



NEW HOPE
EQUINE ASSISTED THERAPY

FY 2024 - 2025
**IMPACT
REPORT**

A LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDERS

Dear New Hope Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on this past year, we are filled with deep gratitude for the community of supporters that continue to make our mission possible. What began in 2012 as a simple belief—that the bond between horse and human can change lives—has grown into a thriving center of healing, joy, and connection. Every day, we see the transformative power of therapeutic riding in motion: children finding their balance and confidence, veterans rediscovering trust and strength, and families sharing moments of hope they once thought were out of reach.

This past year we had 50+ riders a week, supported by our dedicated herd of therapy horses and an extraordinary team of instructors, staff, board members and volunteers. Each session reminds us that progress comes in many forms—a first independent trot, a smile after a difficult week, a calm breath taken in rhythm with a horse's gentle stride.

Every contribution—of time, talent, or treasure—helps us extend our reach to more individuals who can benefit from the healing connection horses offer. We're amazed that **volunteers logged over 3000 hours** of selfless assistance this past year bringing the healing magic of equine therapy to those we serve at New Hope. And thanks to your generous financial support, we've been able to add 2 instructors, a new program called "Hangin' with Horses" and we took 32 riders to compete in the Chisholm Challenge horse show for disabled individuals.

As we look ahead, our vision remains steady: to continue growing a place where courage is cultivated, barriers are broken, and healing and happiness happens. The journey is ongoing, and it is only possible because of you—our supporters, volunteers, and friends—who believe in this mission as deeply as we do.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for riding this path with us. **Together, we are changing lives, one ride at a time.**

With heartfelt gratitude,

Dave and Sharla Kershner
Founders, New Hope Equine Assisted Therapy



Stories of Hope

Enjoy the stories of our friends and their New Hope

Participants in our Therapeutic Riding Program represent a wide range of diagnoses that fall into these categories, often with more than one diagnosis.



- Autism (50%)
- ADHD
- Generalized Anxiety Disorder
- Learning Disabilities
- Developmental Delay
- Brain Injuries
- Cerebral Palsy
- Depression
- Arthrogryposis
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder
- Auditory Processing Disorder
- Down Syndrome
- Epilepsy

Clayton first came to New Hope at just four years old, he was recovering from anemia, weak from hospital stays, and wary of touch with very little energy. Living with autism and being non-speaking, the world often dismissed him, but with the patient encouragement of the staff and the gentle presence of his favorite horse, Cy, Clayton found confidence and joy. Today, he runs down the hill to the barn, helmet in hand, eager to greet his friends. For Clayton, **New Hope gives him a safe space to be himself.** It truly lives up to its name.

Diagnosed with MS in 2005 and later paralyzed from the nose down in 2010, proud Air Force veteran **Tonya** was forced into medical retirement and found herself lost in despair. But **light broke through at New Hope** in the form of a one-eyed horse named Cyclops. "He won my heart in seconds," Tonya recalls. From that moment, Tonya began a remarkable journey, regaining mobility to the point of using a walker and ultimately achieving the incredible milestone of returning to horseback. Through determination and hard work, she has rebuilt her core muscle strength and now stands four inches taller than when she first arrived at New Hope.



Virginia's mother was seeking a less clinical environment for her daughter in her battle against anxiety and depression when she found New Hope. Virginia was not one for the outdoors or hot weather, but in August 2024, she met the horses of New Hope and, within a few minutes, couldn't wait to come back to ride when the weather cooled. **A year later, she has blossomed. She has gained confidence, resilience, and strength, both emotional and physical.** Virginia is now a high school freshman thriving in her classes, making lots of new friends, and is passionately engaged in theater tech.

According to his mother, New Hope has been life changing for **Darren**. He had a stroke in utero that resulted in many physical and cognitive challenges. As a youth, he didn't feel like he had anything to be proud of to share with his extended family. **His whole attitude changed after starting a New Hope.** He loves the attention he receives at New Hope from the staff and volunteers. Darren has developed such tremendous confidence in riding his horse. He looks forward to his lessons and enjoys participating in Chisholm Challenge every January.



