



Small Miracles Therapeutic Equestrian Center, Inc.

"For we walk by faith, not by sight."



ANNUAL REPORT

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*Enhancing the lives of individuals with special needs
and empowering them to engage in life to the fullest.*

“Small Miracles is one of the MOST beneficial learning opportunities my students have had throughout the year.”

—Morgan Saunders, Life Skills Teacher, KCS Roosevelt Elementary



OUR MISSION

Small Miracles Therapeutic Equestrian Center, Inc. is a Christian-based, non-profit corporation founded through love to enhance the physical, emotional, social and cognitive growth of individuals with special needs by means of equine-assisted activities and therapies.

NATIONAL AFFILIATION

Small Miracles is a member of PATH Intl. (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International, formerly known as North American Riding for the Handicapped Association). PATH Intl. is a professional membership association for individuals and organizations, whose mission is to change and enrich lives by promoting excellence in equine-assisted activities and therapies for individuals with special needs. All of our instructors have earned and maintain their PATH Intl. certification.

LOCAL AFFILIATION

Small Miracles is a member of the United Way of Greater Kingsport, TC-MAC (Tri-Cities Military Action Committee) and the Kingsport Area Chamber of Commerce.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS

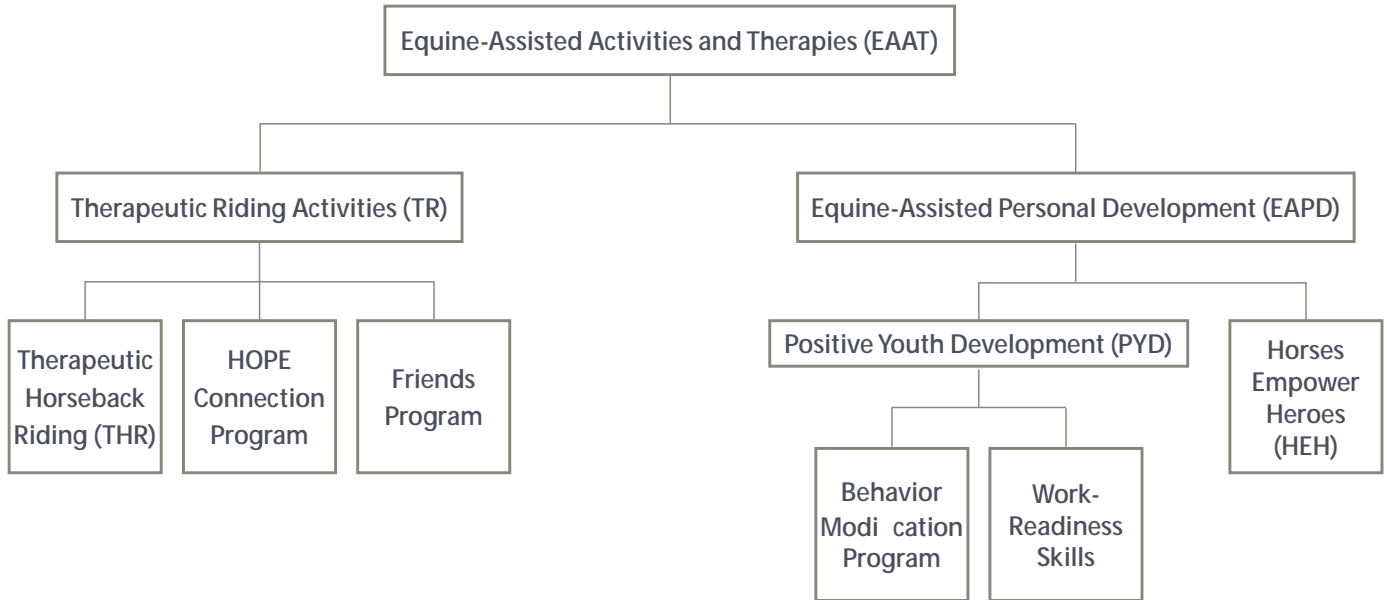
- Provided a new evidence-based Equine-Assisted Activities Program for the Life Skills Class of Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School.
- Launched the new name for our Military Veterans' Program: *Horses Empower Heroes*. Collaboration continued with James H. Quillen Mountain Home V.A. Domiciliary and Out-Patient Services.
- In order to serve and to advocate for veterans, Small Miracles staff actively participated in both the Tri-Cities Military Affairs Council (TC-MAC) and V.A. Mental Health Summit Community Council's activities.
- In collaboration with United Way of Greater Kingsport's Early Grade Reading Initiative, we developed a Round-Up & Read Program in order to grow or maintain our Therapeutic Horseback Riding Program students' reading level and vocabulary, incorporating reciprocal conversational skills, social studies, equine science, cooking and simple personal finance.
- Provided an equine-assisted United We Read Summer Book Club for children from the Cloud Boys & Girls Club and Riverview Boys & Girls Club. Small Miracles also participated in/donated many staff hours during multiple United We Read community events and participated on the Early Grade Reading Initiative Advisory Board.
- Small Miracles hosted a United Way Regional Day of Caring.
- Small Miracles' community awareness expanded through a revamped website and through use of a wide variety of media outlets and technologies.

