



EQUINE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM



Equine Partnership Program Annual Report 2021

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Letter from the Executive Director



One thing we have learned from watching the the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual learning, necessary separation and all of the added stressors taking place in our country is

KIDS' ACCESS TO EFFECTIVE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES HAS NEVER BEEN MORE IMPORTANT!

Equine Partnership Program was developed in 2006. Sixteen years later, it remains one of the only equine programs on Colorado's "front range" that provides psychotherapy services. **WE SEEK OUT THE MOST CHALLENGING CASES OF THE UNDERSERVED, AT-RISK POPULATION IN OUR COMMUNITIES.** Through intensive, experiential therapy with horses, EPP provides individuals who may resist traditional therapy with services that expand their worldview and give them hope for the future. Whether their challenges involve traumatic histories, mental illness, or cognitive disabilities, our clients each bring a unique story that deserves to be heard so recovery can begin. In 2021, we continued to advance our mission and grow in new ways.

Strategic Highlights –

A Year for Revitalization

- We facilitated an **Equine Assisted Psychotherapy** group for 12 participants in the *18 to 21-year-old transition program* with **Denver Public Schools** at the prestigious **Temple Grandin Equine Center with Colorado State University**. The group met for 9 weeks during which we delivered the equivalent of 41 group or 108 individual therapy hours.
- We hired a new therapist, Leslie Faylor, to host our **Equine Assisted Learning** sessions.

- We provided over 500 sessions to individuals, many with comorbid mental health challenges, with much needed **Equine Assisted Psychotherapy and Therapeutic Services**. Our approach involves supporting both the clients and their families.
- Our **Equine Elders Program** continued to serve clients throughout the pandemic, and expanded in the past year to serve more clients, at an offsite solitary location for the safety of our most immunocompromised / most at risk clients. We provided over 86 sessions to individuals with dementia and 11 caregiver support programs.
- Our therapist, Lee Dudley, completed **Military Cultural Competence Training** through **Operation Equine**, being chosen as an elite Alpha Team member. This professional development provides relevant training for working with military veterans.
- We designed a special program called the **Inclusive Equestrian Riding School**, hosted by our experienced instructor, Julia Odor, to bridge the gap for clients who do not fit into traditional horsemanship lessons and need specialized attention to mental well-being and disabilities to further their riding.

Growth in Numbers -

One of EPP's key performance indicators is the number of therapy sessions delivered (average per therapist), which is an indicator of resource utilization and community impact. As did many other businesses in 2020, we were forced to scale back our outreach and expansion to new programs and individuals in order to weather the pandemic, amidst many disappointing but necessary closures and cancellations. In 2021, powering through the continued challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the therapists at EPP were relentlessly determined to get "Back In The Saddle" and further our outreach to individual and school-based sessions. We are proud to have rebuilt those efforts throughout 2021, averaging over 200 sessions per therapist and growing, setting the pace for a busy and impactful 2022 year!

Equine Assisted Psychotherapy versus Traditional Therapy -

Equine Assisted Psychotherapy fosters a deeper level of engagement than traditional therapy. Clients bond with our horses and look forward to coming to their sessions. Equine Assisted Psychotherapy requires clients to “get off the couch”, get moving, learn new skills, practice care-taking, and demonstrate responsibility. The physical nature of our work reinforces that, often, change requires a combination of both thoughts, words, AND ACTIONS.



Equine Elders Program -

The intuitive power of equines offers healing and comfort to our elderly and dementia clients. Interacting with horses and ponies has a unique way of bringing back life memories that have been forgotten. The animals have a remarkable impact on the clients' recognition, memory and mood. The caregivers report that their clients and loved ones are happier and calmer for up to two weeks after each visit. Benefits include but are not limited to social interaction, confidence building, stretching limbs, memory processing, self esteem, sense of purpose and joy!

Inclusive Equestrian Riding School -

This innovative new program has been designed for individuals needing the specialized experience of a therapeutic program to further their riding goals. These individuals may have difficulty participating in a regular or competitive horseback riding lesson program due to mild disabilities, or struggles to fit in, but do not necessarily need the intensive specialized support of individual Equine Assisted Psychotherapy. This convergence is a novel offering with great need in our community. Our clients receive a warm welcome where they can make meaningful connections with other riders and further their riding skills while being sensitive to their therapy needs. This program also serves as an excellent transition for those vulnerable therapy clients who have graduated from our intensive psychotherapy program and have a strong desire to continue their riding and horsemanship knowledge, where they have established positive relationships.



Pictures are Worth a Thousand Words -

The numbers only tell a fraction of our story. We are a small organization with a BIG impact. Watch these videos showing personal accounts of the difference EPP has had on individuals with severe needs and challenging circumstances.