"Quite simply, New Hope played a key role in saving my daughter's life." - New Hope Parent

Key Numbers

September 2024 - August 2025



50+
WEEKLY RIDERS

3,098

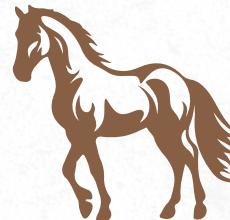
TOTAL VOLUNTEERED HOURS
(BY 64 VOLUNTEERS)



Staffing

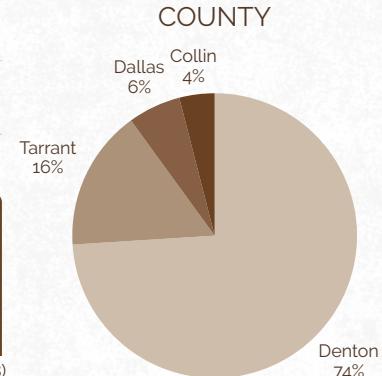
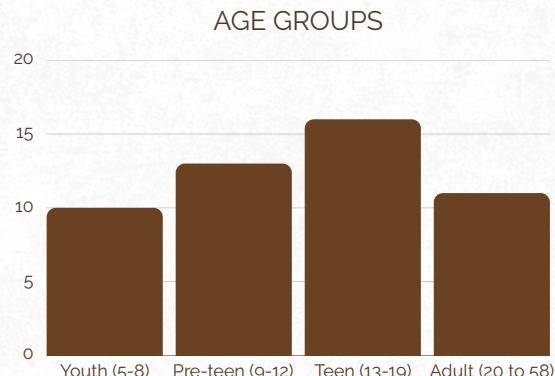
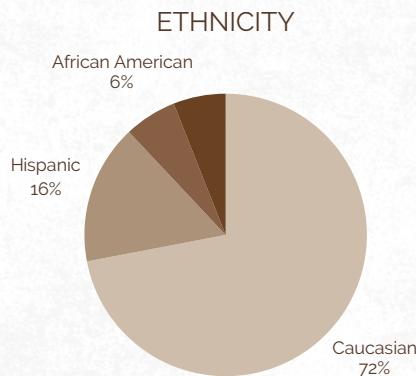
- Founder and Director/PATH Certified
- 3 PATH Certified Instructors
- 2 Riding Instructors (working on certification)
- Equine Care Manager
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Development Director

1,950 BALES OF HAY
370 BAGS OF GRAIN
220 HORSESHOES



9
EQUINE FRIENDS

PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS BY ETHNICITY, AGE & COUNTY



GOOGLE REVIEWS (38 REVIEWS)

4.9/5

Rated 2025 **Best Equestrian Facility** in Argyle by
Business Rate based on Google Review

The **full cost to care for one horse** for
one year is over **\$6,000** including hay,
grain, supplements, medications,
veterinary care, farrier services, routine
exercise and daily care.



Revenue & Expense

September 2024 - August 2025



Total Revenue

\$417,654



Total Expense

\$372,545

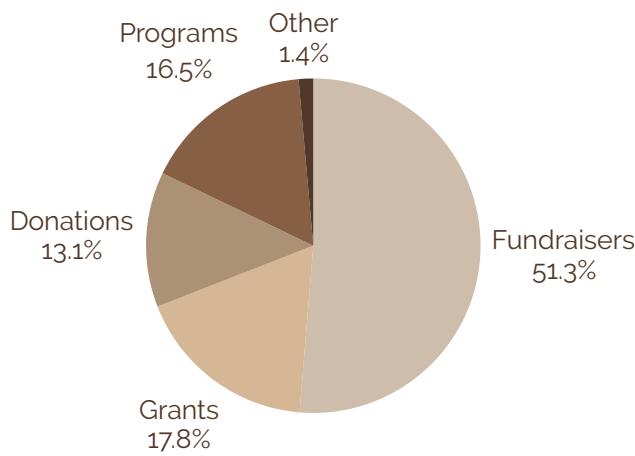
Revenue Breakdown

Fundraisers
\$214,287

Donations
\$54,540

Grants
\$74,200

Programs
\$68,745

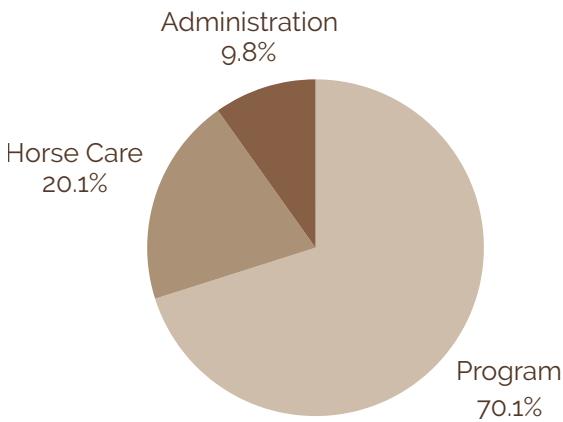


Expense Breakdown

Program
\$261,153

Administration
\$36,679

Horse Care
\$74,713



Fiscal Year Totals

FY	2019	2020	2021	2022*	2023	2024
Revenue	\$186,336	\$197,022	\$197,966	\$328,729	\$315,453	\$427,654
Expense	\$205,600	\$188,557	\$224,612	\$335,643	\$350,377	\$372,545

*First year to host Hope Gala



Board Members

From Our Board

Our board members come from a wide variety of experience and talents. In addition to Dave and Sharla Kershen, we have the following board members leading New Hope into the future.



