



**EXCEPTIONAL EQUESTRIANS**



**THANK YOU  
FOR HOSTING  
US TODAY!**



## EXCEPTIONAL EQUESTRIANS



### Who we are

Founded in 1999 by pediatric occupational therapist Lisa Kafka, OTR, HPCS, Exceptional Equestrians is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in West DePere – on the corner of Packerland Dr and Orlando Dr



## EXCEPTIONAL EQUESTRIANS



### Who we are

We are one of the most comprehensive programs in the Midwest. Exceptional Equestrians is a phenomenal resource for Northeastern Wisconsin. Operating year-round, we help over 250 families annually.



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## What we do

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



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### What we do

We help people ages 2 and older by providing programs that improve cognitive, physical, emotional, and social well-being:

Hippotherapy  
Therapeutic riding  
Taking the Lead equine-assisted learning



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## What we do

In our commitment to serving all individuals with disabilities regardless of ability to pay, we offer sliding-scale fees to families in need.



## EXCEPTIONAL EQUESTRIANS



Serving the Community  
Exceptional Equestrians  
impacts community  
health, wellness, and  
quality of life.



## EXCEPTIONAL EQUESTRIANS



Serving the Community

- Sole hippotherapy provider in Northeastern Wisconsin

- Improvements in functional skills, life skills, comfort, and independence for people with disabilities



## EXCEPTIONAL EQUESTRIANS



### Serving the Community

- Improved quality of life for individuals and their families and caretakers
- Increased diversity awareness—250 volunteers age 14 and older exposed to people with disabilities
- Our dedicated volunteers donate over 4500 hours each year



## EXCEPTIONAL EQUESTRIANS



### Quick facts

250 clients served in 2018

118 riding sessions per week, year round

Annual cost to care for a horse =  
\$3,800

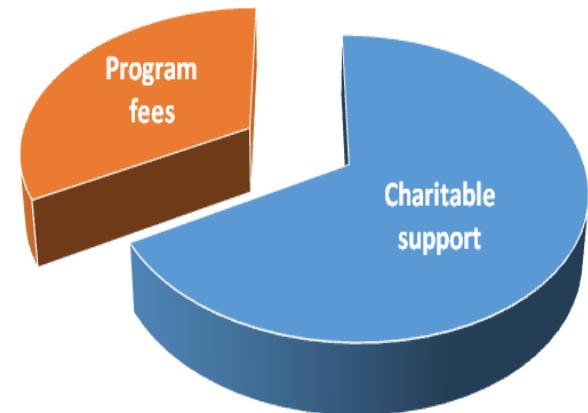
We need to raise \$2 for every \$1  
we receive in program fees



## EXCEPTIONAL EQUESTRIANS



Exceptional Equestrians funding





## EXCEPTIONAL EQUESTRIANS



How you can help  
Help us connect  
with people we can  
serve  
with charitable groups  
and individuals  
Volunteer  
Donate



**EXCEPTIONAL EQUESTRIANS**



**Your support helps  
children and adults  
with disabilities  
receive life-changing  
horseback therapy.**



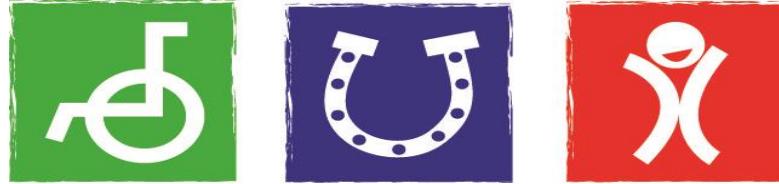
**EXCEPTIONAL EQUESTRIANS**

Common Questions:

**Why is it called hippotherapy?**

“Hippo” is the Greek word for horse.

Hippotherapy literally means  
"therapy using a horse."



## EXCEPTIONAL EQUESTRIANS

Common Questions:

**Why use horses as opposed to traditional clinic-based therapy?**

Hippotherapy is the only form of treatment that provides the rider with three-dimensional, multisensory input. This is very powerful and creates an immediate response that impacts all systems.

However, hippotherapy does not replace clinic-based therapy and the two should always be provided together. It is also important to supplement hippotherapy with clinic-based, functional tasks such as gait training, balance work, strengthening, hand use, etc.

Hippotherapy provides the basis for these more traditional therapies to be more effective.



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Common Questions:  
**Is it safe?**

When it comes to safety, new clients and/or their families typically have two questions—is it really possible that they or their loved ones with special needs are physically able to ride a horse, and will they be safe while they are on the horse?

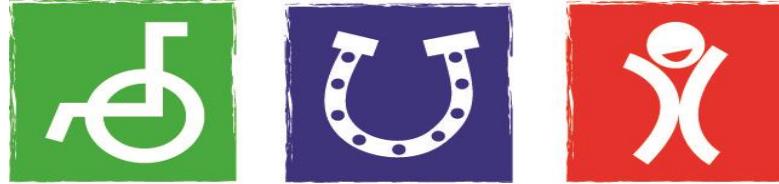
We serve individuals with a wide range of abilities, including those with significant impairments. Each new client is evaluated by a trained therapist prior to beginning services, and programming is tailored to each rider.

Every session is supervised by a therapist or instructor who is certified by the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship (PATH), International, the highest standard in equine assisted activities and therapies.

During a riding session, the horse is handled by an individual with formal horsemanship training and experience.

Our horses are carefully selected and trained by our equine specialist, and a horse only becomes part of the therapy team if they have the appropriate temperament.

When riding, each rider wears a safety belt, and trained volunteers walk alongside for safety.



## EXCEPTIONAL EQUESTRIANS

Common Questions:

**Tell me about the therapy horses.**

We currently have 14 horses – at an average age of 17

While all horses are beautiful, it takes a very special horse to join our program. Our horses are truly part of the treatment team and we take their selection and care very seriously.

Our horses are selected and trained by our equine specialist, a professional trainer with a degree in equine science.

All equine-assisted services require the horse present with good conformation, and an athletic, fluid, working walk in order to offer the right kind of movement to the rider. In addition to the way they move, our horses are selected because they have a temperament that allows them to tolerate everything we ask of them.



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## Common Questions:

If we have not answered your questions  
or you would like to further discuss our  
services, please do not hesitate to  
contact us at

[info@exceptionalequestrians.org](mailto:info@exceptionalequestrians.org) or  
(920) 347-3174.



**EXCEPTIONAL EQUESTRIANS**



**THANK YOU!**

We truly appreciate  
being here today