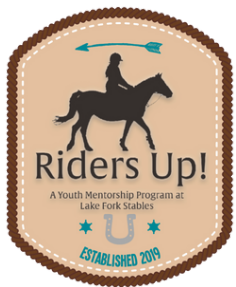


# RIDERS UP!

2022 ANNUAL REPORT





# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I have to be honest, I'm glad to see 2022 come to an end. It was an incredibly tough year for my family personally, as well as Lake Fork Stables. There's a lot to complain about, but the reality is that we made it another year and we're now three years old! That's a big milestone for nonprofits.

We did lose Audrey, our Program Director, over the summer, as she had to move back home to Tennessee. The economy was very hard on us and it was the best decision she could make at the time.

A nonprofit is a labor of love. Horses are a labor of love. If you don't have a love for them, then it's hard to sustain. Fortunately, I'm a very stubborn person and I won't give up on our programs, our horses, or our kids.

While we may be working in a reduced capacity for some of 2023, I'm still completely devoted to keeping the barn doors open and serving the kids in our community. We also have new opportunities we're launching soon that will hopefully accelerate our programs significantly in 2023.

I still believe - ***"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



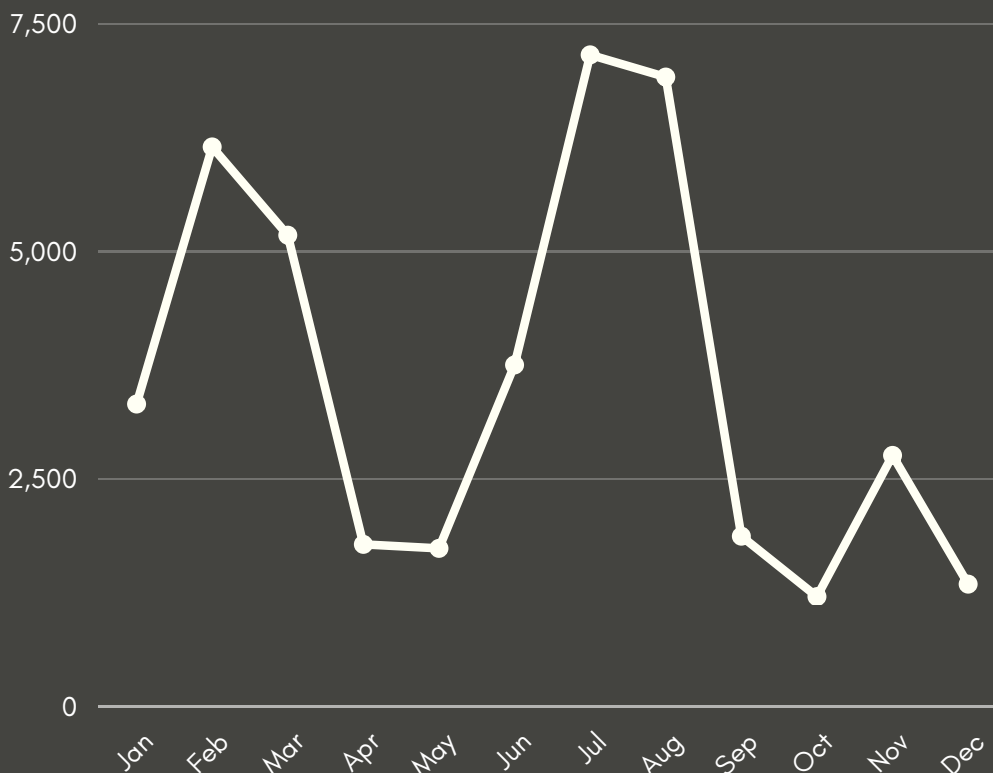
Valerie Mellema  
Founder/Executive Director

# 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, and camps.

The economy was particularly tough on us this year. It seems as though we may never get through the "COVID effect." Feed went up nearly double the price as the year before, as did hay and diesel. These are the three core components of running a farm.

We are eternally grateful for The Paddock Foundation which continues to provide us with grant funding. We, unfortunately, had to cancel the Farm Fall Festival this year due to a lack of sponsorship support.



**FIGURE 1.**

*Operating funds for Lake Fork Stables by the month in 2022*



# PROGRAMS

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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.

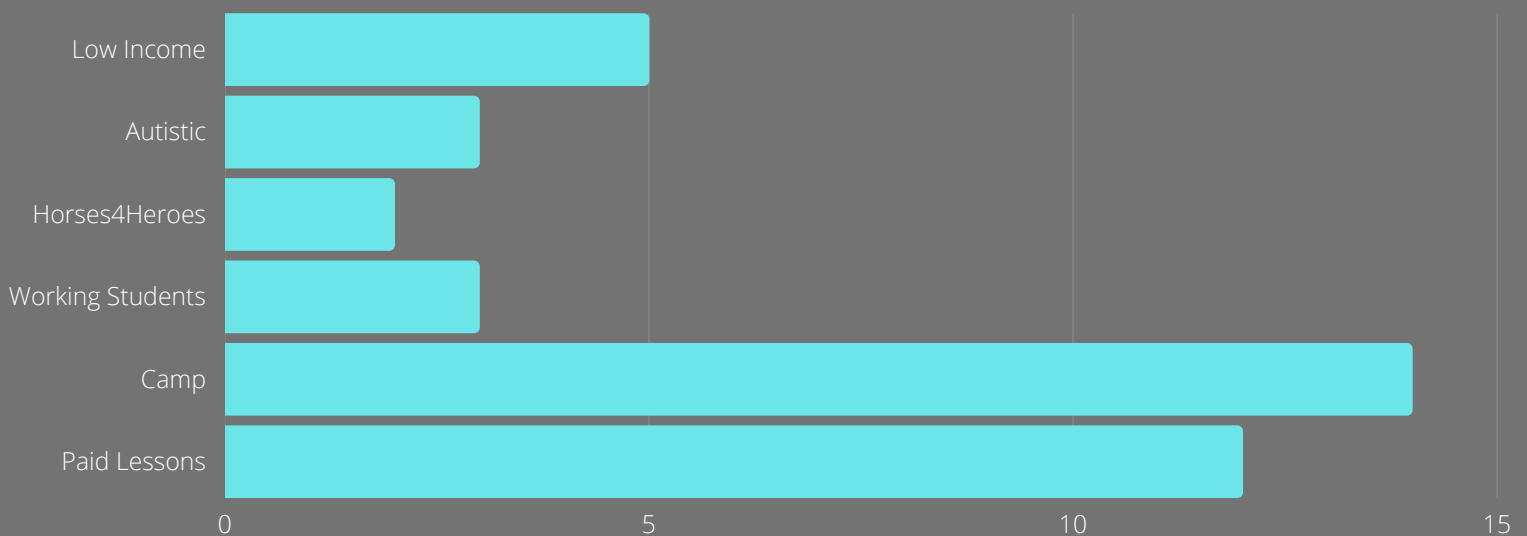
**Working Student Program** - Our working student program provides teenagers interested in working in the equine industry the opportunity to gain hands-on stable management experience while receiving free training lessons in return.

**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 2022





# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022

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Even with all of the ups and downs of 2022, we had a lot of memorable moments.





# GOALS

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»» Launch our volunteer and internship programs!

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 \$50,000

to meet our goals and continue helping East Texas kids!

We can do it with your support!

