

## What your donations do

♥ \$35 will enable a child or adult with disabilities to ride for an hour session in a small-group class.

♥ \$70 will enable a child or adult with disabilities who cannot be served in a group setting to ride in an individual setting.

♥ \$200 will allow us to engage the services of an amazing physical therapist for consultation for two of our group classes.

♥ \$500 will buy the therapeutic toys, riding helmets, and other equipment we need to replace every year.

♥ \$7,500 will pay for a class of 10-12 special education students to ride weekly for an entire school year!



## DONATE TO HUGS FOR HORSES

### To Donate:

The Hugs for Horses Therapeutic Riding Program operates under the umbrella of the Georgetown County Board of Disabilities and Special Needs

Please send your tax-deductible donations to

GCBDSN—Hugs for Horses Program  
PO Box 1471  
Georgetown, SC 29442

THANK YOU!



The equestrian lift in action!

*"Realizing your daughter may have a disability is difficult....Thanks to the Hugs for Horses program, [we] were able to turn what we were seeing as a negative, into something positive....We are forever grateful for the Hugs for Horses program and cannot say enough good things about the workers, the facility and the animals that would capture what this program has really meant to [our daughter] and our family."*

*- Parent of a child with disabilities*

*"I feel free. I can do anything."*

*- Rider with intellectual disabilities*

*"I am passionate about teaching and truly believe Hugs for Horses is helping children improve their motor skills, coordination, social skills, cognitive disabilities and self-esteem. This is an incredible opportunity for my students."*

*-Special Education teacher*

*"I am grateful to have the opportunity to help with Hugs for Horses Therapeutic Riding Program. It is so nice to spend an hour or so each week helping a special child...certainly makes my heart happy!"*

*- Hugs volunteer*



## HUGS FOR HORSES

THERAPEUTIC RIDING PROGRAM

*Using the power of horses to exercise the spirits and bodies of people with physical, intellectual, and social disabilities.*



**Hugs for Horses—therapeutic and recreational horseback riding for children and adults with disabilities.**

**Hugs for Horses Therapeutic Riding Program**

is located at

**The Georgetown Equestrian Center**

**Rona Jacobs, Director**

**215 Equestrian Drive**

**Georgetown, SC 29440**

**Phone: (843) 833-3929**

**<https://www.hugsforhorses.org>**

**Facebook: @hugsforhorses**

# ABOUT THE HUGS FOR HORSES PROGRAM

## Hugs for Horses

### Therapeutic Riding Program

has, since 1988, provided children and adults with physical, intellectual, and social/behavioral disabilities in our Georgetown community the healing power of horses to change their outcomes in life.

Rona Jacobs, owner of the Equestrian Center and renowned professional horse trainer and riding instructor, realized long ago that horseback riding provides a package of physical, psychological, and social benefits that are especially effective and valuable for people who are differently-abled.

#### Horseback riding

- Encourages balance, flexibility, good posture, and trunk strength.
- Improves motor planning skills and coordination.
- Builds self-confidence and self-esteem.
- Develops a sense of responsibility, independence, and compassion for living things.

After obtaining certification as an instructor for disabled riders, Rona and her core of volunteers started the Hugs for Horses Therapeutic Riding Program.



## Hugs riders

Over the years, **Hugs for Horses** has provided year-round instructor-directed recreational and therapeutic horseback riding to hundreds of children and adults in the Georgetown community. Currently, Hugs serves 67 children and adults with disabilities weekly in small group youth and adult classes and in individual sessions. Riders are referred by physicians, physical and occupational therapists, social workers, and our riders' parents.

Thank you to our donors and volunteers who allow Hugs to continue changing lives! Please join us!



## Hugs volunteers

**Hugs** volunteers are the backbone of the program—without our volunteers **Hugs** could not operate. For example, each week to ride safely, our Tuesday riders need 14 people to lead horses and walk alongside them. We also need fun-loving, energetic people to throw balls and play games to make for extra merriment and added physical benefit. Because the program is so volunteer intensive, **Hugs** is always looking for fresh faces, both young and young-at-heart, to help work with our **Hugs** riders.....no previous experience required!



## Hugs operation

The Hugs for Horses program operates in an extremely efficient and cost effective way. Our budget has no fluff!

- The program operates under the umbrella of the GCBDSN, eliminating most administrative costs.
- The program leases the facilities, horses, and paid workers from the Equestrian Center for only the actual time Hugs' classes are in session.
- Our core of volunteers is generous with their time and talent!

Hence, Hugs has been able to provide free-to-the riders year-round therapeutic and recreational riding for an average cost of \$35 per rider per session, as compared to a cost of upwards of \$150 per rider in a group setting from other therapeutic riding facilities in the state.



**Your donations directly enable a person with disabilities to ride!**

### For more information,...

- Phone Rona Jacobs, Hugs Director, at (843) 833-3929
- Email Anne Marie Marozas, Hugs Program Coordinator, at [AnneMarie@hugsforhorses.org](mailto:AnneMarie@hugsforhorses.org)
- Find us on the web: <https://hugsforhorses.org>
- Like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HugsforHorses>