



New Charitable Giving Rules Announced for 2020

In 2020, there are some new rules and regulations for charitable giving.

#1: Everyone can claim a deduction

In order to benefit from itemizing in 2020, your deductions must exceed the standard deduction of \$12,400 for a single filer or \$24,800 for a married couple filing a joint return (even more for those age 65 and older). You will be allowed to deduct up to \$300 in cash contributions to qualified charities even if you choose the standard deduction.

#2: There is a higher ceiling on tax-advantaged giving

If you itemize deductions, previous tax rules prohibited claiming a deduction that exceeded 60% of your adjusted gross income (AGI) in a single year. In a unique 2020 provision, you can claim a deduction valued up to 100% of your AGI for charitable contributions. If you plan to make substantial gifts, this may be the most tax-friendly year to do it.



EE Awarded GuideStar's Platinum Seal

We are honored and excited to announce that we have been awarded GuideStar's highest level of recognition - the Platinum Seal of Transparency.

GuideStar is internationally recognized as the world's largest source of information for and about non-profit organizations. This designation indicates to supporters and donors alike that Exceptional Equestrians exhibits the highest level of integrity and transparency in its operations.

If you are interested in joining the growing list of individuals, businesses and organizations that support Exceptional Equestrians and its mission, please contact Aaron Geitner at ageitner@exceptionalequestrians.org.

"In This Together" Virtual Concert Featuring Shelly & Darren: July 29

- This is an ONLINE ONLY fundraising event to be held on Wednesday, July 29, 6 to 7 p.m.
- Our lineup features Shelly and Darren, a local comedy and musical duo whose show celebrates nostalgic tunes, fun duets, and clean comedy skits suitable for all.
- We are offering three ticket options: \$25 for general "admission," \$75 to sponsor a rider, and \$500 to be recognized as a Horsepower sponsor.
- Advance tickets are required. "Like" this event on our Facebook page to purchase tickets, receive regular updates and enjoy pre-event "teasers" from a few of our more musical riders.
- Please join us! All proceeds from this event will benefit the riders and families of Exceptional Equestrians.

Message from Our Executive Director

For all of us, the world has changed due to COVID-19. While each of us navigates the pandemic in our own way, we are also coming together as families and as a community to create a positive path to a new normal. We are truly "in this together".

I am happy to report that Exceptional Equestrians opened our doors on June 15 after ten weeks of quarantine. We are gradually welcoming back our participants and volunteers and hope to be at 100% enrollment by August. We are taking every precaution to protect our participants, volunteers and staff. You can view our Risk Management Plan at www.exceptionalequestrians.org. We ask everyone who visits our facility be familiar with and adhere to the plan.

The safety of our EE family is our top priority and, therefore, we have made the decision not to hold our fall events, including both the Family Celebration Event and the Boots-n-Bling Fundraiser. Together, these events would have raised over \$75,000, providing funds critical to sustaining our operation. The loss of this income in addition to program revenues not received during quarantine, brings considerable financial challenges to our organization. Charitable giving is crucial now more than ever. So, we are asking those who believe in our mission to consider donating during this critical time. Together, we can come out of this difficult time stronger than before.

EE Partners With Great Nonprofits

Exceptional Equestrians is partnering with Great Nonprofits, the #1 place for individuals to share great comments and stories about amazing nonprofits. Great Nonprofits introduced its Top-Rated Awards program in 2010, and it has quickly become the most influential “people’s choice” award for outstanding nonprofits, large and small.

We are asking for your help in posting a comment or story to the Great Nonprofits website about the amazing work being done here at Exceptional Equestrians. Our goal is to get as many positive comments as possible by October 31.

Benefits of Earning This Award

- **Increase Credibility:** Having the 2020 Top-Rated badge on our website and using it in our newsletters and other marketing materials shows potential donors that we are living up to our name. 72% of donors say that the presence of this badge increases their likelihood of giving.
- **Increase exposure to donors:** The stories people share on Great Nonprofits are syndicated on Foundant, GuideStar, Global Giving, and JustGive, where thousands of donors do their own research on how much to give and to whom.
- **Improve community loyalty:** By engaging our existing audience of donors, volunteers, and beneficiaries, we are giving them a voice – a way to celebrate our shared commitment to bettering the lives of people of all abilities through the healing power of horses.
- **Gain powerful stories we can use:** The positive stories shared by our donors, volunteers and supporters will create an archive of content from real people that we can use again and again.

To tell your story and help Exceptional Equestrians tell ours, please go to www.greatnonprofits.org/exceptional-equestrians-company to complete the free, quick and easy review. If you have questions, please contact Aaron Geitner at ageitner@exceptionalequestrians.org.



Exceptional Equestrians is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing hippotherapy, adaptive riding and equine-assisted learning services to individuals with disabilities.

Our mission is to better the lives of people of all abilities through the healing power of horses.

We are governed by a Board of Directors.

Elizabeth Moberg-Wolff, MD - President

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Lisa Kafka - Executive Director



Rider Profile: Kristin Albers

Kristin Albers has been riding with Exceptional Equestrians for over three years.

Kristin has a special connection with “her” horse, Tia. She loves to groom and ride her, as well as just spend time with her.

For both Kristin and her mother, Patty, the time that Kristin is able to spend with the horses and therapy team is a highlight in her week. In fact, they both think so much of Exceptional Equestrians that Kristin works there a few hours each week while Patty volunteers!

Both Kristin and Patty would recommend Exceptional Equestrians to other riders and families because it is “such a great place. Helping individuals and families is what Exceptional Equestrians does best.”

When asked what they would like the community to know about Exceptional Equestrians, Patty points out that by using the horse as a treatment tool, it gives riders like Kristin the chance to work on their social, physical, sensory and speech skills all at once.