

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

The mission of SIRE is to provide a community where horses help people with disabilities and challenges to live their best life.





LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends:

What an incredible year it has been! I've been involved with SIRE since early 2011 when my daughter began riding at SIRE. For the last year, I've had the honor of serving as the SIRE Board President. Our mission at SIRE is to create a community where horses help people with disabilities and challenges live their best lives. While I have seen first hand the success of the Equine-Assisted Learning programs through my daughter's participation, it has been exponential through the eyes as a leader, donor and volunteer. It has been truly inspiring to witness and be part of this journey.

In 2023, we completed the build out of the Spring location made possible by the generosity of donors, foundations, and corporations who supported a successful \$3.5M campaign. The new 24 horse stall barn, LGI Homes Education and Visitors building and new arena has catapulted SIRE into being able to provide more services to a greater population and changing even more lives. Thanks to the unwavering support of donors like you, as well as the dedication of our staff and volunteers, we are making incredible progress.

In 2022, we purchased our forever home in Fort Bend and are casting eyes forward on projects, renovations, upgrades and partnerships that will springboard SIRE to better serve that community too.



Darren
DARREN LEHMANN
PRESIDENT



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT *(con't.)*

As we enter the Fiscal Year 2024-25, we are building a three-year strategic plan that carry SIRE to new levels of service, increased programs, and numbers of individuals and groups served.

All of these achievements reflect SIRE's deep commitment to our mission. As Board President, donor, and volunteer, it's reassuring to see the impact we're making for the families who rely on our Equine-Assisted Learning Programs.

I'm incredibly grateful for our staff, horses, volunteers, and you—our generous donors—who help bring SIRE's mission to life. As we begin a new fiscal year, I invite you to stay engaged and continue your support. Together, we can keep building a brighter future, where horses help people live their best lives.

Best Regards,

Darren
DARREN LEHMANN
PRESIDENT

"At its finest, rider and horse are joined not by tack, but by trust. Each is totally reliant upon the other. Each is the selfless guardian of the other's well-being."

~ Unknown





CAMP HOPE PARTNERSHIP

Camp Hope's partnership with SIRE began in 2022 when Camp Hope started utilizing SIRE's Equine-Assisted Learning (EAL) program, specifically designed for veterans with PTSD and TBI. The program includes four sessions and the lesson structure is individualized based on underlying goals and objectives, using Casel's 5 core competencies for Social-Emotional Learning (SEL). Equine-human interaction is guided by a planned learning experience to meet the identified goals or desires of the veteran.

Veterans develop social-emotional learning skills and build a bond with horses through a range of activities and experiences. Sessions are 3 hours long and consist of integrating mental, emotional, and physical skills related to being with horses and being a part of a community. Since inception, SIRE has served over 100 male veterans. Approximately 95% of program participants reported a reduction in anxiety, improved emotional regulation, and increased feelings of self-acceptance.

Just a few quotes from participants of the post class survey —

"Horses are beautiful and graceful creatures but powerful at the same time. I am less anxious around horses now which makes me less anxious in other areas of my life. I learned that I can still have emotional connections with people other than lifelong friends and my children. Participating in SIRE has helped to decrease my anxiety, improve my overall mood and helped to improve my relationship skills."

"I am in such a better spot all together over the past month. Sire was a blessing; helping me get back out and seeing, feeling, and being active. I looked forward to sire each week. I really was appreciative about coming. I slowly started to enjoy the program and love it upon finishing. This is really cool and therapeutic to learn about! I will be doing more equine therapy with my family. Thanks for all you do!!!"

"SIRE has helped me lower my anxiety and improve my mood as well as my relationship skills. Thank you to everyone for your time, knowledge, and expertise in horses. I appreciate the staff and volunteers for their kindness and patience."

DONOR STORY

ELLY AND PHIL BERMAN, MD

Elly Berman first learned of SIRE in the 1990s at the Pin Oak Charity Horse Show which was held in the old Astro Arena, part of NRG Park. Elly's love for horses started as a child when she started riding and later went on to show horses as a teenager. While Elly was in college her late parents, Ada and Edmond Perwien, started breeding horses. In 1985, the same day Elly and Phil announced their engagement, the Perwien's announced they purchased 140 acres in Bellville, TX to start Bluebonnet Farms.

Elly started volunteering with SIRE because of her love for horses and one of her nephews has Rieger Syndrome. She could see in her nephew how spending time with the horses helped his quality of life, so she found a way to help others. As the Berman's children grew up, Elly started volunteering her time with SIRE at Sienna Stables. When SIRE relocated to the Richmond State Supported Living Center in 2012, she continued her service. Elly volunteered as a side walker and then a leader for about 10 years. Once Elly started spending time at SIRE, she discovered how much she got out of it herself. Elly knows that volunteering is a big commitment, and the riders and staff count on the volunteers each week.

