

# Victory Riding Academy

## 2024 Annual Report

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

### Executive Summary

In 2024, Victory Riding Academy delivered life-changing impact through equine-assisted programs that support Veterans, first responders, families, and individuals with special needs. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and partners, we expanded access to critical services, strengthened our programs, and invested in the people who make this work possible.

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

- Serve over **300 individuals and families** through equine-assisted programs
- Expand outreach to Veterans and first responders facing real-life reintegration challenges
- Invest in advanced training and certifications for our volunteer team
- Ensure that **85% of all funding directly supported program services**

While demand for our services continues to grow, financial barriers remain one of the greatest challenges for those we serve. Your continued support allows us to provide access, expand our reach, and ensure that every individual, regardless of circumstance, has the opportunity to experience healing, growth, and connection.

Together, we are not just running programs, we are restoring confidence, rebuilding lives, and creating lasting change in our community.

# Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Community Partners,

Because of your support, 2024 was a year of meaningful growth and measurable impact at Victory Riding Academy. Your investment in our mission directly enabled us to expand access to our programs and deepen the quality of care we provide.

As we reflect on 2024, we are deeply inspired by the progress and impact achieved at Victory Riding Academy. This year marked meaningful growth, not only in the number of individuals we served, but also in the strength of our programs and the development of our dedicated volunteer team.

Our mission remains clear: to improve quality of life through Equine-Assisted Learning (EAL), empowering individuals to persevere, overcome challenges, and move forward with confidence and hope.

Throughout the year, we proudly served Veterans, first responders, their families, and individuals with special needs. Through the powerful connection between humans and horses, participants developed critical life skills including communication, leadership, emotional regulation, problem-solving, and teamwork.

This impact is only possible because of you, our donors, volunteers, and partners. Your generosity fuels every session, supports every participant, and ensures that individuals who need these services can access them regardless of financial limitations. We are equally grateful to those who courageously participate in our programs and entrust us with their personal growth journeys.

In 2024, we made a strategic investment in volunteer development. Three team members advanced their professional training through Equine-Assisted Learning coursework and are actively pursuing PATH International certifications. Additionally, three volunteers achieved HorseWork Certification, successfully completing all practicum requirements. These accomplishments strengthen our capacity to deliver safe, consistent, and high-quality programming.

Looking ahead, the need for our services continues to grow. With your continued partnership, we are positioned to expand our reach, strengthen our programs, and serve even more individuals who are seeking hope, healing, and personal growth, one horse, one session, and one life at a time.

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, meaningful 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 2024

### Participants Served

- Veterans and First Responders: **87**
- Families: **19**
- Individuals with Special Needs: **5**

### Additional Program Reach

- Veterans, First Responders, and Families: **215**
- General Public Families: **15**

### Key Achievements

- **Program Growth:** Expanded participation, reaching more individuals and communities.
- **Expanded Horsemanship Training:** Increased enrollment and skill development opportunities.
- **Stronger Partnerships:** Built new relationships with Veteran support organizations.
- **Staff Development:** Continued certification progress, enhancing program quality and consistency.

## 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.”

“My daughter has grown tremendously, not just in riding, but as a person. Victory Riding Academy has helped build her confidence, knowledge, and personal development.”

“The team at Victory Riding Academy is exceptional, compassionate, knowledgeable, and fully committed to individual growth. Their approach is truly one-of-a-kind.”

## Financial Overview

- **Total Revenue:** \$179,808.87
- **Total Expenses:** \$159,357.48

## Use of Funds

- **85%** invested directly into program services
- **15%** allocated to facility improvements and infrastructure

These investments ensure the continued delivery of safe, impactful, and high-quality programs.

## Looking Ahead: 2025 Goals

As we build on this year’s momentum, our focus for 2025 includes:

- **Expanding Reach:** Increase participation by 40% through targeted outreach and partnerships.
- **Enhancing Education:** Introduce new workshops focused on leadership, teamwork, and stress management.
- **Deepening Impact:** Expand therapeutic approaches for individuals with special needs.
- **Ensuring Sustainability:** Strengthen long-term funding through grants, partnerships, and donor support.

## Invest in the Mission

Your support is essential to sustaining and expanding our impact. Every contribution directly supports individuals and families who rely on our programs for growth, healing, and connection.

- **Give:** Your donation helps remove financial barriers and ensures access to life-changing programs
- **Partner:** Align your organization with a mission that delivers measurable community impact
- **Volunteer:** Contribute your time and skills to directly support participants and programs
- **Advocate:** Share our story and help us reach those who need us most

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

# Get Involved

You can help us continue making a difference:

- **Donate:** Support program growth and accessibility
- **Volunteer:** Contribute your time and skills
- **Advocate:** Share our mission and impact

Learn more 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 make our work possible. Your support drives our mission forward.

## Conclusion

Thank you for being part of the Victory Riding Academy community. The connection between horses and humans continues to inspire healing, growth, and transformation. Together, we will continue empowering individuals to overcome challenges and create meaningful change.

With appreciation,

**Tony Barnes**  
Executive Director  
Victory Riding Academy