NUMBERS SERVED

In 2014 we provided approximately 3,578 direct service hours for 316 students. *Small Miracles does not discriminate based upon age (or any other factors).*



Small Miracles' Programs



“Just leaning on Dunny, feeling his warmth and his breathing ... just being, existing, and acknowledging the right to be alive.”
 —2014 HEH Participant

WHY HORSES FOR THERAPEUTIC ACTIVITIES

We at Small Miracles believe that horses are sentient beings with thoughts, feelings and emotions. Horses utilize their amazing inborn intuition to respond in meaningful ways that meet every participant’s needs. The horse’s gait closely mimics the human walking gait, so riders receive physical development through the stimulating muscle and nerve input. Horses provide a multitude of sensory experiences and exemplify social skills through interaction with both humans and other horses. Horses quickly establish the trust of the participant and never judge. Horses become the teachers, gently encouraging participants to try new things, enabling the students to discover what they truly CAN do.

The horses at Small Miracles are an integral and beloved part of our family. Currently, our herd is comprised of 13 horses. Small Miracles gives its horses a wonderful way to enjoy a productive life, while receiving the best care.



ACHIEVEMENTS & PROGRAM OUTCOMES

EQUINE-ASSISTED ACTIVITIES & THERAPIES (EAAT)

Small Miracles EAAT Programs enhance the personal growth and development and life skills of all participants, enabling them to live life as self-sufficiently as possible.



THERAPEUTIC RIDING ACTIVITIES (TR)

Therapeutic Riding Activities (TR) enhance the physical, emotional, social and/or cognitive growth of individuals with special needs through both mounted and unmounted equine-assisted activities.

Small Miracles' **Therapeutic Horseback Riding Program (THR)** is for students with physical, emotional, social and cognitive developmental needs. Trunk control, fine and gross motor skills, balance, strength and hand-eye coordination are just some of the physical improvements that can be developed through these activities. Cognitive abilities such as focusing, participating with others and relating cause and effect can also be developed.

The **HOPE Connection Program** (Horses Opening Pathways to Engagement) is designed to provide opportunities for social engagement, relationship building, sensory integration and academic skills for students diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Asperger's Syndrome, Pervasive Developmental Delay or Sensory Processing Disorder.