Elly and Phil started donating to SIRE while she was volunteering to support the riders. When Elly was volunteering, she could see how much equine therapy helped our clients. As she told her family about SIRE, they also started giving. Her late parents and siblings have enjoyed several of SIRE's special events and learned more of the need for equine therapy and therapeutic riding.

Although she is unable to commit to volunteering regularly, she and Phil continue to give because she knows the need and impact of equine therapy.

Elly has shared with her children the importance of equine therapy. Her adult son went to college and still lives in Atlanta, Georgia. He has started volunteering at a therapeutic riding facility in the area.





RIDER STORY

JULIE SPARROW WITH MOM LINDA

How did you both first learn about SIRE?

Julie heard about SIRE through her good friend, Adrienne Barnett. After seeing Adrienne in a horse show, Julie convinced her parents, Linda and John, to sign her up. Julie started riding with SIRE about 15 years ago at our Hockley location. She moved to SIRE's Fort Bend location after we left the Richmond State Supported Living Center.

Did Julie like horses before riding with SIRE?

She rode horses when she was little, but it wasn't the same as equine therapy at SIRE. When she started out, she wasn't convinced it was for her, but became more confident over the years.

Did you experience improvements from the beginning or at different stages in life?

It took about a year to see improvements in Julie. When she first started with SIRE, it was very tough on her body. She needed help just to sit up on the horse as her upper body was weak and her legs were tight. It took a while to build up the strength to

even hold her head up. Eventually she could sit by herself and hold her head up; not without lots of reminders from staff and volunteers. Now Julie can ride with no one holding her up on the horse.

What impact has therapeutic riding made in Julie's life and in your family's?

Therapeutic riding has really helped her family as she's become a little less dependent. Linda said, riding has made a difference in all of their lives as the more tasks Julie can handle herself, the easier for her and John.

How long have you been on the show team?

Julie has participated on SIRE's show team for 3 years now. She wanted to push herself and have more time with the horses. Signing up for the show team was one of Julie's goals a few years ago. Each semester Julie sets a goal and pushes herself to meet each one; so far she has attained her goal each semester. She loves attending Top Hands Show because she gets to see friends that she only gets to see once a year. They get to visit during the show and show off what each other has learned.

RIDER STORY (con't.)

JULIE SPARROW WITH MOM LINDA

What motivates Julie to keep riding?

Julie likes to ride and she loves the people; volunteers, staff and other riders. She wants to see how far she can go.

Does Julie have a favorite horse?

She's ridden several horses, but her two favorites have been Santana and CJ. She shares a bond with each horse that she's ridden, but those two are special. Both boys remember her each week and they would let her get attached.

Starting last semester, Julie rides Wilma. Both Linda and Julie complimented our volunteers. They've developed friendships over the years.

Did Linda and John start supporting SIRE when Julie started riding (2010 was the first noted donation)? What motivates you to donate?

Linda and John started donating because they saw the progress in not only Julie, but other riders as well. It's enlightening to see how much equine therapy helps all our riders. It helps not just Julie but all riders to have the opportunity to receive the benefits of riding.

Julie has made a lot of friends at SIRE. She keeps up with other riders and even goes out to lunch with them occasionally. She enjoys going to the horse shows to cheer them on as well.

"It's the best thing ever! I love being at the barn with the people and the horses."



OUR HERD

THE HEART OF SIRE



SIRE's incredible herd of specially trained horses is at the heart of the life-changing experiences our clients enjoy. These remarkable horses receive top-notch care, including tailored diets, regular hoof and veterinary attention, ample pasture time, and even massage and chiropractic treatments. Many of our horses come from impressive backgrounds—show rings, polo fields, or cherished family homes—and now thrive in a new career that gives them renewed purpose well into their golden years.

By sponsoring a horse at SIRE, you help ensure the health and happiness of these magnificent animals as they continue to inspire and uplift everyone they meet. Your support directly fuels their ability to change lives, and we offer several sponsorship options, including a custom choice tailored to your preferences. Join us in honoring these horses and their impact on our community. Together, we can make a difference that touches both human and equine hearts.

[CLICK TO SPONSOR A HORSE](#)



Clients are surveyed each May for outcomes. Outcomes similar to those shown below for the next period ending in May 2025 are anticipated. Since many of the benefits of therapeutic riding transfer to the home, school, or workplace, SIRE believes that a survey is the best way to measure the outcomes. The following are the high-level results of our May 2024 Client Outcomes Survey.

