# RIDERS UP!

2021 ANNUAL REPORT





# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Work, work, work! That is what 2021 was. While the year did not go as smoothly as we would have liked at times, we kept up the hustle to provide for the kids in our community.

Through two feet of snow and frigid temperatures followed by what felt like a never-ending rainy spring to a rather warm summer, we kept up the good work. And we had to say goodbye to two old friends - Otis and Brownie. Both succumbed to the infirmities of old age but left this world knowing they were loved.

We hosted our first Summer Camp in June, which will now become Summer Camp month. And we had another fun-filled Farm Fall Festival in the Fall.

We finished off the year strong by becoming a Pony Club Riding Center, which will offer opportunities to children not only in our program but others in the community as well.

Our goal is to keep growing, improving, and helping as many kids as we can in East Texas in 2022!

"When you work in the service of others, your dreams will come true." - Rupert Isaacson, Horse Boy Method Founder

VALERIE MELLEMA

Valerie Mellema

Executive Director/Founder



Valerie Mellema Founder/Executive Director



Audrey Tripp Program Director

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Lake Fork Stables is a small organization with a small budget. We depend on a few paid services in the form of paid riding lessons, horseback riding excursions, camps, and birthday parties. All of our other funding comes from the generosity of individual donors, a single grant, and our fundraising campaigns. Our three largest income generators this year were:

The Paddock Foundation Grant - \$3700 2nd Annual Farm Fall Festival - \$4000 Private Donation - \$10,000 for Barn Remodel

Facebook fundraisers have also been very instrumental in the success of Riders Up! Our Facebook fundraisers raised \$1500.





#### FIGURE 1.

Operating funds for Lake Fork Stables by the month in 2021

# PROGRAMS

Lake Fork Stables offers the following programs. Enrollment for each program varies based on a family's needs and financial situation:

**Riders Up!** - Free and reduced rate lessons for low income, autistic, and foster kids.

**Horses4Heroes** - Half price riding lessons for military and first responder families. Families join the Horses4Heroes program that provides them with the opportunity to receive half-priced lessons no matter where they are in the United States at partner barns.

Horse Sense Equine Therapy Retreats – Families of autistic children are invited on a scholarship basis to join us at Stable View Cottages and Lake Fork Stables for a relaxing weekend of equine therapy using the Horse Boy Method.

RIDERS UP!

HORSE SENSE EQUINE THERAPY RETREATS

**HORSES4HEROES** 

HORSES 101 HOMESCHOOL COURSE

WORKING STUDENT PROGRAM

**SUMMER CAMP** 

PONY CLUB RIDING CENTER



**Horses 101 for Homeschoolers** – This is a paid program allowing homeschool families the opportunity to learn the basics of horse care and horsemanship prior to enrolling in riding lessons. This is a 12-week course held in the Fall and Spring.

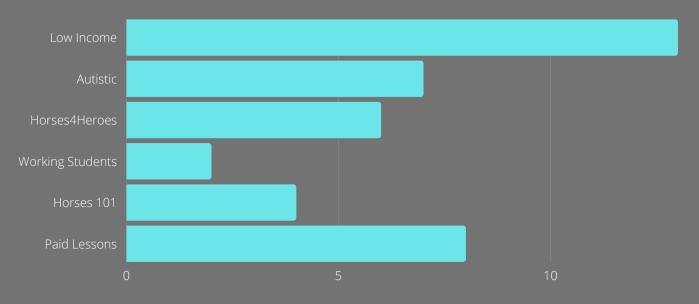
**Working Student Program** – Our working student program provides teenagers interested in working in the equine industry the opportunity to gain hands-on stable management experience while receiving free training lessons in return.

**Pony Club Riding Center** - We are proud to be a new Pony Club Riding Center. The United States Pony Club provides an excellent horsemanship curriculum that is designed to develop self-reliance, independence, leadership and teamwork.

**Summer Camp** - We hosted a one week summer camp in June and it was a blast! June will now become Summer Camp month!



## Children Served in 2020



# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

2021 wasn't necessarily any easier than 2020, some might say it was a bit harder, but we still managed to create lots of unforgettable memories.



# Mr. Bubbles - The Painting Pony

Audrey trained our pony, Mr. Bubbles to paint and it turned out to be one of the best things to happen all year. We were able to get him out in the community to show off his skills as well as sell a bit of his artwork.

He really, truly enjoys painting and put on two demonstrations at the Farm Fall Festival.

Mr.Bubbles has become a great ambassador for our program.



#### **Our First Summer Camp**

In June we were able to host our first Summer Camp!

It was a week-long day camp and 10 kids braved the heat and humidity to learn about riding, horse care, played games, did crafts, and more.

We ended the week with a horse show for the parents to show what they had learned.



#### Becoming a Pony Club Riding Center

To finish off the year, we became a Pony Club Riding Center!

The Pony Club is a worldwide organization known for its excellence in horsemanship and riding education.

As a Pony Club Riding Center, we will be able to take our kids to rallies, quiz bowls and more so they can expand their learning horizons.



# GOALS



Double the number of kids learning from Thoroughbreds

Spread awareness of our programs and the benefits of equine assisted therapy.





Increase community support via activities and events at the farm.

Prepare our Pony Club kids for rallies and earning their certifications.



## Raise \$20,000

to meet our goals and continue helping East Texas kids!

We can do it with your support!







# DONORS & SUPPORTERS

#### **Grants**

The Paddock Foundation - \$3700

#### **Grand Champion Sponsors**

Anonymous

#### **Reserve Champion Sponsors**

Pink Crown Farms Words You Want

#### **Blue Ribbon Sponsors**

Gateway Bar & Grill Stable View Cottages Gray Horse Custom Apparel

### **Red Ribbon Sponsors**

Damien Finger Wanda Tripp Jodi Gainer Jennifer Jordan David Hersman

# 2ND ANNUAL FARM FALL FESTIVAL SPONSORS

Load Trail

Words You Want

Stable View Cottages

La Victoria

Crossroads General Store

Main Street Tire & Lube

Griffin's Paint & Body

Gaston Sanitation

H&R Block

Golden Realty Group

L&L Plumbing & Septic

Potts Gas Co.

The Smiley Tooth

Hill Family Chiropractic

Alliance Document Shredding

Wilson's Heat & Air

Kearney Trailers

Yantis Federal Credit Reunion

Mojo Racing Partners

Alba Tractor

RK Hall Construction

C&M Building Supply

Henley Homes

Ballistic Trailer Sales

Network Technologies

Funny Frogs

Lake Fork Trophy Lures

Oral Surgery Associates of Paris

Red Beards Tobacco

4B Diesel and Auto

Service Marine

Honey Creek Ranch

Hill Bros Cattle

Ken's Heat & Air

Dairy Farmers of America

The Promised Land Realty Group -

Brannon Alvarez

Miller Homes Group

M&M Freight

Subway - Yantis

Hopco Clearwater Systems

Edward Jones - Brandon Roberts

Edward Jones - Jurgen Simons

Robin's Nest Antiquities & Oddities

Als' Do Drop In Cafe

LFC Construction

S&J Contractors

William's Automotive

E-Tex Tire & Wheel

Alba Tire Shop

L.L. Spencer Real Estate

Emory Auto Supply

Kim McCool

Travis Performance Horses

Jodi Gainer

Lakeside RV Repair

CNB - Yantis

Northeast Texas Tractor

Dairy Queen - Quitman

Sonic - Quitman

Subway - Sulphur Springs

Roma's Italian

CK Kitchen

Juan Pablo's

Metro Diner

Jennifer Jordan