

Governing Board Application

Horse and Buddy

Therapeutic Riding Program



Hello,

You have received this board application because you have expressed interest, been recommended by a friend or staff member of Horse and Buddy or you have been identified as someone in our community that we would like to explore for a potential new board member position.

We hope you will take this opportunity to learn more about Horse and Buddy, our mission and the responsibilities of our governing board. We are passionate about our work and service to the community.

The application is the beginning of our process for board membership. The steps once your application is submitted include facility tours, interviews and board approval. It is crucial to the organization's success that this is a good fit for you and for Horse and Buddy.

If you determine you have an interest in exploring a board position with Horse and Buddy, please complete this application and notify your contact person or the Executive Director, Janet Mason at 919-799-1650.

Thank you for your time, consideration and interest in a potential Governing position with Horse and Buddy.



About Horse and Buddy

Horse and Buddy enriches the lives of children and adults with special needs through equine assisted therapies and activities in a safe and caring environment.

Horse and Buddy began in 2001 and obtained our 501(c)3 non-profit status in 2003. For the first nine years, our program operated out of four different Wake County leased sites. In 2010, a benefactor purchased a 35-acre farm for our use in New Hill, where we operate today.

Our Riders

Riding a horse is an enjoyable experience for many people, but for an individual with a disability it can be much more. Each year people with physical, cognitive, and emotional disabilities are discovering the benefits of therapeutic horseback riding. Whether it's a 5-year-old with Down Syndrome, or a 45-year-old recovering from a spinal cord injury, horseback riding provides challenges as well as rewards.

Horseback riding gently and rhythmically moves the rider's body in a manner similar to a human gait. Riders with physical disabilities often show improvement in flexibility, balance, and muscle strength. For individuals with mental or emotional disabilities, the unique relationship formed with the horse can lead to increased confidence, patience and self-esteem.

Our Horses

We think our horses are of a special breed. The way they connect with our riders is amazing. Our horses have been donated to us by those who hope to see their horses benefit the community. They choose Horse and Buddy as we've built a reputation for providing good, healthy and safe homes for them.

Our Services

Horse and Buddy enriches the lives of people with special needs in Wake County and surrounding areas through therapeutic horseback riding. We service approximately 100 riders per week in our group, private and hippotherapy lessons. We are a member of PATH (Professional Association of Therapeutic horsemanship) and all instructors are PATH certified.

We have a strong volunteer community that puts in significant hours each week to support the 100 riders and maintain the farm.



How we do it

We pledge:

- Safety as our number one priority
- Professionalism by following PATH standards and certification requirements
- Compassion in all we do
- Respect to our riders, parents, caregivers, volunteers, donors and staff (equine and human)
- FUN for all!

Governing Board Member Responsibilities

Time Commitment

Board meetings are held every other month for 2 hours and start at 6pm. Board members are asked to attend special events throughout the year including the yearly Sequins and Spurs Gala held the first Friday every May. As we build a committee structure, each board member is asked to serve on a committee that would meet as determined by that committee.

Typical Board Responsibilities

- Ensure effective planning
- Ensure adequate financial resources
- Protect assets and provide proper financial oversight
- Build a competent board
- Ensure legal and ethical integrity

A successful governing board is achieved by attracting successful and quality business and community leaders. Do you see yourself in this positive role?

Why serve?

- Have an immediate and significant lasting impact on those with special needs in our community
- Gain expertise
- Build valuable networks and relationships
- Grow as a leader through experience

Application components

Contact Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Cellphone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____ Fax: _____

Occupation: _____

Educational Background: _____

General Questions

1. How did you first become aware of Horse and Buddy (H&B)?
2. Briefly state what makes you interested in serving on the H&B Board of Directors?
3. Have you ever served on a non-profit board? Yes / No. If so, please describe:
4. What gifts, talents, or experience would you bring to this organization?
5. Please list your fundraising experience:

Board Commitment

1. A full term on the board is (3) three years. Will you be able to commit yourself to serve on the H&B Board of Directors for a full term?

Please circle one: **YES** **NO**

2. How many hours per month are you willing and able to devote to the organization?
Number of Hours:

3. Board members play a key role in essential fund development of a non-profit organization. Do you believe you can deliver significant contributions through fundraising or personal giving? Please explain:

Affiliations

6. Please list the individuals affiliated with Horse and Buddy with whom you are acquainted (Board or staff member, volunteer, rider, parent of a rider, etc.)

Skills/Interests

Please check the areas you provide skills or interests in:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Reading Financials	<input type="checkbox"/>	Business Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	Accounting/Bookkeeping
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grant Writing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Administration
<input type="checkbox"/>	Outreach/Advocacy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nonprofit Experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	Leadership Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Law/Legal Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	Real Estate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Banking
<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Information Technology	<input type="checkbox"/>	Web Design
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Relations	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strategic Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Event Planning
<input type="checkbox"/>	Campaign Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Medical/Healthcare for clients with special needs	<input type="checkbox"/>	Medical/HealthCare for Horses
<input type="checkbox"/>	Board Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	Marketing/Social Media	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other talents:

References

7. Please list the names and addresses of two people whom we may contact for references.

Name: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City: _____	City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____	State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: _____	Telephone: _____

Board Member Expectations

To ensure the success of Horse and Buddy and to be a valued board member, I will keep the following as my expectations:

1. I am responsible for the stability and development of Horse and Buddy. As a member of the Governing Board, I pledge to help carry out the mission.
2. I am responsible to review, approve and monitor the annual budget.
3. I am responsible to take an active role in fundraising for the organization. Along with other board members, I accept the responsibility for meeting the annual campaign goal as established in the budget.
4. I am responsible to understand the legal aspects of the organization and to ensure proper insurance coverage and policies established and to monitor implementation of these policies.
5. I agree to give annually substantial financial donation, as defined by me.
6. I understand that board service will involve a commitment of my personal time, talent and energy.
7. I will be active on one or more committees as they are established.
8. I understand that my attendance at board and committee meetings is crucial to the progress of Horse and Buddy and will commit to be present 80% of the time.



9. I understand the day to day operation of Horse and Buddy is the responsibility of the Executive Director and staff.
10. I agree to keep confidential any sensitive information shared at board or committee meetings, or in conversations with staff or other board members.
11. As a member of the Horse and Buddy board, I pledge to carry out this agreement to the best of my ability and to trust and encourage my fellow board members to do likewise.
12. The Horse and Buddy staff will provide relevant information and reports that allows me to make sound fiscal decisions which ensures the organization's financial health.

These responsibilities I accept in good faith as a member of the Horse and Buddy Governing Board.

Signature

Applicant Signature: _____ Date:

Return Address

Please return your completed Board Member Application form to:

Email: janetmaso@hotmail.com OR mail to:

Horse and Buddy Therapeutic Riding Program
Attention: Board Membership Application
PO Box 675
Apex, NC 27502