98%

have benefited physically from riding.

96%

have benefited socially from riding.

98%

have benefited emotionally or psychologically from riding.

87%

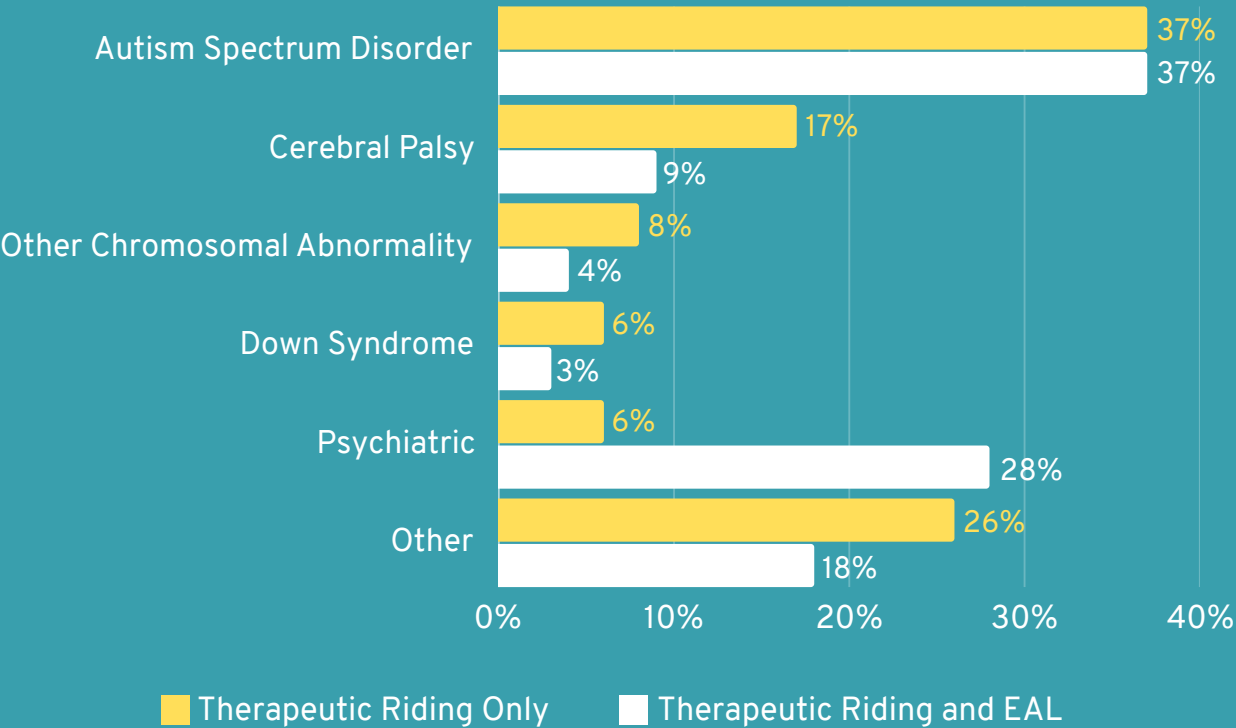
SIRE has been the best activity of all the various therapies and activities we have tried.

100%

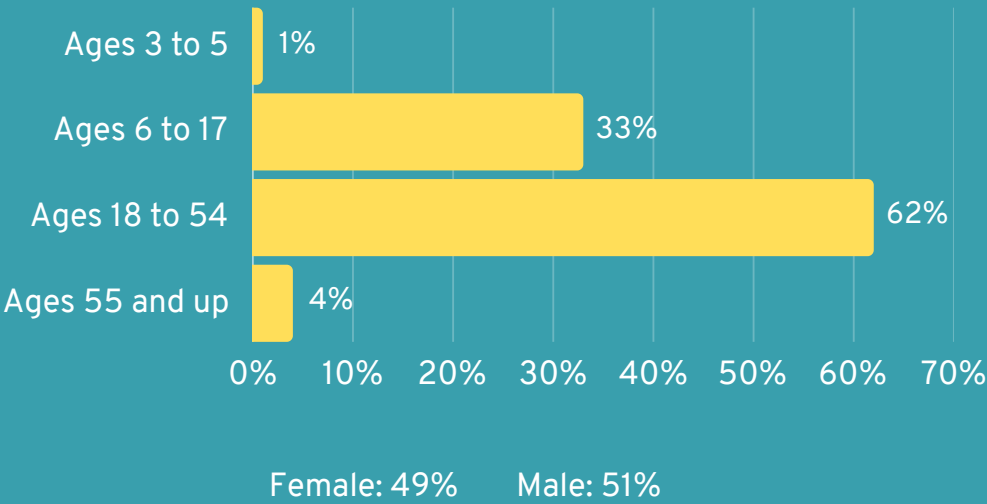
say that SIRE has benefited them either physically, emotionally/psychologically, or socially.

