



2022 YEAR IN REVIEW



PEGASUS

WELCOME TO PEGASUS

LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friend of Pegasus,

We are all living in stressful and difficult times, and our Special-Need, Veteran and First Responder communities face even greater challenges during such times.

To respond to the heightened needs of our communities, Pegasus has stepped up our commitment to help. Our programs have grown 37% this past year and our strategic plan calls for significant growth to support our vulnerable community members.

Your support fuels this growth and allows us to make a difference in the lives of every person we serve. This annual report details the difference we are making. As Pegasus Board Chair and Executive Director, it is our responsibility to oversee our Board and Staff team in building our capacity and fueling our growth.

Some Highlights from this past year:

- * Added two new board members
- * Increased our fundraising events
- * Added corporate engagement programs

New board members: Pegasus is delighted with our new board members Carl Rohde and Dave O'Leary. Carl is serving on our program committee and was a participant in our Equus Effect veterans' program. He has a deep personal understanding of the profound positive impact of our programs. His advocacy and positive energy have brought many new supporters to join Pegasus this year. Dave O'Leary, serving on our facilities committee and owner of Agriventures Agway is spearheading a major facility grant and providing materials, equipment and expertise to do significant facility upgrades.

Both these new Board members bring us the enthusiasm and spirit we need. They are excited to use their skills and passion to make a difference here at Pegasus.

Expanding Events: Pegasus is stepping up our events to raise awareness and funds for our programs. This year we had eight wonderful events from our Community Easter Egg hunts to our Annual Gala. You can experience the smiles of our students showing off their horsemanship skills at our annual horse show or watch a polo match while sipping a fine wine. Please come to our exciting Pegasus events and do good while having a great time.

Corporate Outreach: This year, Pegasus expanded its corporate outreach in a unique way. We developed a "Refresh the Farm" volunteer initiative, where corporations and other organizations can come with 10 - 100 volunteers; this year we had over 200 such volunteers! These volunteers did substantial hands-on farm projects that required teamwork, grit, and sweat—planting a butterfly garden, building a sensory awareness trail, fence painting, or laying railroad ties. Thank you to our Refresh the Farm groups: Agape Project, Ridgefield High School, M&T BANK, Boehringer Ingelheim, Western Connecticut State University, and a group from one of the region's largest companies, which asked to remain anonymous.

Thanks to you, Pegasus has had a successful year providing life-changing support to our Special Need, Veteran and First Responder communities. Your generous support fuels our program growth of 37% this year. Please consider an end-of-year donation that will help us continue to make a greater impact on the lives of those in need of our services.

In Service,

John Carberry, Board Chairman **Jeffrey Rumpf**, Executive Director



PS: Don't hesitate to get in touch with Pegasus to get involved, we will happily find an excellent opportunity for you to make a difference!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President- John Carberry
 Vice President - Joseph Cusato
 Secretary - Sue McGraw
 Treasurer - Susan R. Kozera
 Director - David O'Leary
 Director - Carl Rohde

STAFF

Executive Director - Jeff Rumpf
 Director of Development - Candice Sciarillo
 Program Director - Liz Fortes
 Barn Manager/Instructor - Sophia Rosenbloom
 Assistant Barn Manager - Rose Markley
 Administrative Manager - Caroline Trama
 Support Services Administrator - Syreeta Jones
 Development Associate - Amanda Krieger
 Facilities & Maintenance - Ronald Kutz
 Instructor/ Special Programs - Rosani Ortiz
 Instructor/Volunteer Coordinator - Diane Maudsley
 Instructor - Suzy Angier
 Instructor - Krista Morris
 Instructor - Claudia Spinelli
 Instructor - Judy Halden
 Instructor - Losira Okelo
 Equine Caregiver - Donna Ferreiro
 Equine Caregiver - Phillip Alves
 Equine Caregiver - Marian Desmarais
 Equine Caregiver - Doreen Salerno
 Equine Caregiver - Sophia Higgins
 Equine Caregiver - Joao Santos
 Equine Caregiver - Faye Lax
 Equine Caregiver - Hannah Melchner
 Equine Caregiver - Zachary Pollack

MISSION

Pegasus Therapeutic Riding enhances the lives of individuals who have disabilities and challenges through equine-assisted activities and education. In the fall of 1974, a small group of equestrian women began exploring the effectiveness of therapeutic riding. In September 1975, the first Pegasus therapeutic riding sessions began at Ox Ridge Hunt Club in Darien, Connecticut.