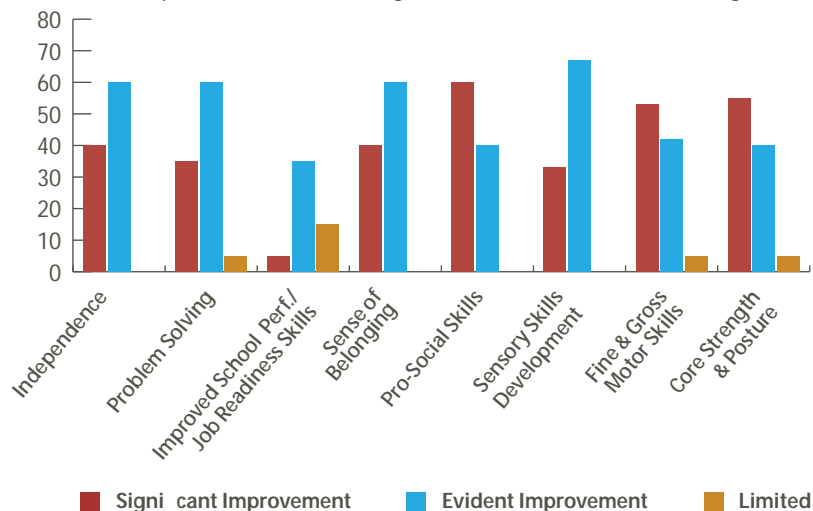
The **Friends Program** is specifically geared for adolescents and young adults with special needs. This program is ultimately designed to help these students move forward in life, providing social and work-readiness skills to help them transition from one life situation or developmental stage into the next.

2014 PROGRAM OUTCOME

During 2014, approximately 960 direct service hours were provided for 46 Therapeutic Horseback Riding program students (including HOPE Connection and Friends Program).

2014 EAAT PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

(Therapeutic Horseback Riding, HOPE Connection & Friends Program)



2014 PARENT SURVEY COMMENTS

Small Miracles has helped my child in the following ways:

- taking more personal responsibility of grades by using determination and perseverance to keep GPA high consistently
 - has the ability to think things through before acting impulsively
 - communication and social skills continue to improve
- more polite, better listening skills, conflict resolution, managing anger
 - has more tolerance of changes that he/she doesn't want
 - helps out more at home and at school

ACHIEVEMENTS & PROGRAM OUTCOMES

"I feel happy here, the horses make me smile. Thanks for helping me when I needed it most."

—2014 PYD Student

EQUINE-ASSISTED PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT (EAPD)

EAPD is experiential learning in which the horse is a key component of the teaching team.

Our **Equine-Assisted Personal Development (EAPD)** programs enhance the developmental, educational, behavioral and life skills of the students, utilizing unmounted, equine-assisted activities to engage the students.

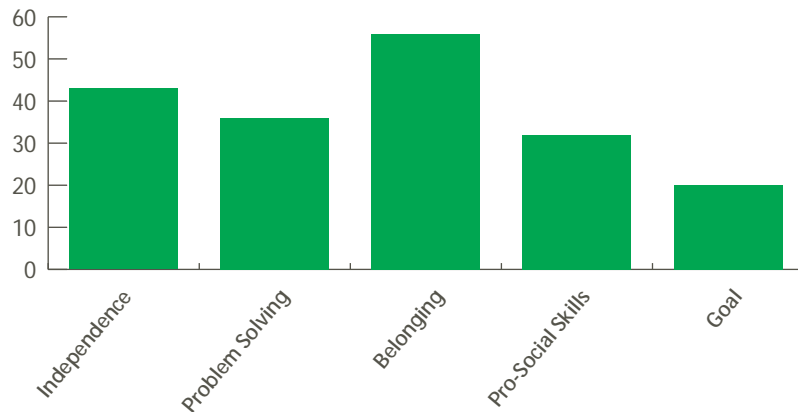
Our **Positive Youth Development (PYD)** program is a strength-based program that enhances the personal development of children and youth at-risk of not succeeding. Small Miracles continued to serve students referred from Frontier Health's court-appointed youth group homes, Cora Cox Academy, Cloud Boys & Girls Club, Riverview Boys & Girls Club and SteppenStone Youth Treatment Services (SSYTS). Positive Youth Development services for students referred by their high school's administration due to a need of pro-social, work-based learning and college or workforce readiness skills were also given.



2014 PROGRAM OUTCOME

During 2014, over 2,108 direct service hours were provided for 228 children and youth at-risk—a 34% increase from 2013.

2014 PYD PROGRAM: AVERAGE IMPROVEMENT



PYD STUDENT SELF-SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

Small Miracles has taught me ...

