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# 2018 Annual Report

Bringing the **JOY** of Horses to Those in Need



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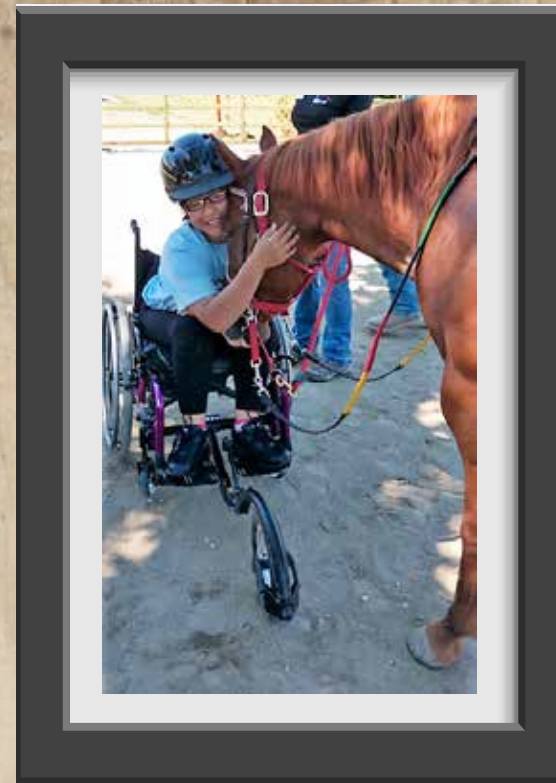
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## Our Mission

Ride for Joy Therapeutic Riding Program is a Premier Accredited Center of Path, Intl. Our mission is to provide professional and compassionate equine assisted activities and therapies to individuals with special needs, military veterans and active duty personnel.



- Over 800 equine assisted activities provided
- Over 900 volunteer hours



## Therapeutic Riding Testimony:

*"I wanted to say thank you for all you do and all you have done. Ride for Joy has been the best therapy for my son by far. And I'm happy to report that since he started working with his horse, there has not been the need for him to wear diapers at night. He has not wet the bed or had random accidents, which I'm super happy and grateful about. Please say thank you to his horse for me and to all the amazing people who have worked with him."*

**~Mother of Rider**



Shauna Ray Photography



Andrea Thompson Photography

while, the specific activities are engaging muscles, and cognition in the riders attending to their specific needs. The staff are always so kind, loving, and fun. I am impressed how, even when there may be a difficult situation with one of the riders who may be having a rough day, they respond with grace, kindness, and gentle care for what the rider needs in that moment. I love volunteering at RFJ. I look forward to it and truly believe the name fits perfectly, because I see the joy on the faces of all the riders, from the young ones to the older ones and I always leave my shift filled with joy from being there too."

**-A Grateful Volunteer**

## Ride for Joy Profit and Loss

September 2017 – August 2018

Direct public support:	\$16,768	Salaries and related expense:	\$75,655
Donated goods and services revenue:	\$800	Professional services:	\$1,159
Revenue from nongovernment grants:	\$427,875	Administrative expenses:	\$5,844
Revenue from program-related sales:	\$6,304	Facilities and equipment:	\$32,622
Revenue from investments:	\$246	Travel and meetings expenses:	\$1,359
Revenue from other sources:	\$60	Other expenses:	\$8,646
Special events income:	\$72,089	Depreciation:	\$1,423
<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	<b>\$524,142</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$126,708</b>
		<b>NET EXPENSE:</b>	<b>\$397,434</b>

## Volunteer Testimonial



"I first became a volunteer at Ride for Joy because I love horses and was curious about what equine assisted therapy was. I was nervous, at first, because I had never worked with individuals with disabilities of any kind. I felt very inadequate, yet so inspired. My first year, I took everything in as I met many of the riders for the first time and got to know them more over the summer. I grew excited to see each one of them week after week. One rider, in particular, came the first week of lessons and was so tight muscularly that their body was scrunched up. I thought how painful that must be. After only a few lessons, I watched this rider's body relax and stretch out more and more. This rider would also giggle a lot while on the horse, as do many of our riders. This was one of the most impactful moments for me. I see something unique in each one of the riders at RFJ. I was excited to come back again, this year, when lessons began again. Many of the same riders are back, and it was amazing to see how they have grown and changed. They all wear huge smiles, and we all know how contagious those smiles are. The riders love their horses and know that the staff and volunteers all love and care about them. The staff at RFJ are all so wonderful. They come up with the best activities for the riders and I see how amazing the riders feel doing them. It seems like they are just playing games while riding horses, but all the

