

**2024 FALL
NEWSLETTER**

Dear Friends,

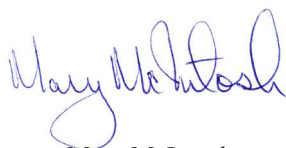
This last year will be remembered as a year of inspiring growth for our organization! The privilege of connecting people with horses and each other to build community through service, care, and healing has been profound. We celebrated many accomplishments and new beginnings in 2023, from serving a record number of clients in our Equine-Assisted Therapy and Learning Programs to partnering with the Zablocki VA Medical Center to start the first Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy program for Veterans in Milwaukee. We served 684 clients in our Equine-Assisted Learning Programs, an increase of 63% over 2022. The feedback we've received from our clients has been truly heartwarming. They often describe their experience at the Stables as magical, peaceful, and healing, which is a testament to the positive impact of our programs.

With the support of the Milwaukee Police Department in our ongoing effort to improve police and community relations, I am grateful and proud to say that the Mounted Patrol Officers and their majestic equine partners participated in almost 90% of our community programs. This allowed over 625 individuals from schools and other organizations in the community to interact with the police, seeing them in a more positive and realistic light, helping to increase the community's respect for law enforcement and making police work safer and more effective. Many thanks to Chief Norman and his leadership team for their support of the Stables, and a special shout-out to the Mounted Patrol Officers for always going the extra mile to make our clients, staff, and volunteers feel loved and appreciated.

The future of MKE Urban Stables is filled with challenges and opportunities. We have been fortunate to partner with Milwaukee area schools and organizations serving at-risk youth, intellectually/developmentally disabled youth and adults, seniors, and Veterans. With so many organizations reaching out to us and filling our calendars, we realized that we had to make decisions around priorities, programs, personnel, and partners. A strategic planning process was launched to help us chart a rational course of action and to ensure future success and sustainability. We worked together to identify strategic priorities, develop key performance metrics, and develop action plans to ensure continuity and accountability. We are grateful for our Board of Directors' spectacular commitment and expertise in helping us create a new three-year Strategic Plan, a copy of which can be found on our website.

Lastly, we are deeply grateful for the support of our donors, volunteers, and staff who empower the MKE Urban Stables Mission. We look forward to an impactful future serving the evolving needs of our community, and we couldn't have done it without you.

From our hearts, thank you!



Mary McIntosh
Executive Director



Ed Krishok
President



OUR MISSION

*Connecting people with horses
and with each other, to build
community through service,
care and healing.*

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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OUR PROGRAMS

MKE Urban Stables utilizes Equine-Assisted Learning and Therapy Programs to improve the mental health of our clients and strengthen the resilience of our community. Both learning and therapy programs occur 100% on the ground to ensure they are accessible to clients of all physical abilities and use experiential activities that emphasize 'learning by doing' which are appealing to clients who may be hesitant to talk about their problems.

Equine-Assisted Learning uses the horse-human bond and experiential activities to help clients understand and engage critically with concepts including communication, emotions, and interpersonal relationships.

Equine-Assisted Therapy is a modality of psychotherapy that promotes healing and supports individuals with mental health disorders including trauma, anxiety, PTSD, depression, and more. Horses are an invaluable addition to therapy and act as a 'mirror' for the client's emotions. During therapy, the equine specialist identifies the behaviors the horse is showing and the therapist works with the client to help them recognize their emotions and work through them in a healthy and safe manner.

MKE URBAN STABLES SERVED 1,076 CLIENTS

684 EQUINE-ASSISTED LEARNING PROGRAM

427
CHILDREN



148

CHILDREN AND
ADULTS WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES

52

SENIORS

44

DA VICTIM
ADVOCATES

13 VETERANS

117 EQUINE-ASSISTED THERAPY PROGRAM

60
VETERANS

57
CHILDREN

275 COMMUNITY OUTREACH



MKE URBAN STABLES PARTNERS

Community Partners

Milwaukee Police Department
Rawhide Youth Services
Zablocki VA Medical Center
Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs
Harbor District
Wraparound Milwaukee
Young Marines
Southeastern Wisconsin Veteran Suicide
Prevention Task Force
16th St. Community Health Center

Equine-Assisted Therapy Program

Rawhide Youth Services
Zablocki VA Medical Center

Equine-Assisted Learning Program

United Community Center
Veterans Upward Bound
Riley Dual Language Montessori
Milwaukee Center for Independence
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Frederick Gaenslen School
MPS – Golda Meir
MPS – Milwaukee School of Language
Repairing Together
Hanan Refugees Relief Home
Milwaukee Catholic Home
What Would Alec Do
Osher Go Explore





MEET THE HERD

Khane: Like so many of the Veterans he serves, Khane experienced a major life change when he changed careers; he had to learn how to adapt to a new life as a therapy horse after years of being a barrel racer. He absolutely thrives in his role here at the stables! Khane is wonderful at reading people and knowing when someone needs a bit more of a challenge or when they just need a calm and patient friend to lean on.

