

Dreaming of Three  
IPRA Rookie Cowgirl Making a Difference  
By Dakota Missildine- July 1<sup>st</sup>- 877 words

Barrel racer Jacqueline(Jackie) Harris of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania is new to the rodeo scene, and her story is anything but ordinary. This cowgirl has set out to make a difference in the lives of others one ride at a time.

It all started when mother of two, Assistant to ex Pittsburgh Steeler-Franco Harris and barrel racer, Jackie Harris, rose to a challenge that would crush most people. In the fall of 2010 she lost her stepfather to cancer and three months later in 2011 her father passed away from heart disease. Instead of being defeated by this huge loss, she fought back and created the concept of "Dreaming Of Three."

Dreaming of Three's name came from dreaming of three fast, tight barrels in order to win money for the charities--the three charities she will be donating her winnings--and also about the three areas she wants to make a difference--1. Donate Winnings. 2. Taking families to rodeos that have a child fighting cancer or heart disease. 3. Allowing others to have their own loved one's initials who are fighting, lost fight or won fight to cancer or heart disease on her "saddle crosses" so that they can ride with her as well to honor them all as she enters the arena each time.

Giving to a worthy cause is always a good thing. But, some say that it is the manner in how we give that really makes a difference. The Dreaming Of Three Team is one group of dedicated people that found a way to help those in need through doing what they love the most, competing on their horses.

" This is my rookie year with the International Professional Rodeo Association, but I have been barrel racing since the age of 12. I never had the caliber of horse to get my rodeo card--so at the age of 43--it's a dream come true! Also, in order to meet some of the families, I will be taking a child who has fought or fighting cancer or heart disease to rodeos where I compete or attend."

So far Jackie has taken 3 children and their families to rodeos. All three of her "Rodeo Kids", Amy LeClair, Trenton and Gabby, have battled or are battling cancer.

Just when Jackie's program was taking off another difficulty jumped in her way. Her horse became injured and was unable to compete. But once again, she rose to the challenge and found other riders willing to carry her flag for charity in the barrel racing circuit. As other riders heard of her efforts they offered to "ride for the cure." Jackie found they all had two things in common, love of their horses and competing and burning desires to help others in need.

Now her Team DO3 consists of people that are carrying her flags of charity and have added others to the team expanding the amount of beneficiaries to include other worthy charities. There are also many corporate sponsors who see the value of the Dreaming Of Three vision and are getting behind it.

On June 16, 2012 Jackie took her third "Rodeo Kid" Gabby Polizzi and her family to the Central PA Rodeo in Huntingdon, PA. Gabby Polizzi is a cancer survivor. Not only was this Gabby and her family's first rodeo, but it was Jackie's first Pro-Rodeo as well. She was very close to not entering, as her horse is still injured. However, her husband, Sean, sacrificed and sold his trail horse in order to make room for Jackie to get a backup barrel horse, Smoke. Jackie had competed on Smoke only five times, and Smoke had never been to a rodeo. Jackie was encouraged by friends and family to just "Go for it!", as they all felt that Gabby would be thrilled just to see her ride in the grand entry and performance. Jackie stated "My objective was to give Gabby a memorable night at the rodeo where she and her family can put their worries aside for a couple of hours." Jackie also wanted to thank the Central PA Rodeo Committee and Sam Swearingen of Rawhide Rodeo Company for their support and making it a memorable event for the Polizzi's.

Jackie shared, "Dreaming Of Three allows me to make a difference in the lives of people who are going through horrible things. I know I am doing the right thing, as one act of kindness causes a ripple effect, with no logical end."

"I would not have been able to do any of this without the support of my boss, Franco and all of my sponsors-Silversport, Super Donut, Lubrisyn, Star of the West hats, Peoples Gas, KB Custom Kreations, Cowgirlz Flair, 5 Star, Penland Farms Settle Inn and my sister & husband-Lora & Gilbert Roberts along with all of the "Rodeo Kids" sponsors. I am truly grateful as without these companies believing in me and my vision of where Dreaming of Three can go, I would have never been able to start it all."

For further information on Dreaming Of Three as a program and their team members you can visit the website at [www.dreamingofthree.com](http://www.dreamingofthree.com)

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