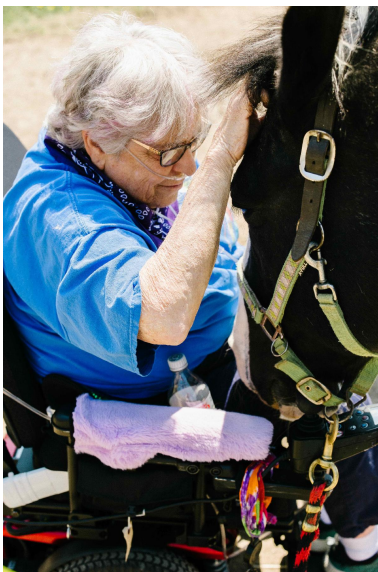




July 2024

Your Support Helps We Can Ride Make Wishes Come True!



Nancy's Story

Earlier this year, We Can Ride was contacted by Wish of a Lifetime. Their mission is to shift the way society views and values our oldest generation by fulfilling older adults' dreams and sharing their stories to inspire those of all ages.

Nancy's wish was to have a day at the barn with an opportunity to connect with horses, a lifelong love. We Can Ride was uniquely suited to help make her wish come true with our accessible facility, experienced instructors, and herd of therapy horses.



As a child, Nancy owned a Tennessee Walker and was very knowledgeable about horses. As she arrived, she connected with Nita and Michelle, who talked with her about how WCR could create a meaningful experience for her.

And what an experience it was! Nancy's visit began in the paddock. Gus must have known that she was a Tennessee Walker lover, as he was the first to say hello. Later they moved to the indoor arena, where Koal happily groomed Nancy's head, a gesture she thoroughly enjoyed! There's nothing like the sweet smell of hay breath...especially after a long absence.



Nancy watched a spirited play session between Buck and McDreamy before getting a final farewell from our own valued senior, Jasper.

Nancy found immense joy in her time at We Can Ride. What an honor to make her wish come true.

Photo Credit: Ashley Elwill

Programming Update

Patti's Pony Connection is born of personal experience

When We Can Ride instructors Michelle Haury and Wanda Sayuk lost their parents to dementia, it was one of the most difficult experiences of their lives. Knowing from personal experience how important it is to meet a person with memory loss where they are in the moment and to join them in their reality as they experience it, it was natural to marry that knowledge to the healing power and calming presence of horses.

Named for Michelle's mother Patricia (Patti) Donehoo Katnik, Patti's Pony Connection is an opportunity to ease the way for people experiencing dementia and memory loss, as well as their caregivers. If you know someone who may benefit from this program, please spread the word. If you are personally interested, please reach out to us. It would be our pleasure to welcome you to the barn.



Patti's Pony Connection

A program designed for
individuals facing early onset
dementia/memory loss.

**Caregivers
are
encouraged
to join!**



**Available for groups
of various sizes**

Flexible scheduling

- Live in the present through activities that encourage sensory exploration
- Enhance balance, mobility and coordination
- Experience new levels of confidence and self-esteem
- Reduce anxiety, depression and agitation
- Improve social interactions and relationships with caregivers

Contact us for information on Patti's Pony Connection

Important Events

THE RACE FOR HORSE OF THE YEAR

CURRENT STANDINGS



FIRST PLACE

After falling behind in early July, McDreamy has surged back into the lead as fans rally in support!



SECOND PLACE

Look who we have here! Team Jasper is showing up big time as mailed-in donations rocket him into a solid 2nd.



THIRD PLACE

Queen Kota of 2023 has slipped behind veteran Jasper. With less than \$1000 separating our top three, it is still a very tight race!

[Donate to Hayday for Horses](#)

We are at 37% of our goal with six weeks to go. Will you help us???

"[Looking for a volunteer job after retiring] We Can Ride clearly stood out in terms of their professionalism and breadth of services. As a volunteer during lessons I have witnessed kids and parents being lifted up and transformed by our herd of generous and sensitive horses. Miracles truly do happen at the barn! I cannot fully express my gratitude for all the joy WCR has brought to clients and to me personally."

-Sheila Collins, volunteer and donor



I want to support the horses that are changing lives, and the clients that they serve. Take me to Hayday for Horses!

Our first annual 5k event will be held on Sunday, September 22nd, 2024 at Lake Rebecca Park



Registration is open! If you're a racer, sign up to run and be eligible for age group and overall awards. Professionally timed by Pickle Events and organized by Endurance Race Promotions.

Not a runner? After the race the course will be open to walk/roll/stroll the distance you prefer.

Enjoy the park and support We Can Ride!



**Registration and Sponsorship
Information**

Engagement Opportunities

**Are you interested in volunteering at We Can Ride, or
changing your role?**



Register here for new volunteer orientation via zoom

Register here for hands-on sidewalk, leader, and barn aide training

Seeking Board Members

The We Can Ride Board of Directors has openings for new members. Members should be passionate about We Can Ride and willing to dedicate their time, energy, and professional skills to the organization.

We are looking for members with experience in the following areas: funding and development, medical, human resources, legal, finance/accounting, and public speaking. If you are interested in learning more about the Board of Directors' positions, please reach out! boardofdirectors@wecanride.org.



Updates From the We Can Ride Team



Welcome, Rachael Jacques!

The We Can Ride team has grown stronger with the addition of Rachael Jacques as our new Fund Development Manager.

Rachael comes to We Can Ride with many years of experience working in the nonprofit sector. She has most recently held development positions at the Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health and JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) focusing her work on setting fundraising strategy and corporate partner management. Growing up with a brother who has profound disabilities, she is passionate and excited about We Can Ride's mission and helping to support the impactful, therapeutic programming we offer to the community.

Rachael lives in Plymouth with her 3 sons and husband and although not a rider, really, really, really loves horses!



Leading the Herd

A message from our Executive Director

In the upcoming quarter, we are placing special emphasis on increasing engagement with our revenue-generating programs. We Can Ride's Herd Dynamics and Equine Assisted Learning offerings present valuable opportunities for our organization to secure earned income and support our long-term stability. Over the next three months, we will share progress updates and invite our community to check out our work. Visit wecanride.org and help us

spread the word among your networks!



THANK YOU

Your generosity and commitment enables us to continue providing life-changing experiences for our riders. Thanks to you, we are able to offer therapeutic sessions that enhance physical, emotional, and mental well-being. Your contributions make a profound difference in the lives of those we serve.

[Visit our Website](#)

We Can Ride | PO Box 463 | Maple Plain, MN 55359 US

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