# Veteran Testimony:

“What about my gratitude list? Every day of my life, I have had a reason to be grateful for something. After serving in the U.S. Navy, I was diagnosed with a chronic disease resulting in a progressively worsening disability. I lost the independence to groom, saddle, and mount a horse. That was a great loss for me until my occupational therapist at the Boise A, Wendy Carrie, told me about a horse riding program for veterans.

“Let’s start my gratitude list.

“I am grateful for Wendy Carrie and the riding program, Ride for Joy. The first horse I met in the program was Keeper. I was grateful for the incredible bond we formed with each other of love and trust. My next horse was the very experienced and wise Chase, who taught me so much. Then I rode Lakota, the Queen Bee of the barn. Lakota reminded me of the way my horse felt under saddle years ago. The amazing horse I am riding now is named, Shimmy. Due to the generosity and efforts beyond the call of duty of Shimmy’s owner, who is also a wonderful staff member, I am able to experience an extended and controlled trot. That is huge for me, because losing my ability to ride like I used to really did hurt my self-confidence and contributed to depression. Trotting on Shimmy is like floating, and my spirit soars.

“I am grateful for a staff member telling me about a young lady champion barrel racer who is a paraplegic and has a unique dismount that she thought might work well for me. It does work great for me and I have continued to use it all the years I have been a student at RFJ. I’m grateful for the brave and dedicated staff willing to learn the technique. I’m grateful for every time I mount or dismount. It is a big deal to me, because I’m not able to do it on my own.

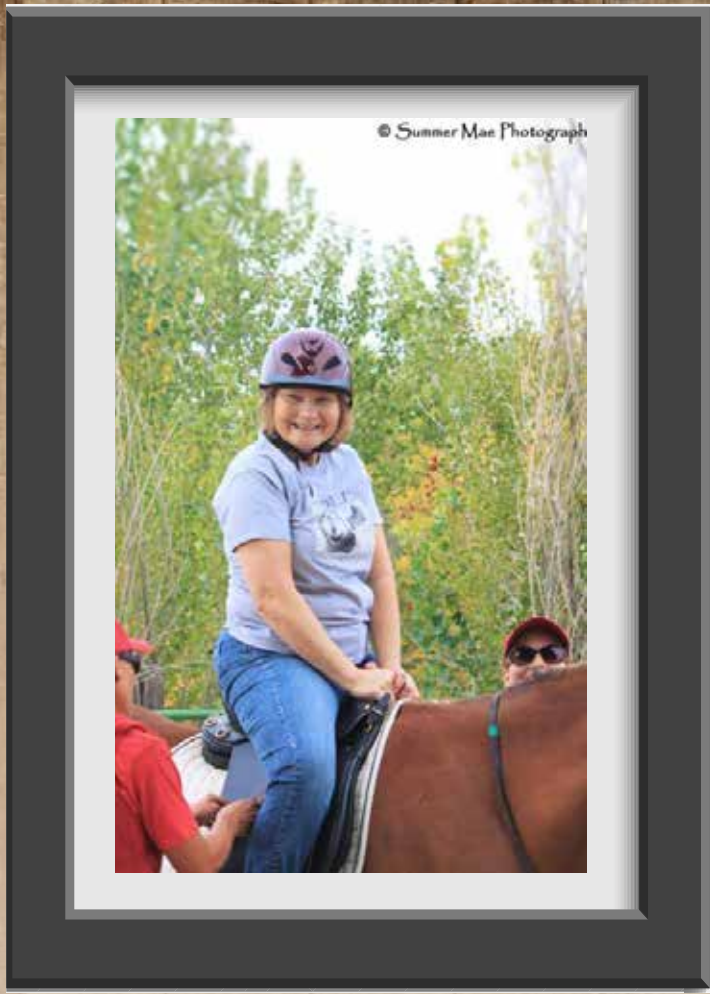
“I am grateful for the generous and caring staff member allowing me to use her saddle. I use her saddle because the design helps with my balance.

