

2016 Annual Report

Bringing the **JOY** of Horses to Those in Need



208.365.0671

www.RideforJoy.org

December 2016

Our Mission

Ride for Joy is a therapeutic riding program. Our mission is continuing to be the Treasure Valley's premier center of excellence for equine-assisted activities for individuals with special needs. We also provide the same professional and compassionate equine therapy for our military veterans and active-duty personnel. We embrace and celebrate our students, families, staff, volunteers, donors, and the community as our partners in achieving this mission.

Our Staff

Marybeth Conger — Executive Director

Heather Miner — Program Manager and PATH International Instructor-In-Training

Bridgett Lacey — Equine Manager

Jonni Smith — Equine Assistant

Christi King — Head PATH International Certified Instructor and Fundraising Marketing Director

Sandy James-Sherman — Mentor PATH International Certified Instructor

Lauren Hull — Volunteer Manager, Office Assistant, and PATH International Instructor-In-Training

Quick Facts

- Seven board members
- Two PATH International certified instructors
- Two camps
- Seven staff
- Two PATH International instructors-in-training
- One field trip
- Over 200 active volunteers
- Eight volunteer trainings
- Five fundraisers
- Four horses
- One open house
- Six outreach events
- Over 85 active students
- Over 550 of Equine Assisted Activities
- One PATH Intl Certified Mentor
- Countless miraculous moments

Ride for Joy Continues On the Right Path in 2016

BY MARYBETH CONGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND HEATHER MINER, PROGRAM MANAGER



2016 has been a year of changes and exciting opportunities, all of which will continue to propel us forward on the right path.

After 11 years of absolutely outstanding service to Ride for Joy's students, staff, and volunteers, Teri Argo resigned from her roles as program manager and head instructor. This loss led to the reorganization of those responsibilities, creating the role of head instructor, held by the skilled Christi King, and the hiring of our new program manager, Heather Miner. We've also added the position of equine assistant, filled by the multitalented Jonni Smith, who works closely with our equine manager, Bridgett Lacey. Another exciting staff promotion was Lauren Hull, who has moved into the challenging position of volunteer manager.

This year, both Heather and Lauren have been accepted by PATH International (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship) as certified instructors-in-training. They plan to complete certification in 2017, which will bring our instructor number up to four. Sandy James-Sherman, a registered instructor, is now also a certified mentor, using her vast experience to assist instructors-in-training in completing certification. This level of dedication and professionalism reflects Ride for Joy's commitment to excellence, while supporting the growth and development of our highly talented staff.

Pediatric sessions continued on their positive course throughout the year. Five new riders were moved from the wait list to active riders and were a joyful addition to the year's festivities. Additionally, several new riders began the veterans program in the spring, and two have already conveyed a desire to volunteer as well as ride.

The season saw RFJ collaborate with an outside organization to host our first camp for veterans. This netted us a rider who just completed Introduction to Horsemanship and is a potential veteran volunteer. In the future, the program may see a largely veteran volunteer force supporting our veteran riders.

Through the challenges and triumphs of organizational partnership, a vision was cast for Ride for Joy to create our own veteran camp experience, which is to be called Ruck Up & Rebuild, or R&R. Though still in the early stages

of planning, this camp promises to be an exciting venture for RFJ, our veterans, and many community-based partners, with a plan to grow this into a large yearly event.

The annual All Abilities Camp was a hit once again, even with all of the staff transitions. The highlight of the event was the water fight at camp's end, in which all 11 participants were seen laughing and playing, regardless of ability or challenge.

Our veterans program experienced an exciting milestone. Two of our riders completed the entirety of the veterans curriculum, two years' worth, culminating in a trail ride and posting the colors at the Harvest Party. Though the curriculum is complete, the riders' involvement in the program is far from over, and they will continue to improve upon their skills.

Tradition holds that we finish our season with the annual Harvest Party, which was a great success. Eight riders from both the pediatric and veterans programs showcased their new abilities to an appreciative crowd, who dined on fancy fare prepared by Brian Johnson, RFJ chairman of the board.

