

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

FEBRUARY 2022

Dear Friend of MKE Urban Stables,

Thank you so much for your generous support of MKE Urban Stables. Whether you are staff, a donor or volunteer, or just a fan of our mission, we are grateful to you for your kind wishes and encouragement as we opened our stables this year. To ensure the best programming quality, we have purposely and deliberately progressed at a measured pace. We have been gradually fine-tuning our operations, staffing, programming, and services this year to ensure the best quality for our staff, horses, partners, and clients. We are proud of the work that has been done this year and have excellent news to share in this Annual Report.

Many thanks to our Board of Directors, who have helped us move from a mere vision to a one-of-a-kind, fully functioning urban stable providing equine-assisted services and programs to youth and veterans. They help keep us focused on the future but grounded in governance and best administrative practices.

Thank you for supporting us on our journey. We will continue to keep you posted on our progress. Here's to a happy and healthy 2022!

With gratitude,

Mary McIntosh
Executive Director

Kent Lovern
President



Executive Director Mary McIntosh with Prissy

OUR MISSION

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

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2021

- Opened the stables
- Acquired six therapy horses
- Brought on ten volunteers
- Staffing
 - Full-time Executive Director
 - Full-time Director of Programs and Equine Services
 - Part-time Stable Assistant (2)
- PATH International membership
- Partnership
 - Rawhide Youth Services
 - Zablocki Veterans Affairs Medical Center
- Community Events & Tours
 - District Two Open House with Prissy
 - District Two crime meetings
 - Safe and Sound
 - Black Cowboys
 - Augustine Prep School
 - UW – Madison Vet School
 - Redevelopment Authority of City of Milwaukee
 - Ramlow Stein
 - Mount Mary University Graduate Counseling Department Chair and Colleagues
 - Individual tours



Equine-assisted education

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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District 2 Open House with Prissy



Staff Member Anya and Coy

MKE URBAN STABLES AT A GLANCE

OUR STORY

As you may be aware, the concept of the stables dates back when the Milwaukee Police Department was seeking a permanent home for its Mounted Patrol Unit. At the same time, there was interest in the community in establishing an equestrian-assisted therapy program in an urban setting. These two ideas led to the vision of the MKE Urban Stables. An initial Steering Committee led by several prominent business leaders, including David Lubar, Jack McKeithan, Harris Turer, Mark Brickman, Bruce Block, Bill Durkin, and Beth Weirick, was formed to spearhead the effort. In 2015, Dick Lincoln came on board as the Owner's Representative. Uihlein Wilson – now Ramlow Stein – was hired as the architect, and Morton Builders, Inc., a national company specializing in equestrian facilities, became the general contractor.

The total cost of the project was \$5.9 million. With the Redevelopment Authority of the CITY of Milwaukee (RACM) approval, we purchased the four-acre site at 143 E. Lincoln Avenue for \$1. In addition, we received a \$200,000 Brown-fields Cleanup Grant from the Environmental Protection Agency for remediation. We also received a \$1.5 million loan from Forward Community Investments of Madison, secured by a first mortgage on the property and an assignment of the rent from the MPD lease.

The balance of the \$5.9 million project budget - \$4.2 million - was raised through private donations. That fundraising effort, led by the late Bill Durkin, hit its goal in early 2019, and construction began that April. The most significant gift - \$1.0 million - came from the Evan and Marion Helfaer Foundation, which is acknowledged as the Presenting Sponsor. Other major donors were Jack & Patti McKeithan, David & Madeleine Lubar, Harris & Pam Turer, Andrew & Carlene Ziegler, Daniel M. Soref Charitable Trust, and the Rotary Club of Milwaukee, among many others.

With the construction complete in May 2020, we became the first facility in the nation to combine mounted police patrol, equine-assisted therapy, and community engagement programs with a total of 24 horse stalls, indoor and outdoor riding arenas, classrooms, multi-purpose community room, and plenty of parking. The Board of Directors was planning to hire its first Executive Director, but the outbreak of COVID put those plans on hold. However, the MPD Mounted Patrol and their horses moved in in June 2020.