- to have confidence—we do lots of activities with the horses that require us to get the horses to do something and if we tell ourselves we can do it, we can
- to learn to recover and move on
- to surround myself with positive people and to put my values and motives in a place so that I do not fall under impulse
- to remain sober and cease my drug use and to see that the support systems I have are there to help
- to stay out of trouble and to follow through/to learn to say no and stay away from the wrong crowds

Small Miracles has set me from ...

- feeling rejected by people—you guys have made me feel wanted

ACHIEVEMENTS & PROGRAM OUTCOMES

HORSES EMPOWER HEROES (HEH)

Our **Horses Empower Heroes (HEH)** program promotes the self-sufficiency of veterans by enhancing cognitive, emotional and social growth through a strength-based program that focuses on awareness of living in the moment, while moving forward in life. Most HEH veterans come directly from James H. Quillen Mountain Home V.A. They are participants in the V.A.'s Road to Recovery Program that focuses on independence and self-reliance, with a recovery model of transitioning veterans to reintegrating into the community living purposeful, productive lives, which includes finding and maintaining gainful employment. Veterans navigating the obstacles of substance abuse, traumatic brain injury, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Military Sexual Trauma programs also participate.

2014 PROGRAM OUTCOME

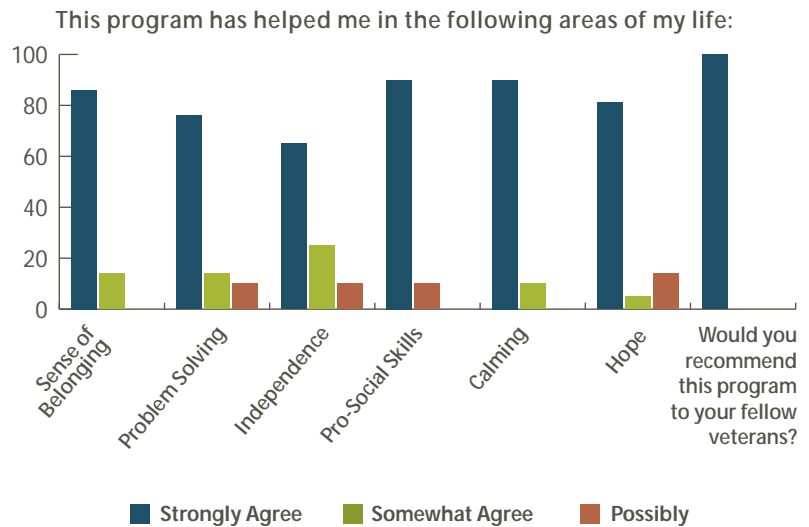
Forty-two military veterans were provided 510 direct-service hours during Horses Empower Heroes (HEH) Program on Friday afternoons.



Pictured above: A lesson that uses masks to demonstrate acceptance and tolerance, while building confidence.



2014 HEH SELF-SURVEY RESULTS



2014 HEH SELF-SURVEY COMMENTS

What the veterans liked most about their experience at Small Miracles:

"I look forward to coming each week— it's a nice break and relaxes me after a stressful week of class."

"There's something tranquil about horses that I can't describe."

"Being in the arena atmosphere caused me to forget everything else and just be aware of horses."

"It showed me to get it together quick."

"Being able to share time with the horses and my peers— I feel a sense camaraderie!"

"Knowing that I needed be aware of my own mood in order to work with my horse."

"The staff was awesome; I received some very helpful therapy in order to help me in my recovery."

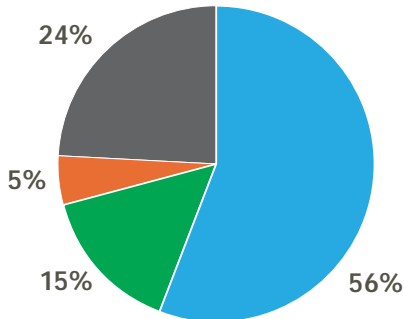
"Spending time with the horses and learning to instill confidence in myself and others."