Perhaps the most exciting — and stressful — part of our year was finally completing the accreditation visit by PATH, which happened on October 19. Staff and volunteers spent many hours, in addition to regular duties, to prepare for this visit, which was a fantastic success. We are supremely proud to announce that Ride for Joy is now a PATH Premier Accredited Center. This is an outstanding accomplishment for RFJ and was a team effort by all.

Through the many changes of this year, Ride for Joy was able to grow and improve, with plans for more growth in 2017. These plans include enhanced overall health and conditioning in our herd through the added equine dedicated hours, which also positions us to grow the herd in the coming year. An adult track will hopefully be added to our current programming, which will be supported by the increased instructor staff. The growth of community collaborations and dreams of a mental health track will be pursued as well. The future of RFJ is bright as we continue on the right path.

PATH INTERNATIONAL

Ride for Joy is now a Premier Accredited Center of the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International, or PATH.

PATH is a nonprofit organization that advocates equine-assisted activities and therapies for individuals with special needs or mental illness. Being a PATH Premier Accredited Center is a huge honor achieved by only about 30 percent of the 877 centers worldwide. This makes Ride for Joy one of only three Premier Accredited Centers in Idaho! Accreditation means that we have met the highest level of standards for excellence and safety in providing optimal outcomes for our riders.

Thanks to all of the staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly to achieve this amazing success.



THE 2016 IDAHO NONPROFIT EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Idaho Nonprofit Center, or INC, hosted the 2016 Idaho Nonprofit Excellence Awards on September 22 at Boise State University. The awards spotlight the thousands of nonprofit organizations across Idaho that make a difference every day.

Ride for Joy is honored to be the recipient of the small region finalist winner award.



The INC represents the interests of Idaho's over 5,500 registered charitable nonprofit organizations and serves as a broker of information and a bridge between the nonprofit, for-profit, and government sectors. They are an association of forward-looking nonprofit leaders who come together to share knowledge, solve problems, pursue common interests, and serve the public good.

Thank You, 2016 Donors!

\$50,000 and Up

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\$10,000 - \$49,999

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Ride for Joy Profit and Loss

September 2015 - August 2016

Income

Direct public support:	\$34,799
Donated goods and services revenue:	\$800
Revenue from nongovernment grants:	\$72,272
Revenue from program-related sales:	\$5,010
Revenue from investments:	\$29
Revenue from other sources:	\$189
SPECIAL events income:	\$23,918
TOTAL INCOME:	\$137,017
NET INCOME:	\$3,681

Expenses

Salaries and related expense:	\$91,664
Professional services:	\$7,797
Administrative expenses:	\$6,831
Facilities and equipment:	\$18,814
Travel and meetings expenses:	\$1,060
Other expenses:	\$3,473
Depreciation:	\$3,219
Business expenses:	\$478
TOTAL EXPENSE:	\$133,336



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SOUAW BUTTE BCH
PO BOX 293
EMMETT ID 83617-0293



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TESTIMONIALS

"My son is 37 and autistic. Although he has been on horse rides before, never has he been taught to ride — to start, stop, turn, trot, stand up, ride over objects, and back up. He has been taught all of these things since starting the program eight months ago. Each lesson is different, yet it builds on the foundation of the previous lesson. At home, I train staff for many weeks. At Ride for Joy, I give the instructors one guideline, and they know exactly how to give my son a safe, successful, educational, and enjoyable riding experience. No matter what kind of day my son is having, he is always ready to go to Ride for Joy. If he is reluctant to do something on a Ride for Joy day, all I have to do is say, "Do this so we can go to Ride for Joy," and pow! It gets done. Ride for Joy is the highlight of our week. The Ride for Joy lessons provide my son a time to connect and learn — and experience thrill and freedom. I cannot recommend it highly enough."

- Dad

"Ride for Joy has really been the door that has opened up to me pursuing other activities as well. I started going to a swimming aerobics class and have joined a veterans hiking group. I have gone cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, and this summer, I have spent time kayaking on the Payette and Salmon rivers. None of this would have been possible if not for Ride for Joy. They gave me the boost that I needed to get out there and join activities to help myself. The dedication and caring of the Ride for Joy staff, the many volunteers, and the sponsors made it possible for veterans and disabled children to participate in the program. I can't thank them enough, because they have changed my life for the better."

- Veteran

