

The Many Faces of R.O.C.K.

FACT SHEET

Mission: Improving independence and life skills, in partnership with the horse.

Vision: A dynamic leader in equine-assisted activities through service, research and higher learning.

Type of Organization: Non profit 501(c)3 organization, accredited by the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship

Nancy Krenek, a licensed physical therapist and horse lover, founded Ride On Center for Kids (R.O.C.K.) in 1998. Nancy wanted to bring a catalyst for change to individuals with disabilities. Realizing that “movement creates change,” she started with one horse and four clients. Nancy’s vision has grown to over 192 clients and their families, 27 horses, 24 staff and over 350 volunteers per week. R.O.C.K. sits on 20 acres of donated land and is housed in a \$1.5 million facility that was paid for entirely by donations and grants from the Central Texas community. R.O.C.K. is currently the largest provider of hippotherapy and therapeutic riding services in Central Texas, and is one of only 177 PATH (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship) Premier Accredited Centers in the United States.

Location: R.O.C.K. is located in beautiful Central Texas just 25 miles from downtown Austin and two miles off of I-35. R.O.C.K. operates in a 42,000 square foot facility that includes a therapy room and a covered arena.

Treats a variety of diagnoses including: Cerebral Palsy, Multiple Sclerosis, Developmental Delay, Traumatic Brain Injury, Autism, Learning and Language Disabilities, At Risk Youth

Outcomes of Equine Therapy: R.O.C.K. utilizes the horse-human partnership to improve the potential of individuals with disabilities and disadvantaged youth through increased independence and life skills. The unique three-dimensional movement of the horse, which cannot be simulated in a clinical setting, and the extraordinary horse-human bond provides an opportunity for growth and development that cannot be replicated in any other environment. Through the client’s interaction with the horse – whether from the ground or on its back – the client’s balance and coordination are improved, their core muscles develop, gross and fine motor skills improve, cognition and speech increase, social, emotional and behavioral functioning improve, and self esteem and confidence increase. As clients build strength, life skills, and independence, they become more productive citizens in the community. Clients’ improved functional skills benefit their families, neighborhoods and schools, as well as ease pressures on the medical, welfare, and justice systems, leading to a stronger workforce and healthier communities.

Primary funding sources: R.O.C.K. clients pay 40% of the cost per session; funds must be raised to cover the remaining 60%. No one is turned away for their inability to pay. For some families 40% is too much, so \$30,000 per year is awarded in scholarships. Horses for Heroes clients, who are injured soldiers from Iraq, Afghanistan, and other wars, are not asked to pay a fee; subsequently, 100% of their costs are covered through grants and other fundraising programs. The actual cost to ride for a student is about \$150 per hour, which does not factor in the countless volunteer hours.

Saturday March 24, 2012
www.rockride.org

Ride On Center for Kids
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