



SPIRIT

OPEN EQUESTRIAN PROGRAM INC.

2023

SPIRIT Open Equestrian Program Annual Report



Our Mission



Our mission is to foster healing
and teach life skills through
interactions with horses

A Message From SPIRIT's Executive Director and Board President

Reflecting on the past year, we want to express our gratitude and pride for the progress we've made together at SPIRIT Open Equestrian Program.

We've expanded our programs, welcomed Therapeutic Riding instructor Emma Walsh, and partnered with Wounded Warrior and Veteran organizations to help recovering veterans. Our Equine Assisted Psychotherapy program will relaunch in 2024.

We have made significant improvements of our facilities, including water installation and field renovation, which have expanded our capacity and improved horse welfare. It is hard to believe that before this year, we ran SPIRIT without running water! Thanks to the generous support of the Boy Scouts, we've added new gutters, extended and improved hay storage, power washed barns, and applied fresh stain. In 2024, we anticipate installing electricity and making accessibility improvements at our farm.

Our commitment to offering equine-assisted services to people of all abilities, mixing our mainstream and special need clients together, is unique to SPIRIT. Our success is rooted in the courage and determination of our participants, the passion and generosity of our volunteers and staff, and the philanthropy of our supporters.

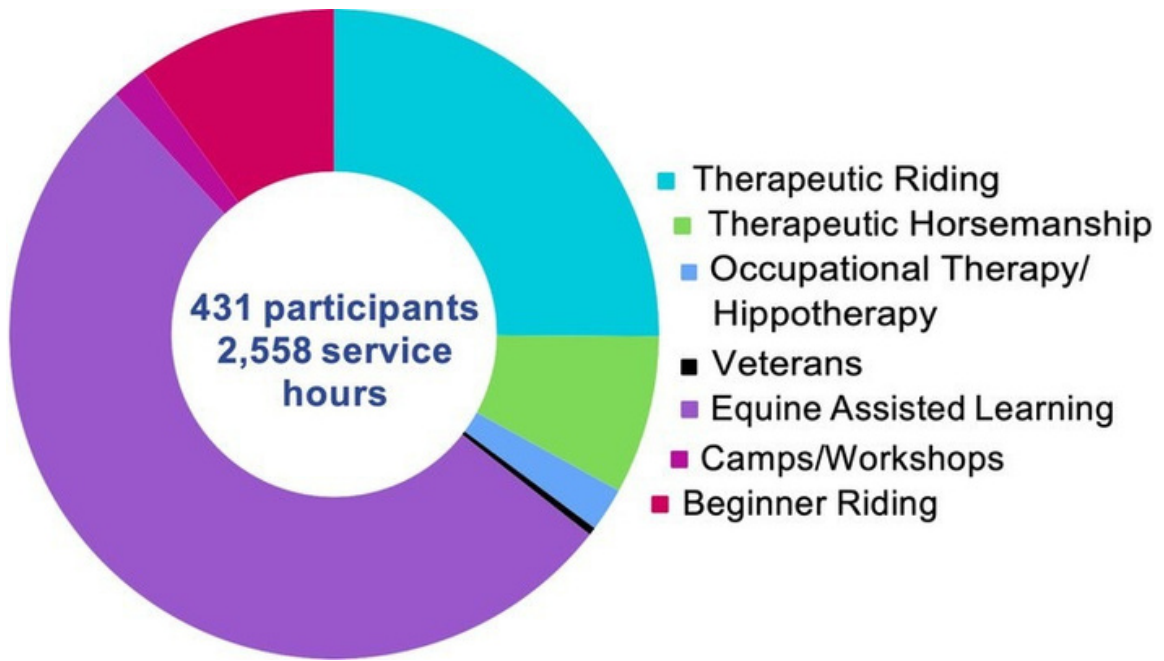
Looking forward, we're excited and optimistic about SPIRIT's future. With strong support from our community, we aim to reach more people, have a deeper impact, and continue fulfilling our mission to foster healing and teach life skills through interactions with horses.