Today Pegasus is a PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Center with three chapters throughout Putnam and Fairfield counties, including Pegasus Farm, our 20-acre permanent facility in Brewster, N.Y. PATH Intl. (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship) establishes industry standards for program safety, instructor training and certification, and insurance provisions.

VISION

The vision of Pegasus Therapeutic Riding, Inc. is to be recognized as the premier equine-assisted therapy program in the United States by adhering to the highest standards and commitment to the individuals we serve. Our goal is to create impactful, powerful, life-changing experiences for our participants, donors, volunteers, and community. We plan to continue developing as an educational center and utilize our partnerships with organizations within our community.

VALUES

Our core values come from being a therapeutic center with our mission and purpose always at the forefront of everything we do. The predominant ideologies of our center are

- ▶ **Unity of Purpose:** Everything we do is mission-centric.
- ▶ **Mission-Driven Excellence:** Adhere to the highest level of commitment to the individuals we serve.
- ▶ **Fundraising:** Build our financial stability and fundraising capacity.

OUR CORE PROGRAMS

THERAPEUTIC RIDING

Therapeutic riding is an equine-assisted activity for the purpose of contributing positively to the cognitive, physical, emotional, and social well-being of individuals with special needs. Its unique benefits are derived from the transfer of movement from horse to rider. For people with special needs, therapeutic riding can be an especially powerful and liberating experience. Each week our program teaches riding skills through a thoughtful, progressive curriculum. Transitional life skills are a focus during the goal-setting process, providing a just-right level of challenge to facilitate growth and learning. A large percentage of our participants see significant improvements each session. These improvements over time are life-changing!



THERAPEUTIC HORSEMANSHIP

Therapeutic Horsemanship offers powerful, life-changing benefits using experiential learning. It integrates equine-human interaction while providing opportunities to teach critical life skills such as trust, respect, honesty, and communication. Our Therapeutic Horsemanship activities provide the “just right” level of challenge based on each participant’s goals. Goals are set at the beginning of each session by the instructor teams. Each participant works toward progressing in their session goals using our team approach (horses, instructor teams, and volunteers). Participants are working on building relationships with their horse through groundwork.

THE EQUUS EFFECT FOR VETERANS

The Equus Effect is a horsemanship program designed specifically for Veterans, which builds upon the horse-human bond and its effects on healing, building trust, and improving relationships. The Equus Effect focuses on social-emotional growth to help manage symptoms of PTSD with the desired outcomes of emotional agility and resilience, as well as rebuilding and maintaining healthy relationships. 100% of the participants are given a survey upon completion of this program measuring the following three categories: Welcoming, safe, and caring environment, Personal Growth and Quality of Program.

THE EQUUS EFFECT FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

The Equus Effect is a program originally designed for veterans with PTSD and has expanded to include First-Responders and Emergency Services (aka “First-Line”) such as police officers, health care workers, and firemen during and post-COVID. First responders have an immense impact on their communities. Our First Responders program provides the skills needed for self-regulation, understanding how to make distinctions among seemingly conflicting emotions, and building the capacity to process ‘the day’ before coming home are all part of maintaining healthy relationships.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

EQUINE EXPERIENCE DAYS

A horse-focused experiential learning to the special need’s population. The therapeutic benefit of horses has been widely recognized. Our goal is to offer holistic, empowering, and enriching activities centered around horses’ restorative power with complementary horse-focused activities, including gardening/nature, art, and music. Team building, self-esteem, self-confidence, and empowerment are meaningful benefits of this holistic approach to our equine experience days.

HELPING HANDS

Pegasus is often contacted by schools regarding volunteer opportunities for students in their vocational or special education programs. We created the Helping Hands volunteer program with this goal in mind.

METRICS AND FINANCIALS

77¢ of every dollar was spent on Programs



Top 3 Diagnoses:

- Autism
- ADHD
- Anxiety Disorder

THERAPEUTIC RIDING



109 Unduplicated Participants Served in our Therapeutic Riding Program



2,366 Therapeutic Riding Program Hours

87% showed improvement in Physical Goals

71% showed improvement in Cognitive Goals

83% showed improvement in Social Emotional Goals

THERAPEUTIC HORSEMANSHIP



65 Unduplicated Participants Served in our Therapeutic Horsemanship Program



1,200 Therapeutic Horsemanship Program Hours

79% showed improvement in Physical Goals

67% showed improvement in Cognitive Goals

94% showed improvement in Social Emotional Goals

FINANCIAL REVENUE (Based on FY21 audited financials)

