



Three Gaits, Inc.

Therapeutic Horsemanship Center

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2013 Annual Report

Three Gaits Mission

Three Gaits, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization whose mission is to provide a safe and effective therapeutic horsemanship program for children, youth, and adults with disabilities and special needs.

Three Gaits History

Three Gaits was started in 1983 by Gail Brown and Lorrie Renker, with two horses and eight riders. The guiding vision was a love for horses and an interest in providing equine-assisted activities for individuals with disabilities in Dane County. The name Three Gaits refers to three movements of a horse -- walk, trot and canter -- with the implication that no limits are imposed on someone's desire to learn to ride.

Community response to the program was enthusiastic, and by 1986, Three Gaits gained sufficient support to obtain a mortgage for our 22-acre farm located on Highway 138 between Stoughton and Oregon. Significant improvements to the property have been made over the years, and currently the facility features indoor and outdoor riding arenas, a 26-stall pole barn, an office/classroom building and a farmhouse for the equine caretaker.

Since 2002, Three Gaits has been a Premier Accredited Center with PATH International, Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (formerly NARHA). PATH International is responsible for establishing safety standards and quality control. PATH International also certifies our riding instructors, meaning they have passed examinations and evaluations of their teaching and riding skills. In addition, instructors are First Aid and CPR certified and they participate in a minimum of twenty hours of continuing education annually.

The steady growth of Three Gaits therapeutic riding program and the continued demand for services show that consumers and their families, as well as service providers and other professionals, feel that the program has a definite positive impact on participants' lives. Today, approximately fifteen program horses, a large number of volunteers and a limited, yet very dedicated staff provide more than 250 children, youth and adults each year the opportunity to extend therapy, special education and interpersonal skill development into the horsemanship experience. The total number of equine assisted activities (units of service) provided in 2014 will be comparable with the over 3,000 activities offered in 2013.

It is the policy of Three Gaits, Inc. to promote equal service and employment opportunities for all employees, clients, board members and applicants to the agency. Equal service and employment opportunity means the treatment of those categories of people mentioned above without regard to their age, race, sex, creed or religion, marital status, sexual orientation, national origin, color, disability, ancestry, or political affiliation.



Who we serve and what we do

In 2013, Three Gaits offered over 3,000 equine assisted activities (units of service) to approximately 250 individuals taking part in 330 session spots (some individuals participate in multiple sessions). This translates to approximately 100 people each week during the 36 weeks of regular program activities, plus an additional 50 children each year in field trips. People served by Three Gaits have been diagnosed with disorders such as autism, Down syndrome, learning disabilities, spina bifida, muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy, brain injury, as well as numerous other conditions causing disability and special needs. Most participants have both intellectual and physical disabilities. Approximately 80% of participants are under the age of 18 years.



Three Gaits offers several types of activities. Adults and children learn the sport of horseback riding in **therapeutic riding** classes. Occupational or physical therapists work one-on-one with riders in **hippotherapy** sessions, where therapy on the horse helps people improve their abilities in other areas of their life. For some, riding is not a suitable activity but **carriage driving** is an option. For others, **unmounted horsemanship activities** offer a chance to learn about horses and stable management, and practice job skills.

A video that shows Three Gaits activities is available on our website: <http://www.3gaits.org/video.htm>

Why horses? Why Three Gaits?

When so many families are struggling to meet basic needs, why are horses and riding important? Parents tell us that children who have been in various therapies all their lives get excited about coming to Three Gaits, while they may resist therapy elsewhere. Parents of challenging adolescents tell us that “horse time” is a valuable motivator for accomplishing schoolwork and complying with behavior plans. A woman with multiple sclerosis tells us that riding was something she loved before MS, and on the back of a horse, she feels like herself despite all the changes MS has made to her body. Families meet other families whose children face similar challenges. Many kinds of support take place during informal conversations at the rail during lessons, whether it’s sharing the name of a great new speech therapist or a health club that welcomes teens with Down syndrome.