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

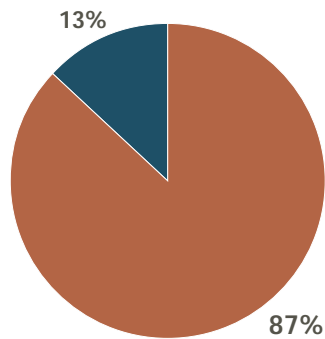
2014 INCOME



- Grants/Donations
- Fundraisers & Sales Items
- Student Fees
- In-Kind Donations

In-kind Donations Include:
Office, Facility & Program Supplies; Veterinary & Farrier Goods and Services; Professional Services Discounts

2014 EXPENSES



- Program Expenses
- Support Services Expenses

Supporting Services Include:
Administrative Salaries, Office Equipment, Supplies, Accounting Fees, Bank Service Charges, Postage and Printing

All donations to Small Miracles are tax deductible due to our 501(c)(3) status and directly benefit the participants of our programs.

Thank you to all of our volunteers, donors & sponsors.

Without your generous financial support, time, talents, and other contributions, Small Miracles would not be able to provide the scope and level of services that we do. We strive to have profound and positive effects on the lives of individuals with special needs and their families. **Thank you for your continued support!**

Volunteers are a vital part of our program. Small Miracles has a continually active volunteer base of approximately 150 people. Our volunteers assist with student lessons, horse care, and maintenance. Many others are involved with Day of Caring, fundraising, media presentations, public speaking and various office tasks. These volunteers gave over 7000 hours in 2014.

2014 CIVIC, CORPORATE, CHURCH, CLUB & PRIVATE DONATIONS

We would like to acknowledge our 2014 supporters within the public sector. Our individual donors are no less important to us, but due to space constraints they have not been listed in the following. Please refer to our website for a complete listing of our donors and sponsors.

Agape Ambassadors of John Adams Elementary School
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Kingsport Veterinary Hospital
Kroger's/East Stone Drive
K-Vat Foods (Food City)
Lowe's/East Stone Drive
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Mickey Smith Motor Company
Millennium Auto Collision Repairs, LLC

Mize Farm & Garden
Mountain Empire Large Animal Hospital
Nolichucky Hauling
Piney Flats United Methodist Church
Power Equipment Company/Power People Charity Trust
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Salsarita's Fresh Cantina
Signature Properties
Spectra Energy Foundation
Subway/Volunteer Parkway
Sullivan County Antique Tractor & Engine Assoc.
Thompson Metal Services
Vulcan Materials
Wal-Green's #9428
Waste Management
Welcome Home Realty
Willmad Lab Glass

2014 PROGRAM SPONSORSHIP

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EQUUS Foundation
Kingsport Community Foundation
Mack Snyder Rau Foundation
Palmer Center Foundation, Inc.
PeyBack Foundation
Southern States SHOW Program
Speedway Children's Charities- Bristol
Sullivan South Area Community Chest
Tony Stewart Foundation
United Way of Greater Kingsport
Variety – The Children's Charity of Eastern Tennessee

“If the horses could get past their fears, then maybe I can too. The horses gave me a sense of hope because of what some of them have had to endure and have survived, I’m a survivor.”

—2014 HEH Participant



Small Miracles wishes to thank our voluntary Board of Directors for their continued dedication, hard work and wise council. We are also proud of our staff, who continue to love our students, care for our horses and strive for excellence.



SMALL MIRACLES 2015 GOVERNING BODY & STAFF

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Riding Instructor and Equine Specialist in Mental
Health & Learning
Cassandra Dilley, *PATH Intl. Certified Therapeutic*
Riding Instructor, Certified CHA Level 2 Instructor
Kimberly Ladd, *Program Development Coordinator*
Linda McBride, *Volunteer Coordinator,*
Program Assistant, Finance Assistant
J. R. Russell, *Equine Assistant, Barn Manager*

“My favorite experience was building trust and bonding with the horses, as well as the employees.”

—2014 HEH Participant

Small Miracles offers a truly unique service to our community. We are the only non-profit, Equine-Assisted Activities & Therapies organization within a 100+ mile radius. Our PATH-certified instructors, equine-experienced staff, specifically selected therapy horses, and a beautiful facility all work together to provide an engaging, safe and nurturing environment for developing fundamental life skills and personal growth and development.

CONTACT US

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