- Contributions and Grants: **\$1,232,548**
- Program Service Fees: **\$88,540**
- Net Event Income: **\$78,541**
- Other Income: **\$135,662**
- Total Investment Income: **\$21,495**
- Total Revenue: **\$1,556,786**

EXPENSES

- Program Expenses: **\$961,390**
- Management and General Expenses: **\$102,780**
- Fundraising Expenses: **\$175,292**
- Total Expenses: **\$1,239,462**

Assets and Liabilities:

- Total Assets **\$5,410,456**
- Total Liabilities **\$23,170**
- Net Assets **\$5,387,286**



THE EQUUS EFFECT

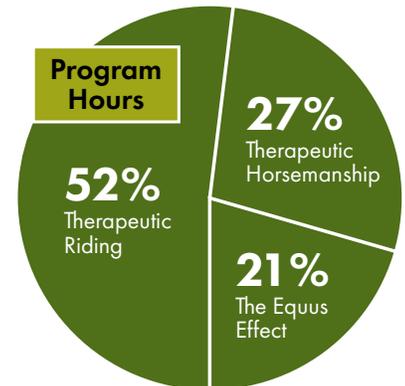


48 Unduplicated Participants Served in our Veterans and First Responder Programs



960 Veterans and First Responder Program Hours

98% reported Personal Growth



IN THEIR WORDS



"After researching different programs online, we chose to enroll our daughter at Pegasus Therapeutic Riding. We spent a lot of time looking for the right riding program that would be welcoming to a child with special mobility needs. Marlo began her participation with Pegasus in the spring of 2022. Since Marlo has been with Pegasus, we have seen tremendous progress in her motor skills, coordination, strength, and confidence. The welcoming staff, volunteers and the amazing horses have provided the environment and the tools necessary to make this amazing experience possible!"

-Marlo's mom



"I came away realizing that there still are pleasures in life, that we can make time to enjoy things that seem to have gotten lost in the shuffle of daily survival."

-Veteran Participant



"I would describe this program as a necessity to absolutely anyone who has not only gone through trauma but truly to expand love in your heart."

**- First Line Participant
(NYPD Family Member
Survivor)**



"The program took me away from my hectic lifestyle and brought me into another realm, one of peace and tranquility; something we all can use in this wacky world."

-Veteran Participant



"[Working with the horses] it's like when you like a roller coaster and all you want to do is keep going back"

- GNCUFSD Student



"Our Daughter Gracelynn has cerebral palsy, when we were encouraged by her Early Intervention therapist to find a therapeutic riding program, a friend told us about Pegasus.

Due to cerebral palsy, Grace still has her "startle reflex". When she first started riding, she could not control this reflex and when the horse began to move, she would stiffen up and be very nervous. Now when she rides, she is able to control this reflex and rarely stiffens up when riding.

Riding has increased her core muscle strength incredibly. She used to lean over a lot while on the horse and now she sits up straight and can hold her arms above her head while riding. Her ability to "post" and "half-sit" while riding is amazing. She has also learned how to guide the horse with the reins and is so much better at tracking with her eyes when looking for items around the arena.

At seven years old Grace has never taken a step without assistance. She must use a walker to ambulate and activities that come naturally to most children can be very difficult for her. So many activities that children Grace's age are involved with are difficult for Grace to participate in. Horseback riding has become such a special activity for her. When Grace rides, she feels so happy and proud of her accomplishments. Grace is so proud to tell people about riding Buttercup. At the end of every season, she and Buttercup have a very sweet interaction that is precious to watch.

Grace has multiple therapy sessions every week, but by far horseback riding at Pegasus is her favorite. Thank you to all the instructors, side walkers and volunteers. We are so thankful for the experiences that Grace has at Pegasus.

- Gracelynn's mom

VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers are the heart of Pegasus. Without their dedication, loyalty, and hard work, it would not be possible for us to fulfill our mission. There are many individual reasons why people volunteer with us, but all provide the chance to join a thriving, nurturing community whose goal is to positively impact the lives of as many people with needs as possible.

Pegasus offers a wide range of volunteering opportunities. Some require horse experience, but many do not. All we need is your willingness to give of yourself and commit your time.

