

As I look back on my involvement with EATSF, I have been a part of so much positive movement. From the building of the arena in 2009 to the organizational name change in 2012 – this organization continues to lead the way in being a beacon of hope and change in our community.

This year has been no different, as we work to bring our mission and programs to more individuals in need. With our community experiencing the heartache of the Parkland school tragedy, we continue to provide a safe and inclusive environment for all students, volunteers and visitors alike. A strong organization is dictated by its foundation – and we have spent this year making improvements to our internal processes and procedures to ensure a bright future.

As we move forward the Board of Directors remains focused on our vision and strategy of the organization, while also bringing on new members who will assist in steering the ship. I am delighted to welcome new board member Kirsten Uebrig of BBX Capital to our team – she brings a wealth of knowledge and heart to our meetings. We are always looking to build our board with outstanding

community leaders. Please join us.

I look forward to working with our strong team and building upon our foundation to make our future even brighter.

Warmest Regards,

Anne Vegso Chairwoman It has been another year of transformative change at Equine -Assisted Therapies. From recruiting and mentoring qualified instructors to increasing our outreach in the community – the team has been working hard to ensure that our services remain strong, consistent and progressive.



In October, our center has once again achieved Premier Accredited Center status through the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH), as we continue to remain ahead of the curve in program delivery. Our outreach expanded to local

Chambers of Commerce, the Children's Services Council of Broward and our fellow PATH Centers in order to stay vigilant and engaged to the needs of our community. With the help of an anonymous grantor, the facility received a facelift with the Vegso Family Arena getting a coat of UV and rust preventive paint and energy saving LED lighting for our evening classes.

This year, our main goal was to build upon our existing programs by expanding services through innovative Special Olympics workshops and a revenue driving field trip program to help expose more individuals to the services of EATSF. This year, individuals from PACE Center for Girls and HANDY enjoyed equine-centric experiences at the barn.

Everyday, I arrive to work truly humbled by the work of our team, the progress of our students and the generosity of our volunteers and partners. You have and continue to bring our mission to life – I thank you.

Yours in Service,

Molly Murphy, MPA Executive Director

Equine-Assisted Therapies of South Florida is dedicated to providing therapeutic riding and equine activities to children and adults with special needs, so that they may improve physically, mentally and emotionally.

We envision a place where abilities are strengthened, where activities lead to self-confidence, and each person can experience life without limits.

### **MAKING STRIDES**

## One Child, One Horse, One Goal

TOTAL STUDENTS 135

**Therapeutic Riding** 

88

**Hippotherapy** 

6

Equine-Facilitated Psychotherapy

8

Equine-Facilitated Learning

33

**First Time Students** 

35

Donald marches toward the barn determined and ready to ride. With his diagnosis of Autism and Cerebral Palsy, Donald's schedule is full of the typical clinical therapies. Visiting the barn flips the traditional therapeutic experience upside down! For Donald and his family, the influence of the horse and the riding program have brought significant and exciting change to their lives.

Through a recommendation from their church, Donald's mom Stacy-Ann sought out the program, which he began in Fall 2016. "We needed a different kind of therapy," and since Donald began she says, "he doesn't just like it – he is excited about it."

When Donald began riding he was not able to make it through 30 minutes of class. He sat slouched on his horse and didn't hold his reins. Today, Donald rides for his full hour, sits tall and uses his reins to stop his horse. "Since Donald started, we've seen a better result than three years of [other] therapy." "If it wasn't for this, he wouldn't be where he is today," says Stacy-Ann. Donald's balance, gait and core strength have improved. He has even developed a more expressive personality – and his Neurologist can attest that he has noticed positive improve-



ments in his walk and gait, successes that his parents contribute to his work on a horse and interacting with his peers in class.

Every Saturday morning, Donald mounts his horse Beauty with the same unabashed courage and — with the help of his instructor and volunteers — builds the muscle, balance and fine motor skills that help in every facet of his life. Meanwhile, his parents Richard and Stacey-Ann find respite — it is in this quiet moment that the magic is not only witnessed, it is alive.



## Top Three Diagnoses

Autism Spectrum Disorder

52.1%

**Cerebral Palsy** 

14.9%

**Down Syndrome** 

10.6%



## The Importance of Our Services

Many years ago, the women of Soroptimist International and Kiwanian men witnessed the transformational magic of the horse. Equine-Assisted Therapies of South Florida exists to serve individuals with special needs and their families by providing an alternative to clinical interventions. Most of our families are familiar with a typical therapist office – it can be sterile, with eggshell walls, harsh florescent lighting and cold waiting rooms. Work is done in partnership – with the horse, with trained volunteers and with peers. Everyone is involved in an individual's progress, cheering and providing encouragement every step of the way.

### **IT TAKES A COMMUNITY**

# TOTAL VOLUNTEERS 364

**New Volunteers** 

99

**Lesson Volunteers** 

168

**Total Hours Donated** 

10,131

Volunteers Active 10+ Years

10%



Volunteers by Gender

Male

23%

**Female 77%** 

#### **Volunteers by Age**

14-21 39%

22-35 14%

36-55 **15**%

56 plus 33%

## Lending a Hand



Throughout the year, local and national businesses have helped lend a hand with big projects around the facility that make a big difference. While they are working side by side with EATSF staff and volunteers, they also get to learn more about how equine therapies can benefit people with special needs.

Employees from The Home Depot, SB Communications, JetBlue, and other local businesses did everything from clean the barn and pick the paddocks to painting arena props and building new obstacles for use in lessons.

FM Global added a service component for their employees at their annual conference. Their eager volunteers came to us from all parts of the globe, including Singapore and Sweden. Many had never heard about equine therapy, much less been around a horse.

