



Three Gaits, Inc. Therapeutic Horsemanship Center 2020 Annual Report

(January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020)

About Three Gaits

Founded in 1983, Three Gaits Therapeutic Horsemanship Center has grown to become one of the region's premier therapeutic horsemanship facilities, providing recreational and therapeutic activities for hundreds of participants each year. Our mission is to provide equine-assisted activities and therapies that enhance the lives of people with physical, emotional and/or intellectual challenges.

People served by Three Gaits have challenges with conditions such as autism, Down syndrome, learning disabilities, spina bifida, muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy, brain injury, as well as other numerous disabilities and special needs. Most participants have both intellectual and physical disabilities. Approximately 80% of our participants are children.

Located on 20 acres near Stoughton, Wisconsin, Three Gaits is recognized as a Premier Accredited Center by the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship (PATH) International. Out of 20 PATH member centers in Wisconsin, Three Gaits is one of only three to hold this accreditation.

Instructor and Therapist Training

While therapeutic riding is not officially regulated, Three Gaits is committed to elevating the quality of instruction and therapy in our field. Our instructors and therapists maintain their credentialing via compliance with PATH International standards and continuing education requirements.

Therapist Training

All of our therapists have American Hippotherapy Association (AHA) training, and are also Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructors.

Programs

Therapeutic Riding

Therapeutic riding contributes to the cognitive, physical, emotional and social well-being of children and adults with a physical, intellectual and/or emotional disability or other special needs. Our therapeutic riding classes incorporate education, competition, therapy and recreation into horseback riding to build physical strength, develop communication and social skills, and increase self-confidence. Three Gaits instructors are all Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructors by the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International, (PATH, Inc.)

Hippotherapy

Hippotherapy is an evidence-based treatment tool that uses the movement of the horse as part of an overall strategy for addressing functional limitations in patients with neuromotor and sensory dysfunctions. Using the movement of the horse, sessions are part of a patient's treatment plan as a tool for achieving well-defined functional goals.

Three Gaits offers occupational therapy with a licensed occupational therapist and a licensed occupational therapy assistant, both certified by the American Hippotherapy Association (AHA).

Unmounted Horsemanship

For students who cannot ride a horse or are interested in



photo credit: Short Horse Studios

learning about horse care and behavior, Three Gaits teaches horsemanship skills in a safe environment from the ground. Students groom, exercise and practice horse show leading patterns in Unmounted Horsemanship.

Participation

In 2020, Three Gaits was able to periodically offer lessons on a much-reduced scale from previous years for a total of 554 equine-assisted activities, including lessons, hippotherapy sessions, field trips and community service learning opportunities for 162 students. We typically provide 3,000 equine assisted activities (units of service) to approximately 317 participants, plus an additional 50+ children each year in field trips to our program.

Our Horses

Ten equine partners helped us serve our participants in 2020. Our horses are carefully selected for special characteristics that make them well-suited for the work we do. All of the horses we collaborate with have exceptional dispositions, a gentle, responsive nature, and they have a history of sound training and great relationships with their human comrades.



Our Volunteers

Volunteers provide our base of support for many activities and lessons at Three Gaits. Over 110 volunteers contributed nearly 3300 hours in 2020, a priceless contribution.

Board of Directors

David Anderson, Katherine Brewer, Nancy Comstock, Karen Deaton, Matthew Harmelink, Dan Henning, and Anne Staton

Staff

Executive Director: Lauren Cnare (Feb. 2020 - current)

Interim Executive Director: Mary Ann Roth (Jan. 2020)

Office Administrator: Melissa Lawrence

Equine Caretakers: Cynthia Lowenberg & Jenny Philbrook

Stable: Skylar Bush, Kaylee Naughtin, Tom Naughtin, Peter Riddle, Makayla Ramberg, Lindsey Ripp

Instructors:

PATH Advanced Instructors: Betsy Kelley, Angela Poster and Katie Roth

PATH Registered Instructors: Bethany Domoto, Sandra Faust, Emily Gonzalez, Mary Ann Roth, Jessica TeSlaa & Dana Wagner

Occupational Therapist: Bethany Domoto

Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant: Emily Gonzalez



A Note on 2020

2020 was a year of unique challenges and opportunities for all non-profits, and Three Gaits is delighted to report that thanks to a dedicated staff, creative volunteers, generous and understanding donors and our willing students and their families, we are still here - ready to ride!