VOLUNTEER WORK GROUPS: AGAPE PROJECT, RIDGEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL, M&T BANK, BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM, WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

281

**NUMBER OF SERVICE
HOURS FROM WORK
GROUPS**

341

**NUMBER OF
VOLUNTEERS**

4241

**TOTAL NUMBER OF
VOLUNTEER HOURS**

\$127,018

VALUE OF CONTRIBUTED VOLUNTEER HOURS

“Everyone – whether a participant, volunteer, or staff – is celebrated for showing up as their true, whole selves. Cliche as it sounds, it’s hard to find places that welcome everyone and meet them where they are on any given day... Also, it’s the best - how could you not love interacting with incredible people and animals all at the same time?!”

- Hannah Joy Sachs

SOPHIA ROSENBLOOM:

BARN MANAGER, INSTRUCTOR AND SO MUCH MORE!

How do you get involved with Pegasus?

I have been around horses most of my life. I started taking riding lessons at the age of 4, became a working student helping at various barns through middle school and high school, and eventually held jobs as a riding instructor, trainer, and barn manager. I always knew the powerful impact horses had on my life and was aware of their impact on others around me. While I knew animals and horses were my passion, I also wanted to work in a field where I could help people and truly make a difference in the world. I was torn between continuing my career as a rider/trainer/barn manager and changing course to pursue an education and career in social work or something similar. When I eventually discovered therapeutic riding in my early twenties, I couldn't believe that it might be possible to do both things – work with and care for these amazing animals AND help make a difference in the lives of others. In 2015 I discovered Pegasus, which seemed too perfect to be true! Just the fact that I could work for a place called Pegasus seemed too cool! While Pegasus was over an hour from my home at the time, that didn't stop me. I took a job as a part-time equine caregiver in the Pegasus barn and quickly pursued my ESMHL and Therapeutic Riding Instructor certifications. I could not believe how powerful it was seeing these wonderful horses working with our participants and the incredible impact this work had on each and every individual in our programs. I was equally blown away by the staff and volunteers at Pegasus – I had never worked with such an amazing, kind, and selfless group of people. I have been lucky to be a part of the Pegasus family ever since!

What is your role at Pegasus?

I have been the barn manager at Pegasus for about a year and a half now. I feel incredibly lucky to be able to spend every day on our beautiful property, overseeing the care and training of our outstanding herd and working with such a wonderful group of people, including our staff, volunteers, and participants. I am also an instructor for our mounted and therapeutic horsemanship programs and a facilitator for The Equus Effect program. My main focus in the barn is keeping



the horses healthy and happy in their jobs and life here and working closely with the program and barn staff to ensure programs run smoothly.

Tell us about some improvements you've made in the barn this past year.

Over the past year, a big focus for us in the barn has been creating a welcoming environment where everyone feels included and supported - humans and horses! I believe strongly that a nurturing and loving environment is necessary for our horses, staff, and volunteers to be successful and happy in their roles here. We have welcomed new staff members in the barn over this past year, including past Pegasus participants and volunteers. With the supportive environment we have created, these individuals have thrived in their roles here and are some of the best equine caregivers we have had. Our approach to our horses' care and training has been quite similar, as we allow the horses "to be horses" and treat all of them as the wonderful individuals they are. We recognize that each horse has their different quirks and needs, and if we listen to them and respect their needs and preferences, we can create the healthiest and happiest herd possible. Each horse is on a specific healthcare and training program tailored to their individual needs, focusing on keeping them in the best possible physical, mental, and emotional condition. We do this through productive training rides, keeping them outside as much as possible (which is where they prefer to be!), allowing them to play with their horsey friends, and ensuring they get tons of love and affection from their human friends. We want every human and horse in our herd to feel there is a place for them to thrive in our Pegasus family.

EVENTS

In 2021/2022, we were THRILLED to resume hosting events! These events are more than just fundraisers; they are an opportunity to showcase the work we do, the lives we change, the staff, and the herd. Follow us on social media to learn about upcoming events.

11TH ANNUAL HAVILAND HOLLOW CHARITY CUP

On Saturday, September 18, 2021, our friends Sam and Fabiana Ramirez hosted The 11th Annual Haviland Hollow Charity Cup benefiting Pegasus Therapeutic Riding. The Annual Charity Cup is committed to helping us improve the lives of people with cognitive, physical, and emotional disabilities through the benefits of therapeutic horseback riding and other equine-assisted services. The Haviland Hollow Charity Cup is also an excellent opportunity for sponsors to support a worthy cause and entertain clients while positioning their brands within the elite polo lifestyle.

Past sponsors include Tradeweb, Anonymous Content, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Halstead Property, Marks Paneth, Paramount Pictures, Ramirez & Company and RXR Realty.