STATISTICS

FY2023 Disabilities

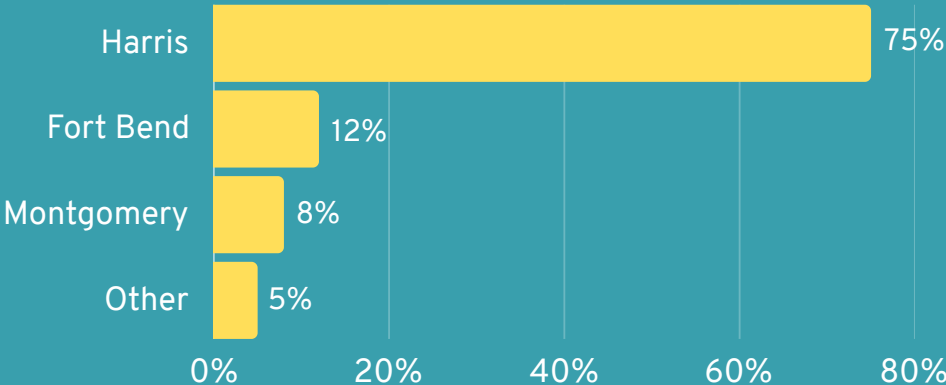


2023 Client Ages

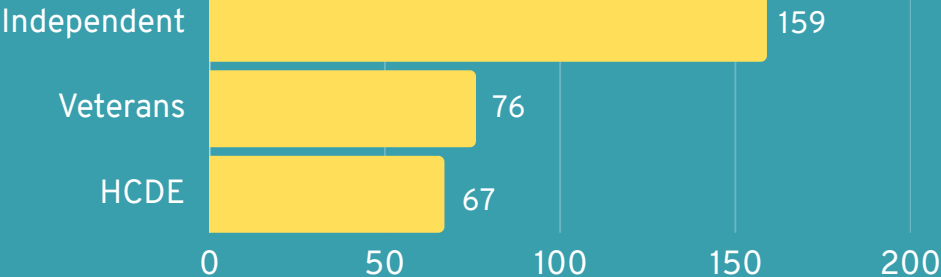


STATISTICS

2023 Counties Served



2023 Riders



FINANCIALS

JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024

TOTAL NET ASSETS: \$ 7,863,509.12

2024 INCOME

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Corporate Contributions | \$ 25,000 |
| Foundations & Organizations | \$ 400,000 |
| Individual Contributions | \$ 280,000 |
| Special Events | \$ 285,000 |
| Other Earned Income | \$ 38,000 |
| Program Income | \$ 420,000 |
| Uncategorized Income | \$ 125,000 |

TOTAL INCOME \$ 1,573,000

2024 EXPENSES

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Salaries | \$ 813,000 |
| Benefits and Taxes | \$ 147,000 |
| Contract Services | \$ 41,000 |
| Equine Expenses | \$ 155,000 |
| Facilities and Maintenance | \$ 297,000 |
| Operations | \$ 116,000 |
| Depr and Amort - Allowable | \$ 180,000 |

TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 1,749,000

NET OPERATING INCOME - \$ 176,000*

* This includes non-cash depreciation expenses of \$180,000. SIRE was positive on a cash flow basis for 2024.

OFFICERS

Darren Lehmann – President
Barbara Migl – Vice President
Bryan Nelson – Secretary
Julia Ingram – Treasurer

MEMBERS

Marco Blanco – BELCO
Kevin Calderon – LGI Homes
Malori Callahan – Consultant, Willie’s Restaurants
Mitch Danklef – Comcast
Trent DeFrates – SouthTrust Bank
Andrea Fry – Easter Seals
Kelsie Knight – Holland and Knight LLC
Patricia Roddy
Jennifer Smart – Texas Children’s Hospital
Marla Wortman – J’s House
*Kelsie Clark – RICE Board Fellow
*Helyna Bledsoe Thompson – Houston Junior
League, Board Representative
**Non-voting member*

STAFF

Joe Wappelhorst – Executive Director
Shayna Bolton – Director of Operations
Beth Burroway – Director of Development
Angela Boepple – Lead Development Officer
Kailey Tepera – Development Associate
Gloria Flores – Administrative Assistant
Etta Harris-Vincent – Client Relations Manager

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