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HIGHHOPES

50 Years of Empowering



High Hopes Therapeutic Riding, Inc. 2024 Strategic Plan Summary



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Mission

The mission of High Hopes is to foster a vibrant community where horse and human interactions improve lives.

Vision

High Hopes envisions a future where equine assisted services and programs transform and enrich the lives of our participants and volunteers promoting a more engaged, resilient and fulfilled life.

Values

Quality

We are committed to the highest level of quality throughout our programs, in our care for horses, our stewardship of the land and environment, and in our interaction with participants, volunteers, donors and other members of the community.

Teamwork

High Hopes' staff and volunteers work together to create an inclusive, caring and compassionate environment.

Education

High Hopes promotes education, advocacy and collaboration.

Leadership & Innovation

High Hopes develops leaders who are committed to excellence, current with advances in Equine Assisted Services, and eager to share innovative, adaptable and agile solutions that will enhance the experience for participants today and in the future.

Serving the Community

High Hopes strives to effectively serve its community and to be an active and valued community participant.



HIGHHOPES by the Numbers

1,405

people benefited from the power of the horse-human connection

387

individuals volunteered at High Hopes 2022-2023

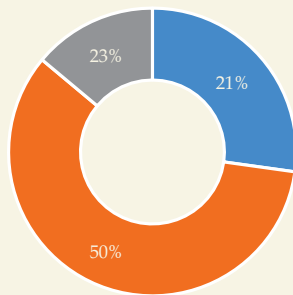
percentage of our workforce that are volunteers

93

31

the number of different primary diagnoses of our participants

Diagnosis Categories



- Physical
- Cognitive
- Emotional



our participants range in age from

4 to 79

years old

22

horses in our very special herd of therapy horses

number of hours of their time that our volunteers have dedicated to High Hopes this year

12,679



8,991

hours of equine assisted services delivered 2022-2023

Organizational Overview

History: Founded in 1974 by Sis Gould, High Hopes has grown into a 120 acre facility serving 1,405 people annually with the help of more than 387 volunteers and our herd of 22 specially trained therapy horses. Since 1979, High Hopes has been accredited by the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.)

What we do: High Hopes provides a challenging yet secure environment in which to experience not only physical, cognitive, social, emotional benefits, but also freedom, mobility and accomplishment. Our programs are carefully designed to foster independence and self-confidence, to teach life skills and provide challenging individualized therapeutic, recreational and educational activities to a population whose resources are too often limited. The High Hopes experience combines the healing power of the human-animal bond with targeted and attainable goals and we offer our programs to all who might benefit from them, regardless of financial means.

Who we serve: We serve and help meet the needs of our community by serving individuals with emotional health concerns, learning or developmental diagnoses, and other neurodivergencies. We also serve people with Down Syndrome, hearing impairments, physical considerations, and Traumatic Brain Injuries. Participants are aged between 4 and 79 years old.

Our services: We provided 8,991 activities in 2022-2023. The activities in the Therapeutic Program include riding, carriage driving, natural horsemanship, unmounted equine assisted learning, Community Outreach, Volunteer Training and Enrichment and Training, Education and Professional Leadership. Over the past 30 years, we have trained Instructor Candidates from 31 U.S. states and 22 different countries.

Our volunteers: A substantial percentage of our workforce are volunteers. Last year, 387 people donated 12,679 hours helping to make High Hopes a center of excellence – High Hopes is a recognized leader in volunteer management.



Our partners: High Hopes serves the schools in New London, Region 4, Old Saybrook, and Region 18 and also partners with 12 different state and local agencies.

Donor support: High Hopes' operating budget for 2023-2024 is \$1.9 million, and donor support covers 77% of operating costs. In 2022-2023, 47% of donor revenue was from individual contributors, 21% from foundation support, 31% from corporate support.

Our Staff: Our full-time staff include PATH Intl. (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International) certified instructors. Part-time staff include educational, medical and mental health professionals. In addition to staff, we have a 17-member Board of Trustees.



Strategic Priorities

Workforce Development

High Hopes recognizes the excellent people serving in paid and volunteer roles and intends to expand the high level of professionalism, dedication and passion in its future workforce.

Meeting the Needs of the Community

High Hopes recognizes the ongoing and emerging needs of the community it serves and is committed to being responsive and adaptable in meeting those needs.

Financial Sustainability

Continuing to carry out the mission of High Hopes is vital to not only those we serve directly but the families, loved ones, other social service and healthcare providers and the volunteers that work with us. Sound operational and fiscal management and a robust commitment to fundraising is critical to the long term sustainability for mission delivery.

Communications

The mission and services of High Hopes are beneficial and contribute to a healthy community. Enhanced efforts to more effectively communicate such benefits and their impact to a broader scope of constituents is a top priority