“I am grateful for every single wonderful, generous, caring and competent volunteer and staff member I have met. Whether helping me groom, pick my horse’s hooves, saddle, horse lead, side walk, helping me mount and dismount, bringing home baked goods to the barn, fixing me a coffee when I’m tired, sharing a treat, sharing a hug, a happy greeting, telling me I looked balanced, telling me I looked relaxed and did well in the lesson that day...every volunteer and staff member and their kindness I am grateful for.

“I’m grateful for my fellow veterans I’ve ridden with over the years and I am grateful for the supporters making the program possible.

“I will no doubt keep adding to my gratitude list thanks to Ride for Joy.”

—Navy Veteran Rider



**Save the Date**  
**4th Annual Gala**  
**April 26th, 2018 at The Riverside Hotel**  
**2900 W Chinden Blvd, Boise, ID 83714**  
**Join RFJ at the largest fundraising event of the year!**  
**Enjoy a silent and live auction, dinner, and entertainment.**



Adam Watkins Photography

# Letter From the Barn

Excitement, conquering moments, fun and achievement all occurred during another tremendous year at the Ride for Joy barn through therapeutic riding lessons, the annual All Abilities Camp, Ruck Up & Rebuild Veterans Retreat, field trips and community events.

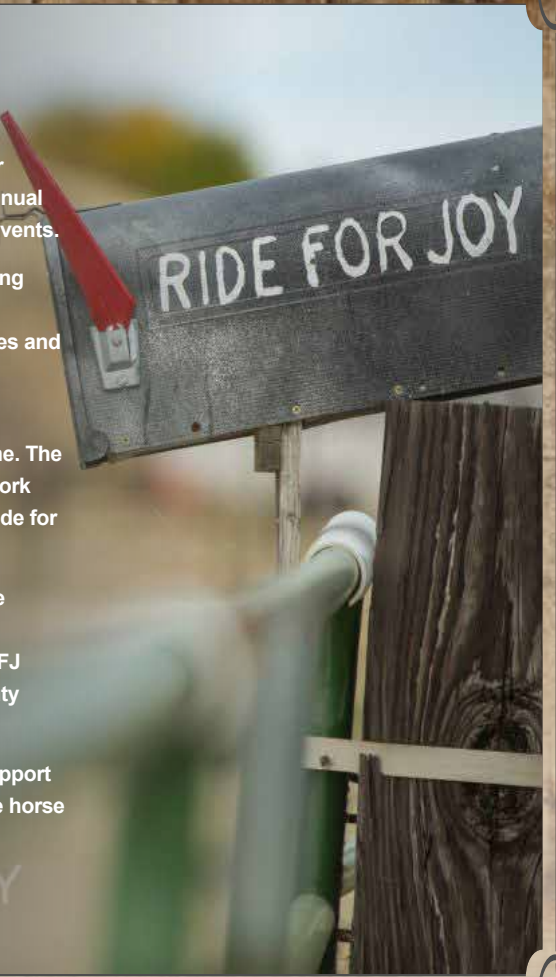
Participants and parents of riders served by RFJ’s four legged heroes reported seeing increased independence at home, improved ability to follow instructions, increased physical strength and reduced anxiety. Of course, there were also hundreds of smiles and laughs.

Ride for Joy was recognized as an important community organization in videos and articles by KTVB Channel 7, The Grotto Network, and The Eagle Rim Living Magazine. The opportunity to share Ride for Joy with others is an honor and highlights the great work being done at the barn each week. Make sure to check out the media page on the Ride for Joy website to see the amazing videos and stories!

In 2018, Ride for Joy established an endowment account, thanks to the Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation, to invest in RFJ’S forever home at the Hands of Promise Campus in Middleton, Idaho. With this donation and the generosity of all donors, RFJ will fulfill its mission to serve individuals with special needs, veterans and active-duty personnel as a Premier Accredited Center of PATH, Intl.

RFJ wants to thank each and every one of you for believing in this mission. Your support makes the best “job” in the world possible and changes countless lives through the horse and human relationship.

From Our Hooves to Yours,  
 The Ride for Joy Family



Andrea Thompson Photography



Shauna Rae Photography

