



SAFETY • PROFESSIONALISM • COMPASSION • RESPECT • FUN!



OUR MISSION:

At *Horse and Buddy* our mission is to enrich the lives of individuals with diverse needs through equine assisted services and activities in a safe, caring, and accepting environment.



OUR RESULTS:

Therapeutic Riding

- U 133 riders served
- U 4,128 rides given
- U 70% improvement in physical/core strength*
- U 76% increase in overall self-confidence*
- U 100% would recommend our program to others*

Silver Saddles

- U 84 participants
- U 11 senior living facilities

Mental Health & EAL** Programs

- U 30 mental health clients
- U 368 mental health sessions
- U 110 EAL participants

* Based on parent/caregiver survey responses.

** Equine Assisted Learning



THE YEAR IN REVIEW:

2024 was another wonderful year for Horse and Buddy. All of our programs thrived, from Therapeutic Riding to Silver Saddles to our new Mental Health programs. We spent much of our year focused on essential maintenance items to ensure our 15 year old facility remains safe and welcoming:

- U Replacing aging gutters to prevent water damage, protect our foundation, and eliminate waterfalls that can spook our horses.
- U Repairing our arena fan to keep our horses and participants comfortable in the heat.
- U Adding new sand and rubber to our arena for the safety of our horses and participants.
- U Repairing the sensory trail bridge, a key feature of this enjoyable and therapeutic trail.
- U Upgrading our arena's electrical system to install LED lights that are safer, brighter, easier to replace, and more energy efficient.
- U Building "The Pines," a dedicated area that serves participants in our equine assisted psychotherapy and equine partnered play therapy programs.

These updates, while not the most glamorous, are critical to maintaining the environment where little miracles occur daily. These improvements will help ensure Horse and Buddy continues to serve our community for years to come.

We also made an exciting addition to our equipment — a mini hauler! This fits perfectly into the bed of our pickup truck, providing a much more comfortable ride for Finn, our miniature horse and beloved Goodwill Ambassador, compared to our larger horse trailer.

Additionally, two of our instructors shared their expertise at the PATH Region 3 Conference in Virginia, strengthening our connection to the broader equine-assisted services community. Their expertise and collaboration with other centers were greatly appreciated by all in attendance.



At the end of the year, we surveyed our parents, caregivers, and volunteers. Here's what they had to say about Horse and Buddy:

"The compassion and care they show the riders is amazing. Horse and Buddy staff see past the disability to the heart of the rider and nurture their hearts and mind through patience and kindness."

— Parent

"I think they provide such a stable safe environment. There's really no question that the riders and horses are first priority and I always feel that the program is constantly looking for ways to improve and provide the best environment for their riders." — Volunteer

"As a parent, Horse and Buddy has made a significant difference in our lives. It brings me so much joy to watch my child thrive as he grows in skill and confidence. The program has provided him with an activity where he can truly succeed, which has had a positive impact on his overall self-esteem. It's wonderful to see him so engaged and proud of his progress. Horse and Buddy has created an environment where my child can shine, and I'm so grateful for the support and opportunities they offer." — Parent

OUR VOLUNTEERS:

How long have you been a volunteer
at **Horse and Buddy**?

7374
VOLUNTEER HOURS

22%
LESS THAN
1 YEAR

41%
1-3 YEARS

27%
4-9 YEARS

10%
10+ YEARS

100-150
OF VOLUNTEERS