As we celebrate our achievements and anticipate future opportunities, we are grateful to you all. Together, we look forward to continuing to serve our community through the transformative power of equine interactions.

Sam Schwall,
President, Board of Directors

Michelle Gnozzio,
Executive Director

2023 Service



2023 Volunteers

- 293 Program & Farm Volunteers
- 3,468 Program & Farm Volunteer Hours



A big “Thank You!” to our volunteers who help support students in programs, farm operations, and administrative duties.

It's through the generosity and passion of individuals like you that we are able to fulfill our mission and serve those in need.

Your enthusiasm and willingness to go above and beyond inspire us all and serve as a shining example of the power of community!

2023 Improvements



Water installation was completed in June 2023, just in time for summer! With a consistent water source, we can now provide clean, fresh water to our horses at all times.

Field improvements were completed in August 2023! The enhancements mitigate environmental concerns of run-off into the nearby stream. They also improve footing and drainage which support the safety and comfort for our herd.



Expansion of our hay barn was performed by Eagle Scout Miltos I. The improved design helps reinforce the structure and gives us more space at the same time!

Power washing and staining of our storage barns was performed by Eagle Scouts Will M. and Dimitrios I. Now clean from debris and with a UV protective coat to help, our barns are ready for many more years of rugged use!



Special Recognition

*Thank you to our donors and those whose services
continue to support SPIRIT!*

Albert and Idella Gaibler Living Trust

Amazon Smile

AT&T

*Barry Dresdner

Belinda and Anthony Collins

Benevity Community Impact Fund

Bradley Riedle

Chantilly Air

Cheryl Holmes

Christopher Millar

*Chuck Gumas

*Claire Hosker

Corey Andersen

Courtney Lisull

*Cynda Zurfluh

Daniel and Gayle D'Aniello

Daniel Frazzita

*Diane Pires

*Doug and Suzanne Gaibler

Drew and Kristie Gaibler

Edward Wojitan

Ekaterina Mousavi

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Lauren Meurlin

*Lauren Wong

Lizzy Lambert

Mali Suvak

Margaret Stubbs

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Mark and Kim Wilkerson

Matthew Briggs

McLean Community Foundation

Mike Christensen

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*Robert Mennell

*Sam Schwall

Samir Boutafenouchet

Schwab Charitable

Susan Blalock

Thomas Dombrowsky

Travis Gillum

*Vesma Montvillo

Walt Sanders

William and Ann Barbieri

Program Staff

Abigail Schwall, Instructor

Cynda Zurfluh, Therapeutic Horsemanship
& Therapeutic Riding Instructor

Elizabeth Phillips, Therapeutic Horsemanship

Emma Walsh, Therapeutic Riding Instructor

Hanna Bleznak, Occupational Therapy & Hippotherapy

Hannah Rice, Instructor

Jenna Klein, Instructor

Lauren Wong, Therapeutic Riding Instructor

Meagan Hosker, Instructor

Michelle Gnozzio, Instructor

Nandana Rajesh, Instructor

Vesma Montvillo, Therapeutic Riding Instructor

Office Staff

Michelle Gnozzio, Executive Director

Jenna Klein, Volunteer Coordinator and farm
management

Elizabeth Phillips, Admin Support

Leslie Vernon, Bookkeeper

Vesma Montvillo, Bookkeeper

Officers & Directors

Samuel Schwall, President

Cynda Zurfluh, Vice President

Rachel Schwall, Secretary

Vesma Montvillo, Treasurer

Barry Dresdner

Chuck Gumas

Claire Hosker

Davorka Suvak, Founder

Diane Pires

Douglas Gaibler

Jennifer Cibula

Lauren Wong

Leslie Vernon

Louise Peterson

Patricia Sullivan

Robert Mennell