Arion: Arion is an off-track Thoroughbred who loves helping veterans build confidence. He's a little bit sensitive and likes it when people respect his boundaries, which makes it easy for many of our clients to relate to him. Once you gain his trust, Arion will follow you to the ends of the earth.

Prissy: Prissy is the matriarch of the stables and she knows it! She may seem stubborn, but we suspect Prissy is actually the smartest at the barn... out of the equines (though if you ask Prissy, she'd say out of the human staff too!) Prissy is great at letting clients think they're the one in charge be it by leading her through an obstacle course or grooming her. But let's be honest, Prissy is calling all the shots.

Franny: Franny has a lot of personality in a small package! She has an incredible ability to know what our clients need in the moment and can show an immense amount of patience when a client needs it. She can often be seen standing perfectly still so that our clients with the most profound disabilities can groom, pet, and connect with her.

Hawkeye: If you ask Hawkeye, he'd tell you he's easily as big as the tallest police horse at the barn! Hawkeye is very brave and handles even the scariest obstacle courses with ease. His confidence is inspiring and contagious!

PJ: PJ is the youngest equine of the herd and his spunky attitude shows it! He enjoys trying new things and helping kids learn how to be a confident leader. While he is very protective of his herd, he's a bit of a softie. PJ loves dogs and getting kisses on his little pink nose.

Patrick: Patrick is the newest member of our herd and is best described as 'the golden retriever of horses'. Patrick absolutely loves attention and wants to be friends with everyone, horse and human alike. His kind and gentle soul has made it easy for him to transition into his new job as a therapy horse and he has quickly become a barn favorite.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

MKE Urban Stables depends on our dedicated volunteers to carry out our mission and care for our herd. Our more than 60 active volunteers donate their time by serving as horse handlers for equine-assisted learning programs and community events and complete morning and evening barn chores rain or shine, 365 days a year. In the 2023 fiscal year, our volunteers generously donated 4095 hours of their time to support our mission!

Thank you volunteers!



EQUINE-ASSISTED THERAPY HELPS VETERAN CONTINUE SERVING HER COMMUNITY



When Veteran Sarah Janos isn't volunteering as a horse handler during Equine-Assisted Programs, you can usually find her out in the paddocks sharing a quiet moment with Arion or one of our other therapy equines. "Just being around such a big animal and breathing with them and sensing how they feel and how you feel is relaxing and there is such a connection. I feel lucky.," said Sarah. Like many Veterans we serve, Sarah wasn't a fan of traditional group or individual therapy. She found equine-assisted therapy to be a totally different experience. The horses made it easier for her to open up with fellow Veterans and quieted her negative self-talk. After graduating from our 8-week Veteran Therapy Program, Sarah joined MKE Urban Stables as a volunteer and found that she loves helping others experience the healing that is possible through the horse-human bond. "A lot of people are nervous at first, they have never been so close to such a big animal, but then they light up and smile and we're able to make their day."

PRISSY AND PJ HOST VETERAN OPEN HOUSES

Prissy and PJ gave back to 275 veterans in our community by hosting two Veteran Open Houses this year! Technically, the event was planned and coordinated by the Southeastern Wisconsin Veteran Suicide Task Force, of which MKE Urban Stables is a proud member, but we didn't want to steal Prissy and PJ's thunder. While having little hooves makes event planning hard, it didn't stop Prissy and PJ from making sure all veterans and their families had a great time by giving out lots of kisses and love. Each open house event gave veterans and their families a fun, relaxed, afternoon to bond, connect with other veterans and veteran families, and access more than 20 veteran-focused resources in the community.



POLICE PARTNERSHIP

MKE Urban Stables has a one-of-a-kind partnership with the Milwaukee Police Mounted Patrol Unit and is the first and only facility in the nation to combine equine-assisted therapy and learning, community engagement programs, and a Mounted Patrol Unit under one roof. Our partnership helps foster neighborhood safety by furthering police-community relations and helping community members, including at-risk children, improve their perceptions of law enforcement. Last year alone, MPD officers and their horse partners participated in 87% of our Equine-Assisted Learning Program sessions! 92% of the 1,076 clients served by MKE Urban Stables met a mounted patrol officer and their partner horse, learned about a police horse's job, and built trust in law enforcement. Thank you to our partners and friends at the Milwaukee Police Mounted Patrol Unit for serving our community every day and for helping us achieve our mission!



