

THERAPEUTIC RIDING AT CENTENARY

TRAC Program Highlights 2023-2024

84

Individuals with physical, cognitive, or social-emotional special needs served.

75+

Volunteers contributed a total of 4,000 hours.

8

Centenary University students completed PATH Intl. Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor certification (CTRI).

About TRAC:

Therapeutic Riding At Centenary (TRAC) provides equine-assisted services (EAS) for individuals with special needs and develops EAS-Industry leaders. TRAC is recognized as a Premier Accredited Center by the Professional Association for Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.). The program was founded in 2003 by Dr. Octavia J. Brown, CU Professor Emerita, and since 2020, has been directed by Karen Brittle, Assistant Professor of Equine Studies.



Participants range in age from

5 to 92

years old.

8

Specially selected and trained equines inform every aspect of our work.

TRAC expanded our equine-assisted learning program by

58%



5

Centenary University students or recent grads achieved certification as Equine Specialists in Mental Health and Learning (ESMHL), with several more in process!

Facts and Figures 2023 - 2024

Thank you to our supporters!

- Thank you to the following foundations for outstanding support: The Hayes Foundation, KFC Wishes Foundation, the Madison Rose Fund for Therapeutic Riding, and the PA National Horse Show Foundation. Thank you to corporate sponsor, Iron Hill Construction Management and J.G. Petrucci Company. Thank you to all individual donors!
- All services are subsidized, and additional scholarship support is provided to over 50% of TRAC participants. Veterans and immediate military family members participate free of charge.

Participant updates:

- TRAC serves 25 riders each week, and an additional 60+ individuals annually through special programs and camps. This year, 16 veterans and 2 military family members participated.
- We serve individuals with learning or developmental disabilities, emotional health challenges, and traumatic brain injuries. We also serve people with Down syndrome, multiple sclerosis, visual and hearing impairments, and physical challenges.
- This year, we expanded our equine-assisted learning programs to meet a significant community need for services that address overall wellness and emotional well-being.

Training and education updates:

- The Equine Studies Department offers the degree track, *BS: Equine Studies, Therapeutic Horsemanship Management* as well as a *Minor in Therapeutic Riding Instruction*. Students are preparing to become PATH Intl. Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructors (CTRI) and/or Equine Specialists in Mental Health and Learning (ESMHL).
- Recent graduates have procured program positions at Loudoun Therapeutic Riding, Mane Stream, Pony Powers of NJ, Ivy Hill Therapeutic Equestrian Center, and TRAC!
- TRAC offered four comprehensive internships to Centenary University students this year, three of which were paid positions and one of which was for academic credit.

Volunteer program updates:

- This year, volunteers contributed more than 4,000 hours (market-place value of over \$133,960).
- Volunteers range in age from 15 – 75 and include undergraduate and graduate students, alumni, high school students, veterans, and local community members.

Herd and facility updates:

- An anonymous donor generously supported the purchase of Frankie for the TRAC program. Frankie is a western-trained Paint gelding whose qualities support our program needs!
- Generous donations and grant support have allowed renovations to improve the accessibility and comfort of TRAC's viewing and mounting areas.

Thank you to our community partners!

- TRAC collaborates with the following fabulous community partners to offer equine-assisted learning to populations who benefit: Family Connections of NJ, Veterans Haven North, Heath Village Retirement Community, and NewBridge Services Jobs Plus.

Our 2024 – 2025 Program Goals:

1. Develop a 16-credit certificate program: *Applications of Therapeutic Horsemanship*.
2. Continue to expand equine-assisted learning programs by another 15%. This meets a significant community need for a wide variety of populations and allows Centenary University students and equine industry professionals to prepare as Equine Specialists in Mental Health and Learning.
3. Continue to expand professional staffing and internships to support our growing services and educational programs.

For further information:

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