CURRENT PROGRAMS

In May 2021, through a partnership with Rawhide Youth Services, the leader in Wisconsin in helping teens transform their lives, we started providing equine-assisted services and therapy to Milwaukee's troubled and at-risk youth. Rawhide is working hard to develop its presence in the Milwaukee area. We are proud to provide therapy horses and equine specialists so the Rawhide counselors can offer top-notch mental health counseling in a safe environment. As a result of their expansion efforts, they recently signed a wrap-around contract with Milwaukee County and one of Milwaukee's top residential treatment facilities for teen women.

To improve the quality of life for our nations' veterans, we have been working very closely with the Zablocki Veterans Affairs Medical Center in developing and delivering an equine-assisted therapy program for Milwaukee's veteran community. We are looking forward to welcoming a small group of veterans and their Recreation and Mental Health staff for group and individual equine-assisted activities.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

We are happy to share our financial results as we close our first year of operation. Our revenue was 17% higher than budgeted, while our operating expenses were 36% lower than budget. The higher income is due to a generous gift from Bader Philanthropies to help fund a smooth start-up of operations and the generosity of Board members. Our expenses came in lower than budget as we ramped up staffing and programming slower than initially planned. As a result, we had a net operating income of approximately \$86,000 with \$200,000 cash in the bank, a modest amount of operating reserve.

Although our financial results were positive in 2021, we have developed a conservative, balanced budget for 2022, knowing that our expenses will be increasing to provide the therapy and community services so crucial to our mission. We hope to count on your generosity to provide operating fund support.

VOLUNTEERS

We welcomed over 50 volunteers in September to an Open House to learn more about our programs and the horses. We currently have about ten volunteers working with us with barn chores, including mucking, feeding, watering, and exercising. Our two most tenured volunteers, Glenn Scheuerman and Sherri Jibson, are proud veterans who have become a part of our family. Not only do we appreciate seeing their smiling faces, but our herd loves them as well. As the pace of our programs picks up, we look forward to reaching out to more volunteers to assist us with our ever-growing list of needs.



VA Volunteer Glenn Scheuerman and Coy



Volunteer Linda Hunn with Hawkeye and Franny

HOW YOU CAN HELP IN 2022

Sponsorship

We incur many expenses with our hard-working therapy horses, including veterinary costs, farrier & dental fees, feed, shavings, and equipment, to name a few. A \$5,000 sponsorship supports many of these expenses we incur throughout the year.

General Donations

MKE Urban Stables is a non-profit that exists thanks to the generosity of our community. General, undesignated offerings are welcome year-round to assist with daily operations and take special care of our horses. Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Volunteer

Volunteers are the backbone of any equine services program. Please reach out to us at volunteer@mkeurbanstables.org for more information.

MEET THE HERD

Prissy

Prissy is a female miniature donkey. She came to us from a family downsizing their farm. Prissy loves to spend time with people and begs attention from her stall whenever she hears someone walk into the barn! She enjoys getting scratched on her neck and booty! Exercise is not her thing, but she gets daily walks from volunteers and clients to maintain her weight. Prissy came to us with some dental problems and even removed some teeth! After having her teeth taken care of, she is much happier and has a large appetite.

Coy

Coy is a Quarter Horse gelding. He loves to meet new people! He is not shy and will lick anyone he makes friends with! Coy is an excellent part of our therapy team. Because he likes to meet new people, he immediately helps clients feel at ease. He is also quite the character in the arena and will pick up and play with props and toys used for therapy sessions.

Bracken

Bracken is a Dales Pony gelding. He is known as the little police horse at the stables because he looks like one just smaller. Bracken is very sensitive, making him a great partner in therapy sessions. He can easily pick up emotions and energy from a client by giving the client clear feedback! He might not be the first horse to greet a new person, but he will be your buddy for life once he trusts a person. Bracken made a living pulling logs out of the woods before living at the stables.