BAY VIEW HIGH SCHOOL WOWS MKE URBAN STABLES

“Working with the horses has built their confidence immensely.”

Karen Halperon, Bay View High School Teacher

Every Wednesday morning, the students of the Bay View High School World of Work program (WOW) can be found out in the barn sweeping the aisles, cleaning stalls, dusting cobwebs, washing water buckets and brushes, and building real-life job skills they can use for the rest of their lives. WOW serves students with disabilities by providing them with experience in the community at real jobs, exposing them to typical work environments, and giving them meaning in life and as a vital member of their community. “These kids have great work ethic, they come to school every day, they want to do a good job, and they want to prove to people that they can do a good job,” said teacher Karen Halperin, who created the WOW program more than 20 years ago. When they’re not learning how to do barn chores, the WOW students work with the MKE Urban Stables therapy horses and donkeys and participate in equine-assisted learning activities like grooming and learning how to lead a horse or donkey through obstacles. In the beginning many of the students were a bit standoffish with the horses, but that has changed over the past year. The WOW students built amazing horsemanship skills and came out of their shells; they even helped the MPD Mounted Patrol Unit with some horse training exercises and demonstrated their confidence and bravery around the biggest horses at the barn. MKE Urban Stables is so grateful for our partnership with the WOW students and their work helping take care of our barn and herd. We are proud to have them as members of the MKE Urban Stables family.



EQUINE-ASSISTED LEARNING HELPS GIRLS OVERCOME ADVERSITY AND BUILD TRUST



“We wanted to do something for our girls that they would enjoy but would also help them relax and maybe forget for a moment what they are going through.”

*Valeria Xolot, Bilingual Sexual Assault Advocate,
UMOS Latina Resource Center*

The smiles and laughter of the girls from UMOs Latina Resource Center filled the indoor arena as they learned how to groom our horses and donkeys and led them through an obstacle course. They were excited to meet the horses, engaged in the activities, and asked our horse handlers seemingly endless questions about horses and donkeys. None of this is particularly remarkable or different from the many groups of children who participate in Equine-Assisted Learning Programs each week, except these girls are all survivors of sexual assault or domestic violence.

The UMOs Latina Resource Center provides onsite comprehensive bilingual, bicultural services to victims and their families impacted by sexual assault and domestic violence. The Center supports people of all genders, races, ethnicities, and age groups report their abuse to police, navigate the criminal justice system, and find resources in the community that can benefit them. Through MKE Urban Stables’s Equine-Assisted Learning Program, these normally very shy and reserved girls stepped out of their comfort zones and built trust and confidence in themselves and others. “I believe the horses also helped them just be themselves and genuinely have fun,” said Valeria Xolot, Bilingual Sexual Assault Advocate.

NEW MANE ENDOWMENT BENEFITS MKE URBAN STABLES MISSION

MKE Urban Stables is excited and honored to announce that we now have an endowment! Thanks to a generous donation from Gerald and Barbara Mainman, the Mane Endowment was created and launched in December with \$10,000. The Mane Endowment will provide sustainable financial support for the MKE Urban Stables mission for many years to come.

Earnings from the Mane Endowment can be used to increase access to our equine-assisted programs for at-risk youth by providing program scholarships to non-profit organizations in the community that lack the funding to cover the nominal cost to participate. The Mane Endowment allows our donors to go beyond their annual giving to leave a legacy and provides the vehicle for a bequest to the Mane Endowment in their will.



MAKE A GIFT TODAY AND FOR THE FUTURE OF MKE URBAN STABLES



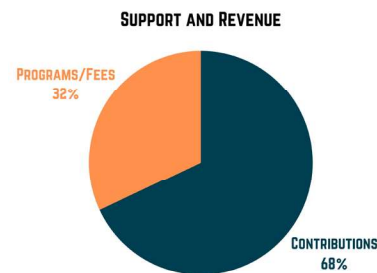
Are you already making annual gifts to help support the MKE Urban Stables mission? Consider adding a planned gift to your donations this year. Increase the impact of your giving, receive greater tax savings, preserve wealth for you and your family, and help us continue our mission in the future.

Mary McIntosh, Executive Director, would be happy to discuss this wonderful new opportunity to leave a legacy. Please contact her at 414-526-0460 or by email at McIntosh@mkeurbanstables.org.

AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS - 2023

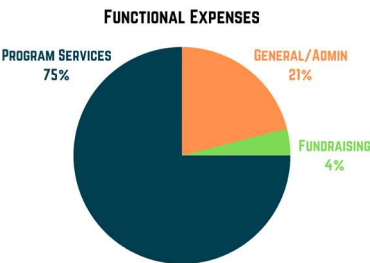
Support & Revenue

Programs/Fees 32%
Contributions 68%



Functional Expenses

General & Admin 21%
Fundraising 4%
Program Services 75%



Statement of Financial Position

Assets:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Current Assets | \$425,149 |
| Property/Equipment less depreciation | \$5,431,104 |
| | \$5,856,253 |

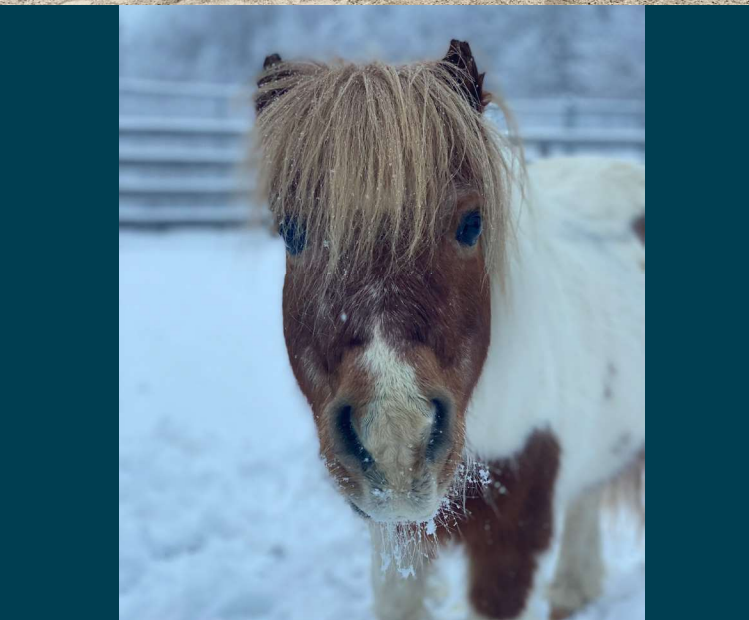
Liabilities & Net Assets:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Current Liabilities | \$60,076 |
| Long Term Liabilities | \$1,390,621 |
| Net Assets | \$4,405,556 |
| Total Liability and Net Assets | \$5,856,253 |

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORTED OUR MISSION IN 2023

Bader Philanthropies
Brewers Community Foundation, Inc.
Charles E. Kubly Foundation
Non-Profit Management Fund
1895 Bancorp of Wisconsin Community Foundation, Inc.
William Collins Kohler Foundation
Peck Foundation
Frieda and William Hunt Memorial Trust

Milwaukee Bucks
Second Choice Foundation
Elizabeth J. Tellier Foundation
PNC Foundation
Rotary Club of Milwaukee
Gustav and Gladys Hunt Memorial Trust
Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs



HOW YOU CAN HELP IN 2024

Sponsorship

Our hard-working therapy horses, the heart of our organization, incur many expenses. These include veterinary costs, farrier and dental fees, feed, shavings, and equipment. A \$6,000 sponsorship not only supports these expenses but directly contributes to the well-being and care of our horses, making a significant impact throughout the year.

General Donations

MKE Urban Stables is a 501 (c) (3) organization that relies on the generosity of our community. General undesignated offerings are welcome year-round to assist with daily operations and the special care of our horses. Your donation, a testament to your support, is not only impactful but also tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law, providing you with a financial benefit. You can donate on our website, www.mkeurbanstables.org, on a one-time or recurring monthly basis.

2024 IMPORTANT DATES

Veteran Meet and Greet, sponsored by WI Dept. of Veteran Affairs,
April 9, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Veteran Meet and Greet, sponsored by WI Dept. of Veteran Affairs,
June 11, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Veteran Meet and Greet, sponsored by WI Dept. of Veteran Affairs,
August 13, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

MKE Charity Horse show, Ozaukee County Fairgrounds,
August 23 - 25

Harbor Fest, 600 E. Greenfield Ave. Milwaukee,
September 20, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Veteran Meet and Greet, sponsored by WI Dept. of Veteran Affairs,
October 8, 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

3rd Annual Appreciation Event
October 25, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Volunteer Holiday Party,
December 10, 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm

*Stay up to date on MKE Urban Stables news and events
by following us on Facebook and Instagram!*

[@mkeurbanstables](https://www.facebook.com/mkeurbanstables)