



# NORTHERN VIRGINIA THERAPEUTIC RIDING PROGRAM



*MVLE rider on Chukker sharing a laugh with volunteers.  
Photograph by Sydney Sawyer.*

2017  
ANNUAL REPORT

ride to thrive





*Military rider Wade, working Lizzie in the round pen. Photograph by Lynda Meier.*

***Lessons military riders have gained that they will take into their daily lives include:***

"It's ok to smile. Not everyone that touches you wants to harm you."

"People and horses are supportive."

"If I can ride a horse anything is possible."

"I am in charge."

"You can find peace in any situation."

"Take control of the situation whenever needed; you are in charge of your destiny."

"Stay calm and everything around you will calm down to a reasonable state."



*NVTRP rider McKenna, riding Loki, with volunteers Link, Peter, and Christine. Photograph by Sydney Sawyer.*

Watching McKenna ride, you would never imagine the daily challenges she faces. McKenna, age 6, has FOXG1 Syndrome, an extremely rare brain development disorder that impacts only 300 people in the world. She cannot talk or walk independently and has trouble using her hands. But her personality speaks volumes.

"There's an absolute sweetness and innocence about her," shares Peter Colón, an NVTRP volunteer. "Even if I've had one of my worst days, I come see McKenna and immediately, she rights my world. Her smile is absolutely contagious."

McKenna has succeeded on many levels since she started riding at NVTRP a year ago! Outside of riding, she is now strong enough to transition to a sitting position on her own, crawl, and knee walk, allowing her greater freedom of movement and opportunities to explore her environment.

# NVTRP AT A GLANCE



14 program horses  
1,719 bales of hay  
121 farrier visits

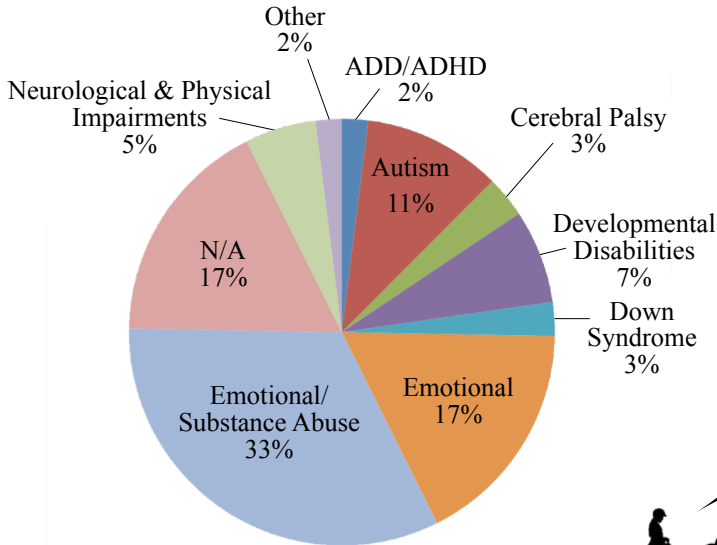


487 lesson/barn volunteers  
309 workday volunteers  
23,739 donated volunteer hours



14 staff members  
4 full-time staff  
8 instructors

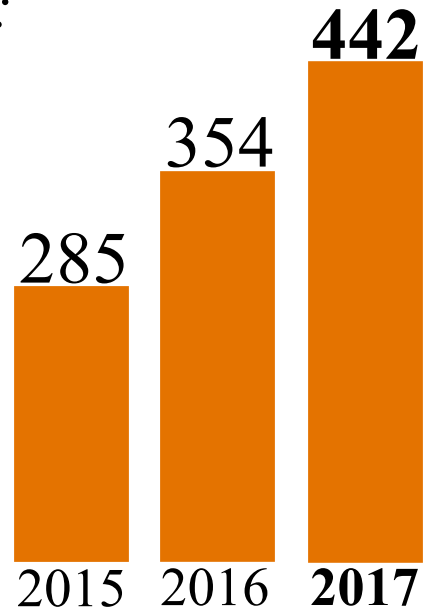
## Individuals Served in 2017:



3,918  
units of service

95% of riders reported improved mental well-being

93% of riders reported improved physical well-being



## 2017 OPERATING INCOME

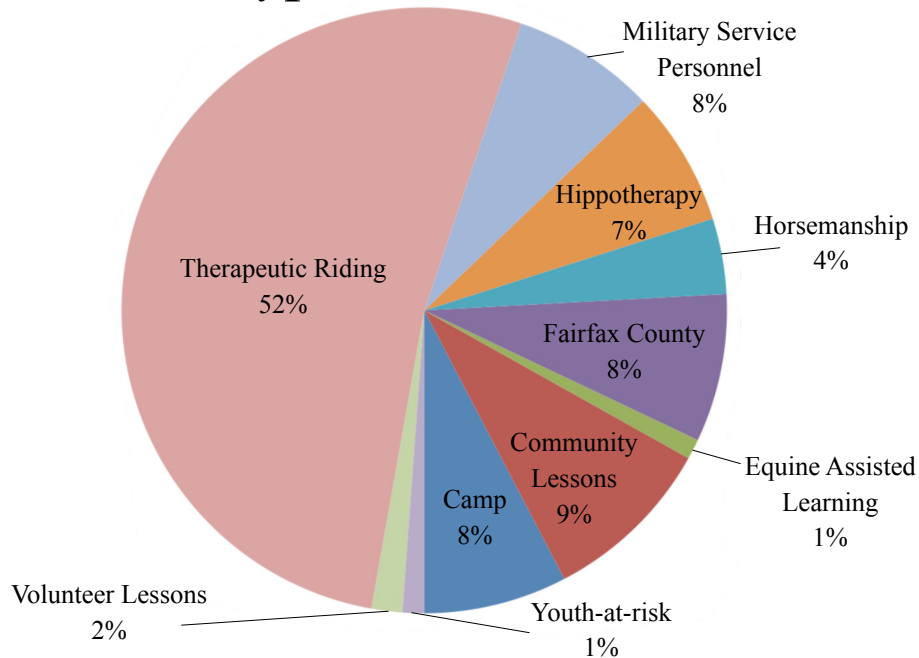
|                            |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Donations and Fundraising: | \$347,281        |
| Program Revenue:           | \$229,965        |
| Grants:                    | \$110,700        |
| Other:                     | \$47,257         |
| <b>Total Income:</b>       | <b>\$735,203</b> |