[What We Do](#)

[Temple Grandin Equine Center and Equine Partnership Program Bring Joy and Healing](#)

[Doing Exactly What We Need](#)

Hoof to “WOFF” (Work For Food) - Resource Stewardship

In our model: Everyone works! Our horses work. Our therapists work (hard). Our clients work. And our volunteers, donors and board contribute. This enables EPP to operate efficiently and maximize outcomes. **As a result, in 2021, 99% of EPP’s expenses were program-related.**



To all our future clients: We understand that you have gone through some dark times. We will not pretend to know what it is like to walk in your shoes, but we have some horses that do.

Heroes Among Us -

Jerald and Diane

My husband, Jerald, was diagnosed with vascular dementia 2016. At first, we were stunned and didn't know where to turn. The neurologists didn't have much information for us, as to how to deal or handle this diagnosis. We finally found this wonderful person who manages horses for therapy. Once a week Jerald gets to visit this wonderful farm where he gets to do all sorts of fun activities with horses. Sometimes it's difficult to get Jerald to do anything, but once he hears we're going to see his buddies, the horses, he gets all excited. Jerald tells his stories about the horses to his loved ones and is usually energetic afterwards for a couple of days. We can't thank Mary enough for all she has done to help Jerald and I with the difficulties we face daily. Horse therapy is good therapy. - Diane



Sid

Sid, a giant, gray Quarter Horse gelding born in 1998, was a longtime and extremely influential member of the EPP herd. He crossed the rainbow bridge in 2020 yet in therapy his story still greatly impacts the lives of many EPP clients. This stunning show horse boasted an impressive amount of wins and was every rider's dream. He showed us that just because you are beautiful on the outside, or winning ribbons, doesn't mean you aren't literally killing yourself on the inside with worry and fear. Sid overcame the odds and inspired dozens of others to do the same. In his years of retirement, he was a trusted therapy partner for so many who remember him.



Kaytlyn Jornayvaz

In 2017, EPP was honored to be the recipient of donations in memory of Kaytlyn Jornayvaz, an accomplished equestrian, artist, and philanthropist. Kaytlyn shared EPP's passion for teaching life skills to at-risk youth using creative methods. With these contributions, EPP established a \$10,000 scholarship fund to provide equine therapy to children and teens with socio-economic need. These funds were set aside and continue to provide life changing therapy sessions. We remain committed to expanding Kaytlyn's legacy through the generosity of Kaytlyn's family and friends.



To Our Friends and Supporters – Thank You

Whenever you turn on the television or read internet news and start to feel hopeless and helpless at the tragedies that overwhelm the airwaves, know that your support of EPP's mission is a step toward making a difference in the lives of people facing tremendous adversity. We are grateful for your trust, and for the investment you make in us to carry out the mission and vision of EPP. We are committed to transparency, and I encourage you to take a few minutes to review our financial statements to understand more about our Organization's finances.



EQUINE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Financial Statements	
January 1 to December 31, 2021	
Revenue:	
Individual Donations	\$9,084.94
Foundations	\$31,000.00
Grants	\$0.00
Client Invoices	\$4,695.20
Melaleuca Revenue	\$141.30
Total Revenues:	\$44,921.44
Expenses:	
Feed	\$6,776.87
Rent	\$9,040.00
Executive Director Fees	\$4,520.00
Outreach Director Fees	\$4,520.09
Grant Writing	\$1,000.00
Instructor Fees	\$1,600.00
Facility Maintenance	\$1,376.45
Vet and Burial	\$360.00
Insurance	\$1,910.00
Farrier	\$1,405.00
TGEC Facility Fees	\$1,000.00
Office Supplies	\$191.85
Labor: Stall Cleaning / Feeding / Hay	\$2,395.00
Tack / Horse Supplies	\$875.02
Misc	\$205.29
Advertising, Phone and Website	\$1,537.93
Software	\$1,610.27
Memberships	\$2,047.00
Total Expenses:	\$42,370.77
Net of Expenses over Revenues	\$2,550.67

Looking Ahead -

Our goals for 2022 include:

- Continue to serve our present caseloads.
- Increase our outreach efforts for individual Equine Assisted Psychotherapy clients.
- Expand two 9-week sessions for our School Based Life Skills Program for Douglas or Elbert County Public Schools.
- Increase our resources to support growth in the Equine Elders Program.
- Serve our new partnership with The Gem Center School for Autism in Parker, Co.
- Increase our "herd" by at least one horse to be able to support new programs.
- Raise sufficient funds to meet EPP's annual support needs of \$60,000.

How Can You Help?

We are humbled by the support from our community as we are urged to continue to grow our outreach. Additional donations are crucial to meet and grow with the rising demand for Equine Therapy Services. With hope of growing the number of individuals we are able to serve comes an increase in need for support. As we increase our herd and take on additional caseloads, we need increased support from our community! By sponsoring a horse or client you are providing an opportunity for someone in need to experience the healing power of our four-legged therapy partners. Please contact us today.

Lee Dudley

Executive Director