

Happy Trails Riding Academy

A publication of Happy Trails Riding Academy, a nonprofit organization of therapeutic horsemanship for people who have cognitive, physical or emotional disabilities.

Spring 2021

It's a Family Affair

With father/daughter Team Atilano, participating in classes at Happy Trails this session. Single dad Anthony is riding in the Equine Services for Heroes class Monday evening. He returns Tuesday with 8-year-old Kalliope who rides in Therapeutic Riding.

Kalliope Atilano is in 3rd grade at Lakeside Elementary School in Hanford, home of the 'Lakeside Leopards'. She and her younger brother, Ares, have enjoyed being back in the classroom since November.

Kalliope was born with a right hand not fully developed. Obviously not one to be slowed down, she enjoys several hobbies that keep her busy. They include shopping, although she will tell you she does not like flash or bling! She also likes school where she excels in math and reading. She was recently chosen (as the only girl) to participate in her school book club. They meet after school and

are currently reading The Titanic.

Her absolute favorite pastime is riding horses! Her face lights up as she talks about Ridge and how his hair falls off like fluffy snow when she grooms him. Kalliope recently accomplished riding bare back



Anthony & Emma

Roundup



Kalliope & Ridge

but says the western saddle makes her feel the most comfortable while on the horse.

When asked what she would like to be when she grows up, she enthusiastically replied, "I want to be an instructor at Happy Trails so I can be with the horses all the time!"

Having her father at Happy Trails to share their common experiences with the horse, tack and equipment has created a special bond between them.

Anthony Atilano has wanted to ride since a child. He believes horses to be magnificent animals and helpful to people with different types of emotions, including depression and anger.

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25th Annual Spring Event - "Day at the Races"

Saturday, May 1, 2021 NOON • Chance to WIN \$25,000 CASH

Annual Report 2020

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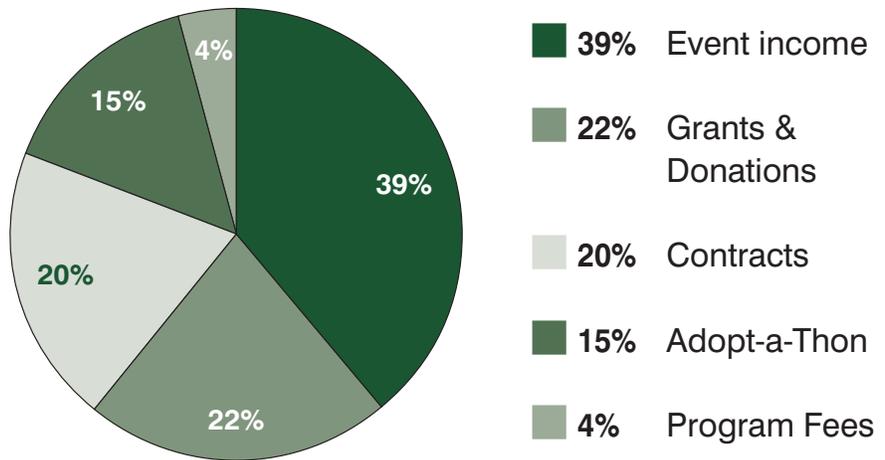
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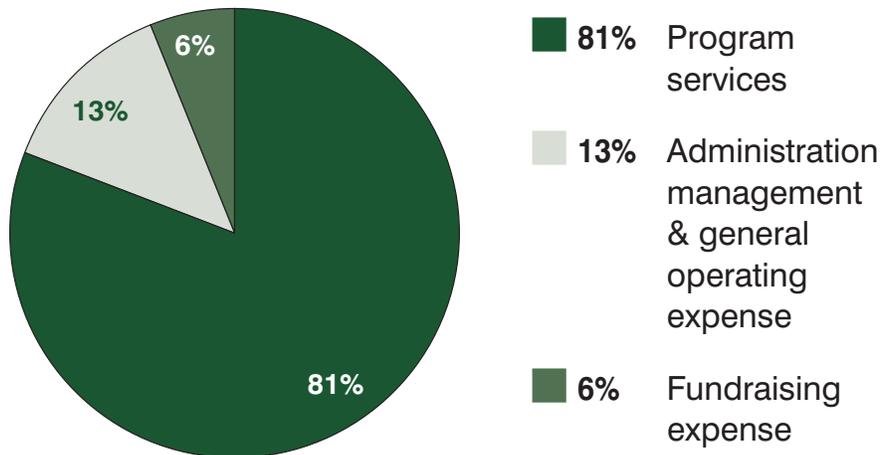
WHERE DOES OUR REVENUE COME FROM?

\$503,620 was generated in 2020.

