

# Victory Riding Academy

## 2023 Annual Report

**Empowering Lives Through Equine-Facilitated Learning and Horsemanship**

### Executive Summary

In 2023, Victory Riding Academy experienced a year of both significant growth and critical investment in our future. With the support of our donors and community partners, we not only expanded our programs but also overcame major infrastructure challenges that ensure long-term sustainability and accessibility.

#### **Your support made it possible to:**

- Serve **75+ individuals** directly through equine-assisted programs
- Expand services to Veterans, first responders, families, and individuals with special needs
- Launch and grow partnerships with Veteran support organizations
- Complete essential facility improvements to meet city compliance and ensure participant safety

A defining moment in 2023 was the successful completion of a major facility improvement project. Faced with city compliance requirements, we mobilized a targeted fundraising effort that resulted in the construction of a new driveway and parking lot, directly improving safety, accessibility, and the long-term viability of our programs.

While this investment required a significant portion of our resources, it was a necessary step to protect and sustain the mission. Because of donor support, we were able to meet this challenge without compromising the quality of care we provide.

As demand for our programs continues to grow, your ongoing investment is essential to expanding access, increasing capacity, and ensuring that every individual who needs our services has the opportunity to benefit.

Together, we are building more than programs, we are creating a foundation for lasting impact in the lives of those we serve.

# Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Community Partners,

Because of your support, 2023 was a year of both resilience and progress at Victory Riding Academy. Your generosity allowed us to continue improving the quality of life for those we serve while navigating and overcoming significant challenges.

Throughout the year, we witnessed the powerful impact of Equine-Assisted Learning (EAL) on Veterans, first responders, their families, and individuals with special needs. Through their connection with horses, participants gained confidence, developed resilience, and found renewed hope.

This work is made possible by you, our donors, volunteers, and partners. Your investment ensures that individuals who need these services can access them in a safe, supportive environment.

In 2023, we faced an important turning point when new city requirements required immediate infrastructure improvements. Thanks to your generosity, we successfully completed a major facility upgrade, including a new driveway and parking lot. This investment not only ensured compliance but also created a safer, more accessible space for every individual we serve.

Looking ahead, the need for our services continues to grow. With your continued partnership, we are prepared to expand our reach and deepen our impact, serving more individuals who are seeking healing, growth, and connection.

Thank you for believing in our mission and for standing with us through both challenges and successes.

Sincerely,

**Tony Barnes**  
Executive Director  
Victory Riding Academy

# About Us

## Mission Statement

Victory Riding Academy improves quality of life through equine-facilitated activities. We empower individuals to overcome life's challenges while educating the community through horsemanship, skill development, and confidence-building experiences.

## Our Services

We provide handcrafted programs designed to meet diverse needs:

- **Equine-Assisted Learning (EAL) for Veterans and First Responders**  
Supporting emotional, mental, and physical well-being through structured interaction with horses.
- **Family Programs**  
Strengthening relationships through shared experiences.
- **Special Needs Programs**  
Enhancing social skills, emotional regulation, and confidence.
- **Horsemanship Classes**  
Delivering education in safety, skill development, and human-horse connection.

## Our Impact in 2023

### Participants Served

- Veterans and First Responders: **63**
- Families: **7**
- Individuals with Special Needs: **5**

### Key Achievements

- **Program Growth:** Expanded reach to new individuals and communities.
- **Expanded Horsemanship Training:** Increased participation and skill development.
- **New Partnerships:** Strengthened collaboration with Veteran support organizations.

## Success Stories

“Working with the horses has given me a sense of peace I’ve been missing since returning from service. The trust and calm I build with them helps me feel grounded again.”

“Through this program, we’ve learned how to communicate better, work together, and feel more connected. The horses have been our teachers in patience and empathy.”

“The growth in my child’s confidence has been incredible. She is now more open, calm, and engaged in social situations.”

# Financial Overview

- **Total Revenue:** \$345,763.00
- **Total Expenses:** \$164,074.00

## Revenue Breakdown

- Donations: \$205,443.00
- Grants: \$6,099.00
- Program Revenue: \$23,890.00
- Fundraising Events: \$110,330.00

## Use of Funds

- **45%** invested directly into program services
- **55%** invested in critical facility improvements

The infrastructure investment in 2023 was essential to maintaining compliance, ensuring safety, and protecting the long-term sustainability of our programs. Because of donor support, these improvements were completed without disrupting services.

## Looking Ahead: 2024 Goals

As we move forward, our priorities include:

- **Expanding Reach:** Increase participation by 20% through outreach and partnerships
- **Enhancing Education:** Introduce new leadership and skills-based workshops
- **Deepening Impact:** Expand therapeutic approaches for individuals with special needs
- **Ensuring Sustainability:** Strengthen funding through donor engagement and partnerships

## Invest in the Mission

Your support is critical to sustaining and expanding our impact.

- **Give:** Help remove financial barriers and expand access to programs
- **Partner:** Align your organization with meaningful community impact
- **Volunteer:** Support participants and program delivery
- **Advocate:** Help us reach more individuals in need

Learn more or contribute at [www.victoryride.org](http://www.victoryride.org) or contact [info@victoryride.org](mailto:info@victoryride.org).

## **Acknowledgments**

We extend our sincere gratitude to the donors, volunteers, staff, and partners who made this year possible. Your generosity drives our mission forward.

## **Conclusion**

Thank you for being part of the Victory Riding Academy community. Together, we are creating opportunities for healing, growth, and lasting change.

With appreciation,

**Tony Barnes**  
Executive Director  
Victory Riding Academy

## **Contact Us**

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[www.victoryride.org](http://www.victoryride.org)