Help isn't limited to area businesses, as St. Andrew's School brought nearly 60 teens as part of a program to expose them to community service.

# Our Volunteer Champion Wing Lai-Tong - 433 Hours



Wing Lai-Tong began volunteering with EATSF in 2016 and he goes above and beyond the call of duty, consistently and thoughtfully.

Wing has taken on the mantel of Team Captain, where his leadership and demeanor skills have helped inspire other volunteers. He arrives at the barn before classes begin to prepare the horses, set out their tack and speak with staff members about any schedule changes.

Throughout his time with EATSF, Wing has become a mentor to our teen volunteers and has enjoyed working with the EATSF Special Olympics team. Riders look forward to seeing him and sneaking a quick hug; the admiration always catching him off guard.

### **HERD STEWARDSHIP**

# What Qualities Make a Good Therapy Horse

HORSE CARE & FEEDING BY THE NUMBERS

111,360 lbs.

14,400 lbs.

\$14,000

Horseshoes and

\$2,830

**Dental Care** 

\$15,000

**Veterinary Care** 

1,200

**Schooling Hours** 

At EATSF, we have been the lucky recipient of so many loving and willing therapy partners. The process to find potential herd members is not an easy one and there are many different qualities that the EATSF team looks for in a possible EATSF herd member.

While the size, build and movement of a future EATSF herd member horse is dependent on current need, a horse must:

- ♦ Be between the ages of 7–18 years
- Be sound at the walk, trot and canter
- Be willing and trainable with a low flight response
- ♦ Be in good health with a clear medical history
- Have limited vices or dietary needs
- Have positive life experience that includes consistent mounted and unmounted training, with at least 3 years of experience under saddle.
- ♦ Have a positive attitude and enjoy being around people and other horses, while also being able to cope with change.

The right therapy horse may seem like finding a diamond in the rough. However, through a 90-day trial period, the EATSF staff carefully oversees a training process and veterinary protocols to ensure that the horse will enjoy their work as a therapy partner for many years to come. EATSF currently works with private owners and trainers to find suitable horses. This year, the organization will be expanding our partnerships to include rescue agencies, and larger training barns and local riding associations.



Oreo
Wyatt

Retired This Year **Ario** 

Diamond Lexington





## **COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

Horseshoe Hoedown \$94,403 raised

A Day at the Races \$25,543 raised



Florida Panthers **Foundation grant** earmarked for **Sensory Trail** reimagining

\$15,000

**Grant from the Vegso Family Foundation to** seed the Herd Stewardship Fund

\$40,000

**Anonymous family** foundation grant allows for renovation of the Vegso riding arena

\$90,000

Received anonymous foundation grant to seed endowment for student scholarships

\$250,000

\*We apologize for any omissions or misspellings. Please contact our development office at (954) 974-2007 with any corrections.

**Equine-Assisted Therapies** of South Florida, Inc.

Donors from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018\*

#### STABLE SOCIETY

Herd Steward \$2,500+

Allied Doors Foundation Amaturo Family Foundation Anonymous Foundation Anonymous Family Foundation

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#### Trainer \$1,500 - \$2,499

3 Deers LLC

Anonymous Donations

Autism Speaks, Inc.

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## **2017-2018 FINANCIALS**

## Board of Directors as of 6/30/2018

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Chris Davell, Vice Chair

Stephanie Scheinman, *Treasurer* 

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**Howard Lerner** 

Brenda Mallett

Keith Marchesani

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Kirsten Uebrig

Stanley Zeitchick

## EATSF Staff as of 6/30/2018

Molly Murphy
Executive Director

David Plath

Development Director

Cliffette Nicholls Office Manager

Jessie Alvarez Barn Manager

Majeeda Panchoo
Volunteer Coordinator

Kimberly Sauer

Program Coordinator

Equine-Assisted Therapies of South Florida, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
All contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law.
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Boca Raton, FL 33427
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Tradewinds Park North
Coconut Creek, FL, 33073
954-974-2007
www.equineatsf.org

Photos By: Lynn DeStefano, David Plath, Chris Davell and Majeeda Panchoo

#### Assets

CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash—Unrestricted	\$ 251,003
Cash—Restricted	\$ 290,000
Prepaid Insurance	\$ 6,710
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$ 547,713
OTHER ASSETS	
Office Building	\$ 812,279
Property & Equipment	\$ 59,038
Covered Arena	\$ 401,136
Other Assets	\$ 287
Total Other Assets	\$ 1,272,740

#### Liabilities

**TOTAL ASSETS** 

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 1	,820,453
NET ASSETS	\$ 1,749,082	
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	\$	71,371
Deferred & Prepaid Revenue	\$	68,360
Accounts Payable	\$	3,011
CURRENT LIABILITIES		

**Foundation Grants** 

44.4%

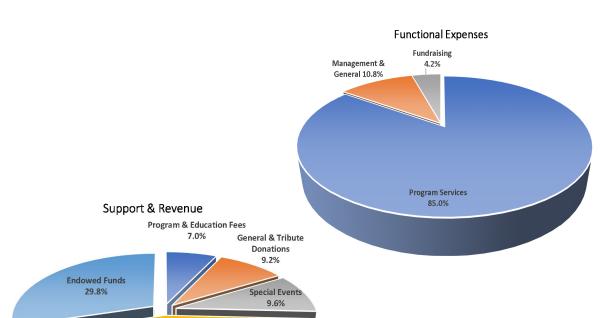
## Statement of Financial Position

year ending June 30, 2018

Audit figures as of June 30, 2018

Audit conducted by Scott Halperin

Lanzaro & Halperin PA



\$ 1,820,453