Chairman

Neal Bondy, President of Optima Training & Consulting Group in Dallas, began his career in the US Air Force. He earned an MBA in Organizational Behavior from SMU, worked in HR at ARCO, and taught in the University of Dallas MBA program. In 1997, he was elected Chairman of the Human Resource Society (SHRM). He later retired as Regional Director at Johnson & Johnson Consulting. An expert in leadership and executive team development, Neal joined the Board of New Hope in 2022.



Board Member

Christine Cioffe advises companies in sustainability, specialty industrials, agriculture, and bio-pharma, and serves on boards of private firms in industrials/ agriculture/ nutrition, plus non-profits in sustainability and education. She previously led major R&D groups at PepsiCo and Merck, driving innovation, productivity, and governance. A lifelong learning advocate, Chris mentors and coaches across all career stages.



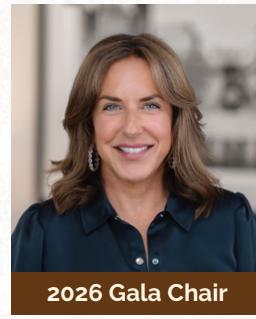
Communications Chair and Secretary

Kathleen Beisly retired from IBM where she led the North America Industries Digital Marketing Team. She is drawn to help those with special needs because of her family connections as well as her experience volunteering for years with the National MS Society. She lends her business expertise with website management, communications and digital promotions. Kathleen also serves as the Board Secretary.



Veteran's Chair

Bart Lesniewicz, a retired U.S. Marine with 20 years of honorable service, served as both Enlisted and later an Officer, retiring in 2016 in Fort Worth. His career included infantry, recruiting, and strategic planning. He served in combat in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, and Africa. Since retirement, he's worked as a Safety Director and Chief Deputy County Clerk. Bart and his wife Laura live in Fort Worth with their family. Bart also serves on the board of Cowtown Warriors.



2026 Gala Chair

Kimberly Rogers is a passionate advocate for the healing power of horses, having personally experienced the life-changing benefits of equine therapy. Her love for horses, coupled with a deep commitment to volunteering, makes her a natural fit for our organization. Kimberly works at Gold Mountain Gallery in Fort Worth and at Spenser Wayne Interiors in Dallas. Kimberly is a long-time supporter of New Hope, joining the board in 2025. She and looks forward to serving as our Gala Chair for 2026.



Gala Auction Committee

Denise Bruzzone has a passion for New Hope that comes from witnessing her teenage daughter's miraculous recovery from a battle with severe depression and anxiety, due in no small part to working with the people and horses of New Hope. A seasoned sales professional, she has close to 30 years in luxury hospitality, building and leading global hotel teams to deliver results. She is currently Director of Strategy and Business Development for Hidden Doorways, a global luxury representation and consulting firm.



Treasurer

Aaron Sturman is a Senior Director with Greystar Real Estate Partners in Dallas, Texas, where his responsibilities include all revenue and financial reporting for Greystar's Advantage Solutions group. Prior to joining Greystar in 2010, Mr. Sturman spent two years with Goldman Sachs Specialty Lending Group, managing a portfolio of asset-backed lending facilities, and 15 years with Wells Fargo. Aaron earned his BBA with a double major in Finance and Marketing from the University of Texas at Austin



Board Member

Danielle White, Medical Laboratory Scientist and healthcare advocate, is dedicated to workforce development and expanding access to training. She is the Founder and President of Metro Health Institute and the CEO of Metro Health Staffing. She has led initiatives in education, staffing, and scholarships, helping countless individuals build healthcare careers. A mentor and philanthropist, Danielle brings leadership expertise to New Hope Equine Therapy's Board. Danielle served as our 2025 Hope Gala Chair.

Vision and Key Partners

Vision

Our long term vision is to grow our program to serve more people with special needs. Roughly 12% of people in Texas have some type of disability while Texas ranks low in services for people with physical and mental health challenges. We strive to address the growing demand for services like ours.

Key Event Sponsors



Long Term Goals

Goal 1: Financial Growth to Sustainability

- Increase corporate partnerships (currently partnering with Minteer Real Estate, Texas Air Systems, Hilti, Highland Homes, Humphrey and Associates)
- Establish an endowment fund
- Double monthly donors

Goal 2: Increase Volunteers

- Increase Volunteer Base to help reduce rider waitlist
- Improve volunteer retention

Goal 3: Acquire Land

- Acquire land (purchase or lease) to allow for growth by expanding facilities in order to support a larger ridership base.





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