charles and pointing south to his roping arena in Sweetlake, just due north of the Gulf of Mexico. Mudd and his brother Lance’s continued interest in team roping led him to form a strong friendship with brothers Dustin and Manny Egusquiza, and he and his wife Michelle’s intense love for the families served by the St. Nicholas Center for Children resulted in a fundraiser that tugs at the heart strings of all.

Professional Team Ropers Dustin and Manny Egusquiza are pledging 10% of their season winnings to the St. Nicholas Center for Children (SNCC) in Lake Charles, LA, through this initiative titled “Reaching for Autism.” And Chad and his wife Michelle are matching that pledge in their typical selfless way.

“Manny and Dustin Egusquiza are true champions for the children we serve at St. Nicholas Center for Children.

When we found out we were chosen to be the recipients of Reaching for Autism, we were overjoyed that professional team ropers were helping us recover from four major natural disasters that have destroyed our Center,” said Christy Papania-Jones, MEd, EdS Founder & Executive Director at SNCC. “Autism affects 1 in every 54 children, and many improve with intensive therapy. Thanks to Manny and Dustin, our children will continue to reach their fullest potential.”

Founded in 2008, with Michelle Mudd as a tireless advocate for children and families impacted in so many ways by Autism Spectrum Disorder, the St. Nicholas Center for Children (SNCC) is a nonprofit pediatric therapy center. Their mission is to transform the lives of children with autism, delays, and disorders

by providing therapy and family support while offering a wide range of services, including Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Therapy, Occupational Therapy,



St. Nicholas Center student, Kullen Baccigalopi, at the Mudd Arena in Sweetlake, Louisiana.



Dustin Egusquiza



Manny Egusquiza

RODEO PICS BY KIERCE KULEN PIC COURTESY NHSR FOUNDATION