The year opened "as usual" with a full lesson schedule of excited riders and hippotherapy clients. When the pandemic struck, with all of the unknowns for health, safety precautions and the ever-present question: "when will it end?" Three Gaits paused all activities for the spring to follow national and local public health orders and focused on caring for horses and each other. The good news is that it worked and we all stayed healthy so that we are able to serve our students today!

It did mean that costs needed to be trimmed. Some of our horses retired a little sooner than they might've, and our leased horses were returned to their owners for a holiday - who knew it would be almost a year? A small team of volunteers and staff took care of business and horses with optimistic attitudes.

We took advantage of the year to review program and physical plans, to explore more deeply where we could make improvements, to learn new skills, and to spruce up the entire farm from fences to files.

But most importantly, we found a way to have students return in smaller classes with shorter sessions so that we could all quickly

respond to changing health directives. Due to the 6-foot social distancing, that meant riders who could ride independently or with only one support sidewalker could join us, but it was something. All of us, from volunteers to staff to even the horses, were thrilled to see cars in our parking lot and students waiting to greet their horse for a lesson.

For these riders, Three Gaits was often the only in-person opportunity to connect with a caring volunteer and instructor, to get outside for physical activity, and to share the sorrow and secrets of pandemic life with a silent and accepting partner - a Three Gaits horse.

Throughout 2020, we were generously supported by personal, corporate and foundation donors who knew that despite a temporary reduction in classes, Three Gaits is an important service for people who have a disability and we needed to be here - immediately - when the world re-opened. We couldn't stop everything - horses needed to be fed, bills needed to be paid and people needed their jobs. Our donors and volunteers, along with much-needed COVID relief programs carried us through the year. We are grateful.

Personally, it was an interesting start to my new role as Three Gaits executive director. I am grateful to all those who came before me to build this organization so that it could survive an unprecedented year of challenge. And, I am grateful for all those who stayed with us in 2020 to prepare us for a stronger, focused future of connecting people and horses for growth and success.

Sincerely

Lauren Enare

Lauren Enare



thank you

*to a dedicated staff, creative volunteers,
generous and understanding donors and
our willing students and their families.*

Thank You to Our Generous Donors

Gifts \$10,000 or more

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Willie, a Three Gaits Horse

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Three Gaits, Inc.

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Stoughton WI 53589

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Web: three-gaits.org

Phone: 608-877-9086

Facebook: ThreeGaits

Scholarships

In 2020, Three Gaits provided 18 scholarships totaling nearly \$3,100 to riders who are economically disadvantaged. In 2020, Three Gaits had approximately \$14,900 available in scholarship funds.

Average Funding Sources

Three Gaits receives funding from a variety of sources including grants from foundations and corporations, private donations, participation fees for riders who can afford to pay them, and fundraisers/special events.

Donations, grants, fundraisers	53%
Program fees	30%
United Way (not just Dane County)	7%
Horse Boarding & merchandise sales	10%

Financial Statement

As of December 31, 2020 (independent financial audit/review report conducted annually)

Current Assets

Checking/Savings	76,568.00
Accounts Receivable	69,353.00
Other Current Assets	15,185.00
Property & Equipment	117,730.00
Total Assets	278,836.00

Current Liabilities & Equity

Current Liabilities	45,643.00
Long Term Liabilities	110,086.00
Total Liabilities & Equity	155,729.00