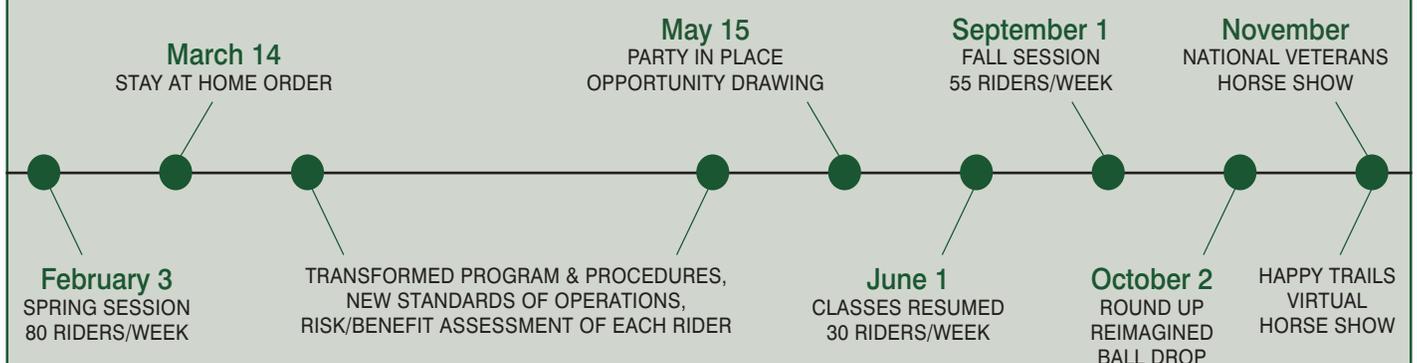


HOW WE DO WE USE OUR DOLLARS?

Happy Trails Riding Academy's annual budget is approved by the Board of Directors and is reviewed on a regular basis. They also approve all capital improvement plans, budgets and expenditures.



2020 Timeline



Join us...

For a NEW 2021 Spring fundraising event "Day at the Races" to be held on Saturday, May 1st. We will miss being together, but for the continued safety of our friends, families and staff we will host a virtual event. The format of the event will be a "Ball Drop" in our pasture with 5 fabulous prizes. The Fall event was such a huge success we are once again flying high with a "Ball Drop" at our facility.

What is a Ball Drop?

Numbered tennis balls will be dropped out of a helicopter on to the pasture at Happy Trails. Targets will be placed throughout the field. The tennis ball closest to the bullseye on each target is the WINNER. Only 500 tennis balls will be sold. Tune into Facebook Live to see who wins.

How does it work?

- 1 Fill out the stub on the enclosed ticket(s).
- 2 Send the \$100 ticket cost in the provided envelope with the stub to Happy Trails by April 23rd.
- 3 A number will be assigned to each ticket which corresponds with a number on a tennis ball.

A Family Affair continued...

As a history buff he's familiar with the role the horse has played in advancing civilization. Learning to ride would accomplish his desire to connect with this noble animal.

It was a friend's mother who volunteered at Happy Trails that shared the program with him. Originally, he was interested in finding classes that might help his daughter with her special needs. When he dropped off Kalliope's application he discovered the Equine Services for Heroes program for himself.

Anthony served in the U.S. Army as airborne infantry. His exceptional sharp shooting skills earned him the role of company sniper. He completed two tours in Iraq totaling 27 months with Operation Iraqi Freedom 4 & 7, was discharged in 2009 and served in the Army Reserve until 2012.

Since discharge from the service, PTSD began to affect his life negatively. His life was stalled with a job going nowhere. He was restless with no desire to finish school. Then he remembered his commanding officer's words, "the moment you stop moving is the moment you are dead." Although harsh, the message was clear.

Tune in to Facebook Live at 12 noon on May 1st to watch the "Ball Drop".

Want to be a Sponsor?

We are inviting sponsors to be our guests after the "Ball Drop" to a private Kentucky Derby Watch Party at our facility. This will give Happy Trails the opportunity to thank you for your continued dedication to our program. We will Live Stream the Kentucky Derby race on a large screen and celebrate the run for the roses with our famous leaved and unleaved lemonade...outdoors and socially distanced.

Prizes:

- Chance to win \$25,000 CASH
- Yamaha Zuma 125 Scooter
- FMK 9mm Pistol & Coach Purse
- Amethyst Pendent Necklace
- 10 - \$100 Gift Cards to Local Restaurants

Want additional tickets? No problem...Call the Happy Trails office at (559) 688-8685 or email leslie@wearehappytrails.com and we will get tickets to you. There is no limit on the amount of tickets you can purchase.

He needed to start living his life forward. He began to make checklists, and calling his counselor to work on a career plan. Anthony was recently hired by the Kings County Sheriff's Department and is looking forward to the future. He 'feels at peace' while at Happy Trails. "I leave Happy Trails feeling better every time I'm out here."



Anthony & Kalliope



*An investment from your heart...
Riding builds strong wills*

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Sign Up For Our E-Newsletter! Email info@wearehappytrails.com.
You can now follow Happy Trails on Twitter & Instagram @ HTRidingAcademy



Volunteer of the Year!

We are proud to announce Andre Gaston has been named PATH, International Region 11 Volunteer of the Year.

In 1994, Andre was asked to donate his time with legal advice to Happy Trails. Within a few months he was a trained volunteer, starting as a side-walker then to a leader. His true calling came as becoming a member of the Board of Directors. He has made a difference in the lives of children and adults in our community by insuring the financial viability of Happy Trails. It is estimated that Andre has volunteered over 15,000 hours of service over 27 years.

Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.), along with its dedicated members and volunteers, has been a pioneer in the field of Equine Assisted

Services, bringing the novel idea of therapeutic horseback riding to the United States from Europe in the middle of the twentieth century.

A group of 23 forward-thinking and passionate individuals soon recognized the need for an organization to act as a clearinghouse of information about therapeutic riding. From these beginnings, PATH Intl. has grown to thousands of members across the world and expanded upon therapeutic riding to include dozens of different equine-assisted activities that benefit people with special needs. Today PATH Intl. headquarters are located in Denver, Colorado with 11 Regions throughout the world. Region 11 consists of California, Hawaii, Nevada, Asia and Pacific.



Andre Gaston

Congratulations Andre!