Our Mission

At ManeGait Therapeutic Horsemanship, children and adults with disabilities move beyond their boundaries through the healing power of the horse and the dedication of a professional and caring community.

Founded in 2007 by business and community leaders Bill and Priscilla Darling and their daughter, Landon Darling Schneider, ManeGait has had the privilege of serving North Texas for over 12 years. Guided by our mission, ManeGait believes in the life-changing benefits of equine therapy and the impact of our programs on the families we serve.

As a nonprofit organization, ManeGait’s stewardship, business leadership, and community support have become the foundation for our center’s growth and longevity. At the same time, proven program outcomes have led to a high demand for our services, creating ongoing opportunities to collaborate, innovate, and improve our programs.

Building on this solid foundation, we are excited about the future of ManeGait and aspire to serve our riders, advance our industry, and enrich our community for generations to come.

ManeGait Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>150</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>26</th>
<th>1,200</th>
<th>6,900</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Riders Per Week</td>
<td>PATH Certified Instructors</td>
<td>Skilled Therapy Horses</td>
<td>Active Volunteers</td>
<td>Hours of Service Each Year</td>
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**Therapeutic Horseback Riding** – ManeGait’s riding program consists of weekly private or small group lessons where riders learn to walk, trot, canter, and compete as equestrians. For many of our riders this is their one and only sport. To them horseback riding is a fun activity, but it actually provides many physical, cognitive, and emotional benefits. These can include greater core strength, balance, coordination, and speech; as well as self-confidence, independence, teamwork, and the unconditional acceptance and companionship of a horse.

**GaitWay to the Brain** – A key differentiator of ManeGait’s therapeutic riding services is the innovative GaitWay to the Brain program. Developed at ManeGait, GaitWay is the first program of its kind to integrate brain-building exercises into the framework of equine therapy in order to extend the physical and cognitive benefits of therapeutic riding. It also reinforces outcomes by teaching families how to incorporate these exercises into their daily routine. Benefits range from improved motor skills, to communication and speech, to reading and academic performance.

**Therapeutic Carriage Driving** – Carriage Driving is a form of equine-assisted therapy where participants drive a horse-drawn carriage or cart. The program promotes coordination, fine and gross motor skills, visual perception, spatial awareness, and independence.

**ManeGait to Freedom** – This program is designed to support the needs of military veterans and first responders. In addition to physical benefits, therapeutic horsemanship can lead to less anxiety and depression, greater confidence, and stronger interpersonal relationships.
Who We Serve

- ManeGait participants range from 5 to 72 years of age.
- More than 70% are under the age of 21.
- Participants come from five North Texas counties.
- Disabilities served include Autism Spectrum Disorder, Cerebral Palsy, Intellectual Disability, Developmental Delay, Down Syndrome, Attention Deficit Disorder, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder among other disabilities.

What Makes ManeGait Unique

Demand for ManeGait programs continues to grow as a result of referrals from parents, teachers, therapists and doctors. The qualities that keep families coming back each session and motivate people to join ManeGait’s waitlist include:

Innovative Programs – Success of the GaitWay program prompted Texas Woman’s University to conduct a two-year research study quantifying the outcomes of the GaitWay methodology. ManeGait is also the first riding center in the country to introduce a high-tech equestrian riding simulator as part of its therapeutic horsemanship program in order to offer specialized instruction and to support advanced training.

Professional Standards – ManeGait has achieved the highest industry designation by the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.). In contrast to riding centers who rely on volunteer instructors, every riding lesson at ManeGait is led by a PATH Certified Riding Instructor.

Family Atmosphere – ManeGait is committed to providing a professional level of service, while also ensuring a personal experience for each rider and family. Class size is limited to no more than 5 riders per lesson, the average tenure of our instructors is 5 years, and our volunteer retention rate is high. Continuing relationships among our staff, volunteers, riders and families have created an incredible community of support for everyone involved.

Knowledge Sharing & Program Replication – To promote the advancement of the therapeutic horsemanship industry, ManeGait is becoming a knowledge center for our peers. We regularly host continuing education, instructor training, certification, and mentorship programs. We have also developed a training workshop to support replication of GaitWay to the Brain at therapeutic riding centers across the United States and Canada.

Funding Model

ManeGait is committed to keeping the cost of equine therapy affordable for our rider families, therefore, rider fees remain less than 15% of our operating budget. Fundraising events and individual donations contribute 70% of ManeGait’s revenue needs, and grants ensure the continued reinvestment and growth of our programs. ManeGait’s community partners include:

- Amon G. Carter Foundation
- The Andrea-Mennen Family Foundation
- Atmos Energy
- Baylor Scott & White Health
- The Communities Foundation of Texas
- CoServ Foundation
- Dallas Stars Foundation
- Elizabeth Toon Charities
- Eugene McDermott Foundation
- Gil and Dody Weaver Foundation
- The Hillcrest Foundation
- Independent Bank
- Jane and Bill Browning Family Fund of CFT
- The Meadows Foundation
- McKinney Community Development Corporation
- Moody Foundation
- ORIX Foundation
- Raytheon
- The Rees-Jones Foundation
- Ronald McDonald House Charities
- Rosemary Haggar Vaughan Family Foundation
- Roy & Christine Sturgis Charitable Trust
- Speedway Children’s Charities

To learn more about ManeGait programs and our impact on the North Texas community, we invite you to watch this video featuring stories of hope and healing from our rider families. www.manegait.org/hope

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