Franny

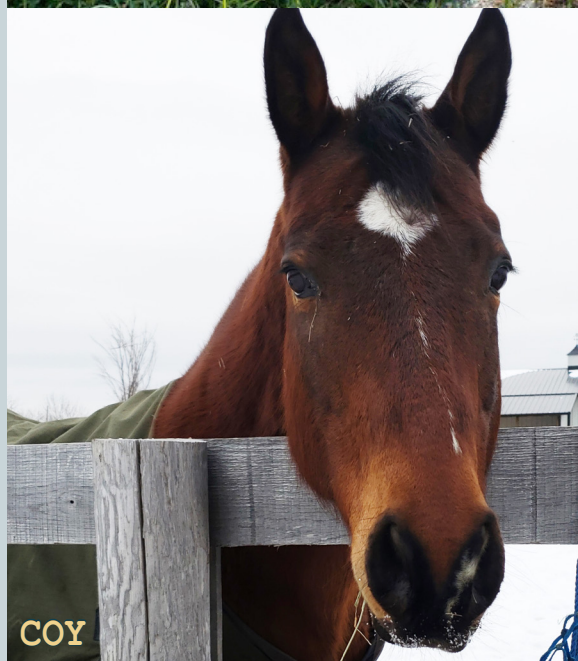
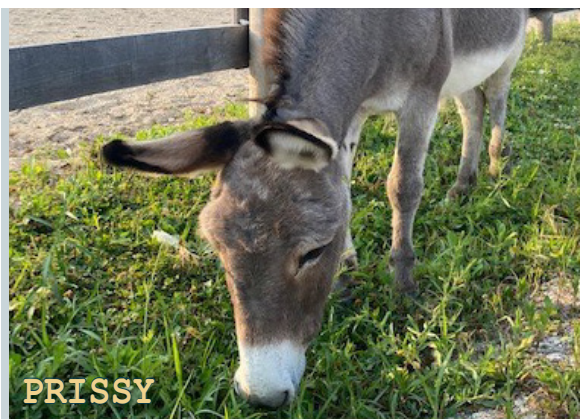
Franny, Hawkeye's best friend, is a miniature horse mare that came to us from the Humane Society. She was in a field and untouched for ten years, as far as we know! When she first came to us, she was very spooky and did not want to be around people. Now she will greet people at the gate. She and Hawkeye work as a team in therapy sessions. They have been most successful at group therapy. They are very good at mirroring human behavior, which the therapist can then point out to the clients. Franny is especially fond of anything sweet and chasing the train next to her paddock!

Hawkeye

Hawkeye, Franny's best friend, is a miniature horse gelding who came to us from the Humane Society with Franny. He was also untouched and ran away from people. Hawkeye is now just as friendly as Franny! He works with Franny during therapy sessions to mirror human behavior. Hawkeye likes training and working on new things; he is quick to learn once he understands! He also very much enjoys any sweet treats!

Arion

Arion (pictured on the cover) is an off-the-track thoroughbred gelding. He raced for a few years before becoming a dressage horse. After competing in professional dressage, he was donated to the stables, where his owners realized that this life was not for him. He is very curious and often likes to touch his nose to whatever has caught his attention! Arion is very playful with the other horses! Some of them appreciate this, and some do not! Arion is new to the program but is settling in nicely. He is learning that his new job is mainly groundwork, which is unique to him. He is very picky about what treats he likes and so far seems to prefer sugar cubes and carrots!



GUEST ARTICLES

I started volunteering at MUS the end of October 2021, & have enjoyed the interaction with the therapy horses; Mary, the Executive Director; Felicia, the Equine Specialist; & the other employees & volunteers very much.

I'm retired & the stable is just a few miles from my home, so it's very easy to volunteer a few hours a week to work in the office with Mary; groom, walk, & feed the horses; clean stalls & water buckets; sweep the barn floors, etc.

My parents were animal lovers & recognized that I loved horses as a young girl, so my Dad, who was a mechanical engineer, traded a boiler for two Shetland ponies. I fell in love with them—my 5 brothers not so much! With that many kids, we always had an assortment of pets (dogs, rabbits, parakeets, mice, cats, turtles, fish, & a newt). As an adult, I had several horses, & continued to ride with friends throughout the years.

