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Therapeutic Riding Testimony

"My son has been riding with Ride for Joy since 2016. I am so grateful that he has been given that opportunity. Ride for Joy is by far the best program I have found for my son. He benefits physically, socially, and mentally. Riding provides great strengthening exercises, increased stamina, and extra opportunities for stretching. He is more outgoing and more willing to express his needs. He has gained empathy by recognizing signals from the horse. Riding gives him a sense of accomplishment and control. It has taught him what it means to work with others and how to be part of a team. He has gained the ability to trust others. He understands that his horse trusts him to give direction and never put him in danger. My son trusts his horse to follow direction and allow him to be carried without fear."

"It would take a novel to list the ways the staff and volunteers have helped my son. Their knowledge of the horses is a huge asset. The patience they have in dealing with my son and his needs is unending. They have gone far beyond expectations in order to accommodate the needs of my son."

"When it became too difficult to get my son on a horse, his instructor found creative ways for my son to participate without being able to ride. She made up games to play and kept my son engaged while learning about how to care for the horses and how the horses interacted with each other."



While the instructor was working with my son doing groundwork, other staff members were seeking funding for a lift mount so he could get back to riding. A lift mount was quite costly. An anonymous donor found out about the need for a lift mount and donated the funds. The generosity of that donor was huge. They gave so much more than money. They have given a gift to my son that affects his entire well-being."

"Once the lift was delivered, my son was able to ride again, and the staff showed genuine concern for his

safety as well as the safety of the horses. Training has been provided for everyone so that the lift is operated safely. I have complete trust in all the staff and volunteers to keep my son safe."

"The staff and volunteers are the friendliest, kindest people I've ever met. Everyone always has a smile and a kind word. My son is so lucky to be involved with this excellent program."

-Mother of Rider

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Bringing the JOY of Horses to Those in Need



Letter From the Barn



After over three years of planning, constructing, building, and collaborating with the Idaho Youth Ranch, Ride for Joy officially moved to its forever home in April 2019.

Roots were planted at the Hands of Promise Campus in Caldwell where Ride for Joy shares a state-of-the-art indoor arena, outdoor arena, barn, and turnouts with Idaho Youth Ranch. Ride for Joy is honored to be a part of Hands of Promise and the amazing programming that is available for individuals in need in the Treasure Valley. Both Ride for Joy and Idaho Youth Ranch remain separate, independent nonprofit organizations. Ride for Joy and Idaho Youth Ranch do not financially share or benefit from one another. However, as two complimentary organizations, Ride for Joy and Idaho Youth

Ranch will increase the number of lives changed in the state of Idaho.

Thanks to the Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation for the contribution to the Ride for Joy endowment, which ensures stability for the program's future and confidence in continuing to serve the community for years to come.

The staff, volunteers, and horses were exceedingly thankful for the incredible new indoor arena this year. When spring rains blew through, all were protected. When summer sun beat the air, fans kept everyone cool. And this winter, when icy wind and snow pelt the walls, heaters will allow Ride for Joy's very first winter session to move forward, providing students with increasing opportunities for services.

96 therapeutic riders and veterans participated in regular seasonal sessions, a 28% increase from 69 in 2018. Six of those riders were veterans in the Spring Introduction to Horsemanship Class (another record!). The group from the Boise Vet Center was excited and engaged in the process. Each rider showed incredible improvement in riding skills. But the increases in confidence were the most impressive. One veteran, who was terrified to ride for the first time, joyously danced, saying, "I did it!"

Ruck Up & Rebuild Retreat for veterans in May was a success for the third year running. Vets enjoyed archery, processing groups, and fly-fishing with some beautiful catches released to grow for another year. Well-known local mustang trainers brought some of their trainees and demonstrated methods they've perfected in working with wild horses. Dutch oven cooking filled many happy bellies. And the highlight, of course, was riding.

Two local special education classes spent afternoons at the barn during field trips filled with squeals of glee, petting and riding Ride

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Ride for Joy Profit & Loss

Direct public support:	\$68,024
Donated goods and services revenue:	\$2,109
Revenue from nongovernment grants:	\$53,786
Revenue from program-related sales:	\$7,774
Revenue from investments:	\$5,587
Revenue from other sources:	\$2,726
Special events income:	\$44,382
TOTAL INCOME:	\$173,214

Sept. 1, 2018 – Aug. 31, 2019

Salaries and related expense:	\$91,815
Professional services:	\$2,417
Administrative expenses:	\$7,033
Facilities and equipment:	\$50,828
Travel and meetings expenses:	\$110
Other expenses:	\$10,084
Business:	\$247
Miscellaneous expenses:	\$549
Depreciation:	\$1,423
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$164,509
NET PROFIT:	\$8,708

◆ Over 930 equine assisted activities provided ◆

◆ Over 875 volunteer hours ◆

VETERAN TESTIMONY



“As a psychologist working with veterans, I have observed multiple clients benefit from their experiences at Ride for Joy. This therapeutic riding program welcomes veterans with a wide range of disabilities and provides a supportive environment for all comers. I have seen tension and sadness dissipate, confidence build, and joy and happiness nurtured. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful program in the Treasure Valley.”

—Psy.D., Psychologist, Boise Vet Center

VOLUNTEER TESTIMONY



“As a new resident to the Treasure Valley, I was very excited to become more acquainted with and volunteer in our Caldwell, Idaho, community. When I read about Ride for Joy Therapeutic Riding Program moving into their new facility in Caldwell, I thought this just might be the place for me. Ride for Joy definitely lives up to its name by providing a very heartwarming, encouraging, and supportive learning environment for the student riders of all ages. I truly enjoy spending time helping out as a ‘side-walker’ or where ever I am needed. But most of all, it is a real joy to greet and visit with student riders and their family members, along with working beside and making new friends with the cheerful staff, volunteers ... and horses, too. It’s a great pleasure to come alongside these individuals, helping to make a difference in their lives in such a positive way. Regardless of the weather, Ride for Joy equine assisted activities bring ‘sunshine’ into so many lives.”

—Ride for Joy Volunteer

Save the Date

5th Annual Gala

April 17, 2020

Join RFJ at the largest fundraising event of the year!
Enjoy a silent and live auction, dinner, and entertainment.

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for Joy’s four-legged friends. Many students were returnees from previous trips and talked lovingly about their previous steeds.

July held the annual All Abilities Camp for 14 local youths (up from 12 in 2018). As always, kiddos praised the fun they had learning about equines in stable management, creating beauty during arts and crafts, and riding their very own favorite horses.

The move back into the Treasure Valley and to the fantastic facility also brought record numbers of new student applications. 38 new students applied between February and September compared to 50 for the entire 2018 year.

Construction continues on Ride for Joy’s office building, thanks to the Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation. The generous donation enabled Ride for Joy to create private office spaces, a conference room, and a storage area. The building will provide the highest level of confidentiality and independence for the program.

Ride for Joy staff can’t say enough thank-yous to the many volunteers and donors who continue to support Ride for Joy in this time of massive progress, change, and success.

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.