Health care professionals recognize the value of Three Gaits. Deborah McLeish, MD, UW Health Pediatric Rehabilitation Specialist states, “Children who ride at Three Gaits develop improved head and trunk control, which can lead to improved sitting and standing balance. However, what to me is even more spectacular is how very proud the children are to overcome any fear, and to be able to ride this huge animal. This is especially important when the child is aware they are 'different' from other children because it gives them something to be proud of. Three Gaits is an incredible, valuable, unique service for children with disabilities and I give it my full endorsement!”



Scholarships

While many riders’ fees are supported through programs such as the Family Support & Resource Center, Lutheran Social Services or foundations, the amounts outlined below were provided by Three Gaits’ Scholarship Fund (Susan Beth Louis Scholarship Fund).

2013 — \$5, 175 provided in scholarships
2012 — \$7,120 provided in scholarships
2011 — \$6,227 provided in scholarships
2010 — \$10,132 provided in scholarships
2009 — \$11,305 provided in scholarships
2008 — \$10,555 provided in scholarships
2007 — \$8,150 provided in scholarships

Board Members

Directors: Diane King, Cindy Heberling & Marilyn Gardner

Staff

Executive Director: Dena Duncan

Office Administrator: Melissa Lawrence

Equine Caretaker: Nelle Rogers

Occupational Therapists: Stephanie Bruschi and Karen Diegel

Physical Therapist: Denise Myers

PATH Advanced Instructors: Dena Duncan and Betsy Kelley

PATH Registered Instructors: Sandra Faust, Heather Hasenstein, Mary Ann Roth, Stephanie Bruschi, Karen Diegel and Jessica TeSlaa

PATH Driving Level I Instructor: Sandra Faust



We are proud of our program's accreditation as a PATH International premier accredited center, and of our instructors' and therapists' PATH International certification. There are currently two PATH International Certified Advanced Instructors in Wisconsin — and both instruct lessons at Three Gaits. Our instructors share their expertise by mentoring other individuals seeking PATH International instructor certification, helping to expand availability and improve quality of regional programs.

Our Generous Donors

\$10,000 and up

The Bryant Foundation
Anonymous

\$1,000 to \$9,999

Alliant Energy Foundation
Andria Blattner
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Epic Systems
Cindy Frank
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Vogel Bros Building Co.

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Knights of Columbus Madison Council No. 531

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Hollis Spaier
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Stoughton Lions Club
UW Health Care Marketing & Public Affairs
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Peter Waldron
Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials
(WASBO)
Karen Wood

\$200 to \$499

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Teri Bullington
Cheryl Catalino
Chad Mueller, DDS
Doug & Marti Coursin
Cress Funeral & Cremation Services
Culver's of Stoughton
Jennifer Dahm
Eve & Carl Degen
Char Dohm
Valerie Edwards
Francis & Mary Eustice
David Faust
The Fradkin-Annen Family
John & Betsy Freiburger
Roy Froemming
Bradford & Kathy Gile
Angela Gillingham
Jim & Janet Granger
Dennis Gullickson
Jackie Hansen
Happy Buddha Dog Training
Bernice Hughes
Jerald Jendusa
Becky Katte
Jan Ketzler
Joseph Krupp & Diana Grove
Lori Kuhn-Weishoff
The Lane Family
Alexandra Lovejoy
Josh Lowe
Madison South Rotary Foundation
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Shannon Beckham
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Bill's Food Center
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Adele Bodden
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Tish Bolger & Deb Broderick
Ray & Pauline Boness
Jeremy Bork
Jim & Marsha Borling
Roberta Bosetti
John Bott
Gerald, Susan & Sammy Brabender
Breitbach Chiropractic
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Margaret Bridges

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Jennifer Davis
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Elizabeth DeLaet
Nancy Deranick
Blane Dexheimer
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Haris, Sarah & Selma Domazet
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Betty Elsner
Larry & Kim Emerson
Robert Emerson
Linda Endlich
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Gail Faust
Sandra Faust
Paul & Elizabeth Faye
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Deanna Fischer
Sally Fitzer
Carla Fjelstad
Margo Fochs