## 2017 OPERATING EXPENSES

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Horse Care:            | \$71,368         |
| Mortgage and Upkeep:   | \$121,059        |
| Salaries and Wages:    | \$285,364        |
| Other:                 | \$179,218        |
| <b>Total Expenses:</b> | <b>\$657,009</b> |

**Total Net Operating Income: \$78,194**

## Types of Service:



## Good News in 2017:

- ♥ Recipient of the 2017 Fairfax County Clean Water Farm Award
- ♥ Happy, named PATH Intl. Region 3 Equine of the Year
- ♥ Board voted to break ground on Phase 1 of Build to Thrive Construction Project

Detailed financial information is available at [www.nvtrp.org/about-us/financials/](http://www.nvtrp.org/about-us/financials/) or upon request from the VA Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Preliminary financial results. Audited financial information will be available in late summer.



**2017 Donor Roll of Honor**  
Includes Donors to Capital Campaign  
and Program Operations

**\$500,000+**

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Gifts donated in memory of Jean Bertoni, Austin Burdick, Kristina Lutz, and Joe Ann Scott.

We apologize in advance for any errors. To make corrections, please contact Kayla at kelias@nvtrp.org

NVTRP rider Ben, with Pierre, at the 2017 Ride to Thrive Polo Classic. Photograph by Patricia Howard.





On October 19, 2017 NVTRP hosted the second annual Deputy Day, where more than a dozen deputies from the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office joined forces with a group of at-risk youth from Second Story to take part in a series of

equine-assisted learning activities. Second Story participants taught the deputies horsemanship skills they learned during their six-week session at NVTRP, as part of their after-school program. Together, the groups completed team building exercises like co-leading a horse in a drill team pattern.

“These kids are subject to seeing violence, so we are so grateful for having a chance to be in this environment (at NVTRP) where they are close to nature, interacting with a beautiful horse and learning life lessons,” said Nandred Navarro, Director of Community Based Services at Second Story. “This new initiative is invaluable to teaching them to trust authority, a relationship that has been tarnished by recent (national) events.”

NVTRP piloted this program in 2016 in response to all of the conflict between law enforcement and ethnic minorities. The goal of the program was to help students build trust for authority by finding common ground and participating in shared activities. NVTRP's 2017 Deputy Day program was selected as a finalist for the 2018 Greater Washington Innovation Awards in the Community Impact category.

“This is a chance for [the children] to be empowered,” said Second Lieutenant Emily Fary. “You could see it in their faces; the smiles knowing they accomplished something. It warmed the hearts of the deputies to see that in them. It's definitely a good feeling to know that you touched a life in a positive way that maybe they have never experienced with law enforcement before.”



Fairfax County Sheriff's Office deputies joining forces with a group from Second Story during NVTRP's 2nd Annual Deputy Day. Photography by Sydney Sawyer.



Peaches, overseeing the construction of Phase I of the Build to Thrive Capital Campaign project. Peaches passed away in March 2018 at the age of 38.

### *2018 NVTRP Staff Members*

Kelsey Gallagher, Executive Director  
Wendy Baird, Development Director  
Nicole Bass, Instructor  
Christina Duffy, Equine and Facilities Manager  
Kayla Elias, Development Associate  
Clarice Gutman, Logistics Coordinator  
Tessa Hassett, Outreach Coordinator  
Sarah Maceyak, Instructor  
Nicole Martinez, Occupational Therapist  
Shelby Morrison, Volunteer Coordinator  
Sydney Sawyer, Physical Therapist  
Olivia Taylor, Program Director  
Katie Wanstrath, Office Manager

### *2018 NVTRP Board of Directors*

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Gary Cubbage, Vice Chair  
Kelly Harbitter, Treasurer  
Mitch Martin, Secretary  
Elizabeth Bille  
Alla Cline  
Louise Foreman  
Ann Marlow  
Debby Michelson  
Rita Norton  
Will Thomas  
John Tuthill

### *Organizations NVTRP partnered with or served in 2017*

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Second Story                             | Fairfax County Parktakes                               | Fairfax County Sheriff's Office          |
| Ft. Belvoir Residential Treatment Center | MVLE   | <b>Alternative Paths Training School</b> |
| Ft. Belvoir, 4 South                     | Virginia Korean American Disabled People's Association | <b>Washington School for Girls</b>       |
| Infant Toddler Connection                |  | * new partners are in bold               |



## **NORTHERN VIRGINIA THERAPEUTIC RIDING PROGRAM**

Mission: To provide equine-assisted activities for children and adults with disabilities, youth-at-risk, recovering military service personnel, and their families in an inclusive, community setting.

**6429 Clifton Road  
Clifton, VA 20124**

**[www.NVTRP.org](http://www.NVTRP.org)**