GIDDY UP GALA

On Saturday, October 2, 2021, Pegasus presented the Giddy Up Gala at Pegasus Farm. The evening included a sunset cocktail hour complete with horses, dancing, live music by country singer Jessica Lynn, a farm-to-table BBQ dinner from Wandering Dave's, drinks, and more! The Giddy Up Gala was an exciting opportunity to share our life-changing mission and recognize all we have achieved together over the past 45 years.

Our honoree for the evening was Dr. William Bradley of New England Equine Practice. And we welcomed Megan Castellano from Mental Health Association and Easy Kelsey Merrow from Kelsey Farm into our Winner Circle.

ANNUAL COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

The whole herd gets excited for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt each year! On Sunday, April 3, 2022, we celebrated a day of spring fun, including a bake sale, crafts, games, prizes, photo ops, barn tours, and an Easter Egg Hunt! These community events are very special to us; they allow everyone in the community the opportunity to visit the farm and learn more about our mission in a fun way. We not only introduce Pegasus to hundreds of new individuals each year at our Annual Egg Hunt and gain new participants, volunteers, partners, and supporters from these events. We hope you can "hop" on by our Community Egg Hunt next year!



WELCOME TO THE HERD

DAVE O'LEARY:

Dave is President of Agriventures Retail, which owns two Agway locations in Connecticut – Danbury and New Milford. For the past 22 years, he has been managing operations. Before that, Dave worked for Agway Inc. as Region Manager of New England, where he oversaw operations and marketing for 40-plus retail stores. He has lived in the Danbury area for over 35 years with his wife, Linda, and three daughters. Dave's other nonprofit involvement has been with the Regional YMCA of Western CT and coaching the Brookfield, Connecticut, middle school swim team for 20 years.



"I attended the Pegasus horse show this year and saw the joy on the kids' faces who participated and the pride in the parents watching. This program changes lives, and I am honored to be part of the dedicated team that makes dreams come true."

CARL ROHDE:

Carl is a U.S. Army Veteran. He served as a battalion (Infantry) and squadron (Cavalry) chaplain with "The Old Reliables", the 9th Infantry Division. Carl is the Managing Partner of Problem Solver Technologies, LLC, an emerging technology company. Before this, Carl was Executive Vice President of British Communico, Ltd. (Communico, Ltd.) of Greenwich, CT with corporate clients throughout North America. Carl has a long history of working with non-profit organizations. These include Haiti Works!, Building with Grace, Green Chimneys, and Habitat for Humanity, to name a few. Carl is the father of five children. He is married to his "True Love," Nora. They reside in Ridgefield, CT.



"It is a great honor to work with such a devoted team of volunteers, staff, donors, parents, and family members as we strive to make a difference for our wonderful participants. Ours is a 'heart-centered mission,' and I am in awe to see the dedication to holistic wellness our community strives to embody every day."

RAY:

14-year-old Arabian champion western show horse, and all that hard work left his hocks in bad shape. We first met Ray in the late winter of 2021 and saw right away the tremendous potential he had to become a great therapy horse. During a routine exam, our veterinarians recommended treatment, stall rest and full rehab for Ray to be able to participate in our programs. After 7 months of rehabilitation, massages, and gentle persuasion, Ray returned to Pegasus in November of 2021 to start his second trial. Ray officially joined our herd in May of 2022, he is earnest, brave, gentle, eager to please and incredibly patient. He is enjoying his work and the slower pace of life at Pegasus and our participants love him.



HONDO:

A 25-year-old 15.2-hand Thoroughbred gelding came to Pegasus through the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation, and we couldn't be luckier to have him as a member of our herd. The Hondo we know is so mellow and sweet you might not be able to guess that he spent the first part of his life as a racehorse! Hondo's willingness to help, bravery and honesty makes him a natural fit for our programs and an especially good fit when working with our Veteran and First Line participants. Hondo's personality has made him an invaluable part of our programs.



JACKPOT:

JP for short, is a 15-year-old, bay, 16 hand, Warmblood gelding and former competitive show jumper. Don't let his impressive stature fool you, from the moment he walked off the trailer, Jackpot has showed us nothing but sweetness and snuggles. Being very calm, steady, affectionate, social, and trustworthy, he has the perfect temperament to be a therapy horse. JP has done great work in Therapeutic Riding, Therapeutic Horsemanship and our Veterans and First Responders programs. Jackpot has taken to his training as if he has been working with us for years. He really seems to be born for this job!





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