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Natalie Frankel
William & Sue Frazier
Sara Frazier
Robin Fry
Ariel Gallandt
Glenn Gardner
Marilyn Gardner
Stan Gefke
Jeff Gehrke
Melinda Giftos
Freda Ginther
Girl Scout Troop #2522
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Diane Gollon
Nicole Gonzalez
Dana Goodman
GoodSearch
Shannon Gorman
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Larry Kujawski
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Sue Wilson
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Betsy Wood
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Crystal Zett
Linda Zett
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Suzanne Alexander
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American Girl Place
American Player's Theatre
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Art Gecko
Artisan Gallery
Artisan Woods Gallery
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Sharon Bartz
Bergey Jewelry
Blue Plate Catering
Heather Blume
BMagic Haflingers

Tom & Shaila Bolger
Gerald, Susan & Sammy Brabender
Judy Brenner
Brix Catering
Tristan Buss
Judy Calder
Carriage Ridge Stables
The Caulkins Family
Cave of the Mounds
Cha Cha Beauty & Barber
Dale Chitwood
Cinderella Carriage
Dan Cobb
Sophie Colleau
Country View Veterinary Service
Creative Expressions
Crossroads Coffeehouse
Jenna Dahl
Patti DeMuri
Dolci Italian Sweets
Richard & Friedl Eager
Eloise Eager
Leah Escalante
Essen Haus
Carol and Joe Eugster
Paul & Elizabeth Faye
Fisher King Winery
Ethan Flood
Fortune Cookie Supply Co
Fosdal Home Bakery
The Fradkin-Annen Family
Cindy Frank
Marilyn Gardner
Gigi's Cupcakes
John Grell
Heather Hasenstein
Cindy Heberling
Jeff, Tammie & Evelyn Hefty
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Icon on State Street
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Jan Ketzler
The Killian-Osgood Family
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Steven Kozar
Jim & Joyce Krier
Kwik Trip Inc.
Legend at Bergamont Golf Club
John Littleton & Kate Vogel
Patricia Lobeck
Tammie Lynch
Lynn's Framing
Linda Malinowski
Marjorie King Studio
Martin Roche Farrier Service
Karla Mattson
McCann's Underground
Megan McIsaac
Steve McKee & Wendy Rainford
Mighty Mare Meadows
Milwaukee Bucks
Milwaukee County Zoo
Milwaukee Repertory Theater

MP Dining Company
National Mustard Museum
Kay Nelson
Larry & Barbara Newhouse
Laurel Norris
Northleaf Winery
Dan Oakland
Optimist Club of Oregon-Brooklyn
Oregon Family Dentistry
Oregon High School
Pat O'Malley Jet Room
Peacock Creations
Dian Phelan
Plan B
Georgene Pomplun
Prairie Bookshop
Prime Quarter Steak House
Primrose Lutheran Church
Wendy Proctor
Sue Racine
Nelson Reisdorf
Karen Robison
Rocking L Acres Buggy Service
Wayne & Mary Ann Roth
Roto Rooter Sewer Service
ShortHorse Studios
David, Adrienne & Alex Steiner
Stoughton Hospital
Jonathan Suttin
TDS Metrocom
The Dancing Horses Theatre
The Enchanted Carriage
The Silly Yak Bakery & Bread Barn
The Ultimate Spa & Salon
Trader Joe's
Gloria Turgeson
Underground Food Collective
Valley Vet Supply
Phil Verret
von Rutenberg Ventures
Linda Wilder
Meg Williams
Patty Winger
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Tormach, LLC

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June Paynter

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Denny & Gary Geller Honorarium
Natalie Frankel
Minnie Kahn

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Sally Hughes

Jack Bridges Honorarium
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Renaë Quale

Jeffrey Nelson Honorarium
Alliant Energy Foundation

Jerry Landmark Honorarium
Wisconsin Association of School Business Officials

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Natalie Frankel

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Bradford & Kathy Gile

Marcy Kemp Honorarium
Nancy Deranick

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Kent & Virginia Kruse

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Tish Bolger & Deb Broderick

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Richard Albert

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James Renken Memorial
Anonymous

Joan Gullickson Memorial
Dennis Gullickson

Shirley Hunsaker Memorial
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Susan B. Louis Memorial
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Barbara & Al Simon

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Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation

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Catherine Coberly

Honorarium for Dusty
Mary & Robert Hathaway

Whisper Memorial
Kalen K. Nichols