



**Dear Family and Friends,**

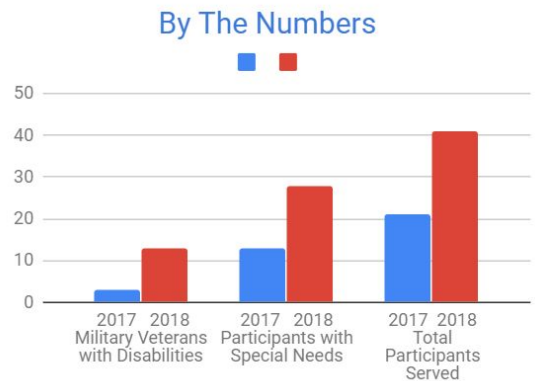
Did this fall *fly* or what? Much has happened at Heaven's Gait Ranch since our July update, and we are so excited to share a few highlights from the year as we look forward to growing with you in 2019!

**Ridership Totals Doubled in 2018!**

Thanks to our hardworking staff and dedicated volunteers, we went from serving 21 participants in 2017 to 41 in 2018! In just our first year of operation, we were happy to have offered a total of 355 lessons to those in need, but this year, because of your continued support, we were able to give 725 lessons to date in 2018! Our Board of Directors set a goal for Heaven's Gait Ranch to provide 600 lessons in its second year of operation, and under the instruction of PATH Intl. Registered Instructor Micah Keshemberg, we are proud to have exceeded their expectation and look forward to taking on next year's challenge with you!



Number of Lessons Provided	2017	2018
Therapeutic Riding	225	450
Equine-Assisted Activities & Therapies (EAAT) Education	68	80
Equine Services for Heroes	62	195
<b>Total Lessons Provided</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>725</b>



**Creating Our A-Team to Divide & Conquer**

As the daughter of a Special Forces A-Team Commander, I was taught to not only surround myself with resourceful and reliable people but also to have faith in their fortitude. That being said, our growth at Heaven's Gait Ranch this year has undoubtedly demanded more of our staff, horses, and volunteers, which is why, with your help, we made moves this fall to scale our programs and services. Because each rider can require up to three volunteers, you can imagine our struggle to find the right assistance at the right times.

Spread rather thin this summer, we were so grateful of those who traveled long distances to step in when we were short-handed; nevertheless, we learned it was time to divide and conquer again. That is why in August we were thrilled to have Maggie Robertson join us as Volunteer Coordinator for Heaven's Gait Ranch, and since then, she has dedicated much of her efforts to volunteer outreach, training, and engagement. In just a few short months, our team of professionals has been able to work more efficiently and cost-effectively by adjusting our roles to do what we do best. As one of the three women now on staff, I have full faith in our team's ability to take HGR to new heights in 2019.



### **Challenges We've Overcome**

Aside from diligently working to address our volunteer needs, we have also been attending to the needs of our program horses, all a year older and deserving of some tender loving care. In July, we had informed you of various health issues that Ellie and Levi were facing, and today we are pleased to tell you that they have been resolved with proper care and effective treatment! After sending our last newsletter, we were especially appreciative of those who reached out to us by providing financial assistance to offset the costs of our six program horses this year. Your compassion to the horses extends to our riders, so thank you for understanding and responding to their needs.

### **2018 Equine of the Year**

We proudly recognize Jack as our 2018 Equine of the Year. This year Jack proved to be our most versatile therapy horse, as he served both children and adults in all three of our programs at Heaven's Gait Ranch, including EAAT Education, Therapeutic Riding, and Equine Services for Heroes. This year Jack has provided nearly 140 lessons!

### **Meet Windy**

Heading into 2019, we are hopeful that the newest addition to our herd will also lighten some of the horses' work loads. Windy is a 15 year old palomino Appaloosa mare who came to us this fall by the generosity of Kim Floryance and her daughter, Kendall. Originally intended for showing, Windy's background is in English/dressage; however, she's also been ridden Western. Standing just shy of 16hh, she is being groomed to serve as a therapy horse in our veterans program.



### **HGR Featured on CBS**

Within two years, you have not only helped us serve 41 individuals in need, but you have also changed the lives of our dedicated volunteers. Time and time again, we are overwhelmed by your outpouring love and support, and we cannot thank you enough for advocating on our behalf. This fall HGR was blessed to be featured on CBS 58 with Mike Strehlow, and we invite you to view our video and share our story with family, friends, and colleagues who might like to learn more about our mission.

To view this video, Google Search "Sunday Morning Spotlight: Heaven's Gait Ranch - CBS 58" or visit our website to find the link! We want to give a huge shout out to Kathy Michaels for recommending us to CBS, and a big thank you to the McCurdy & Lewis families for being highlighted on the film!

### **From the Board of Directors**

Thank you for another fantastic season and for all your prayers and support. Please visit our website at [www.heavensgaitranch.org](http://www.heavensgaitranch.org) or call us at 920-400-0628 for more information on our programs.

Have a Happy New Year!

Margaret Mary McClaren  
Founder, Executive Director