When I heard about the unique proposal to build a facility in urban Milwaukee to stable the Milwaukee Mounted Police horses & equine therapy horses in 2019, I thought it sounded like a wonderful project. Partnerships with the Downtown Business Improvement District, the City Of Milwaukee, Rawhide, the Milwaukee VA Medical Center, the Rotary Club, & high school students were established, with public interaction planned for both programs.

I have disabled family members, & worked with physically & developmentally disabled adults with Goodwill's Adult Day Programs & Milwaukee Center for Independence, & recognize the positive benefits of equine therapy for some of those participants (I have personally experienced the therapeutic value of interacting with horses & other animals).

There are many ways for volunteers to get involved in this fun & rewarding program. Even in the colder winter months, the indoor arena provides a warmer space to interact with the horses.

Linda Hunn, Milwaukee Urban Stables Volunteer



Volunteer Linda Hunn with Coy



Veteran Volunteer Sherri Jibson with Bracken

I am very grateful to be a part of a wonderful organization with such a strong mission. I've learned a lot this past year, especially with being a part of the opening of a unique and needed equine-therapy center available in Milwaukee.

Something specific I'd like to add about the stables would be two different situations that I am reminded of. When I first started coming to MKE Urban Stables, the minis, Hawkeye and Franny, were quite rough and not human friendly. I had the privilege of trying to help get them more comfortable with people. I would sit with them in their stall and try to apply what I had learned.

And then we got Bracken. He was very sensitive and had spent a lot of time with his previous situation being overpressured. And his eyes were just so talkative to me. So he became my very special friend. And now he's very calm around me. And I absolutely love that and appreciate that I've been able to gain his trust.

Sherri Jibson, Veteran Volunteer

Working as a therapist for Rawhide Youth Services and partnering with MKE Urban Stables to provide equine-assisted psychotherapy is a dream come true. When I learned that I could support those in need while working with horses in Milwaukee, I knew that it was meant to be. Horses express empathy with unspoken words in a unique way that traditional talk therapy cannot provide. Since the first day I walked through the doors at Urban Stables, I knew that this was going to be a place of healing, growth, honest challenge, and unconditional positive regard for the populations we serve.

The positive impact these animals leave on clients shows us that the work we are doing here is life-changing. One example I can think of is with an individual who had an extremely difficult time expressing their emotions before attending sessions at Urban Stables. Within three weeks, they began to verbalize their emotions and connect with a horse in ways they were never able to before. This turned into them verbalizing how they felt with their loved ones and increasing self-compassion. I am honored to be a part of the work done at MKE Urban Stables and look forward to our continued growth.

Samantha Jamrozik, Outpatient Therapist at Rawhide Youth Services



Volunteer Samantha Jamrozik with Bracken



WHAT'S NEXT FOR 2022

- Strategic Planning with the Board of Directors
- New website
- Acquisition of pasture space
- Sponsorship opportunities for our horses
- Apply for PATH International accreditation
- Growth of Rawhide and VA programs
- Equine-assisted learning pilot program with Augustine Prep
- Safe and Sound project with schools and community groups
- Joint open house with Rawhide in Spring
- PR events
 - Groundhog Day
 - Valentines Day
 - Memorial Day
 - July 4th
 - Veterans Day
- Social media plan

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



@mkeurbanstables

To make a gift, please send a check to:

MKE Urban Stables
143 E Lincoln Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53207

Questions? Contact us at (414) 744-2844

Pictured, from top:

Visitors from Mount Mary University Graduate Program in counseling

Coy playing Tic-Tac-Toe

Jill Pelisek, Marianne Canter, Mark Brickman, Mary McIntosh, Dr. Mark Markel (Dean of the UW-Madison Vet School), Dick Lincoln, and Pat Bowdish

Board members Dick Lincoln and Ed Krishok practicing their herding skills with the minis