



SUNRISE THERAPEUTIC RIDING & LEARNING CENTRE

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

November 1, 2023 - October 31, 2024

MISSION

To develop the full potential of children and adults with special needs through therapy, education, horse riding, recreation, and life skills programs, farm-related and social activities, and to further develop and expand Sunrise's programming to support a Respite and Residence Village community.



Serving Our Community Since 1982

6920 Concession 1
Puslinch ON, N0B 2J0
(519) 837-0558
www.sunrise-therapeutic.ca

Registered Charity
11920 6027 RR0001

Values

Respect For people, horses and the environment.

Innovation We strive for excellence through continuous improvement in our inclusive programs and services.

Personal Growth We believe that every person should be treated with dignity and empowered to reach their full potential.

Fiscal Responsibility We adhere to clear and comprehensive accounting policies in our operations and fundraising practices.

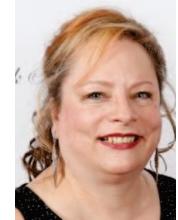
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

Greetings from the Board of Directors to our Sunrise community! Thanks to all of you, Sunrise has had another successful year. We welcomed two new Board members, Brianne Gardner and Russel Hurst. Brianne is an investment advisor. Russel is a Councilor with the Township of Puslinch. Their expertise is an invaluable asset and will complement our slate of talented directors. Thanks go to Donna Christie, Karen Curtis, Jessica Goyda and David Kennedy for their dedication and continued service to our board. We have made great achievements this past year with our fundraising events. The Pasta Dinner sponsored by the Rotary Club of Guelph South, sold out yet again this year. Our major fundraising event, Celebrate Sunrise! raised a record amount of \$132,634. We continue to be remembered by many in their donations and bequests.

However, sometimes it's all the small things put together that also make Sunrise so special. To name just a few: the hosting of students from the Upper Grand District School Board, the donation of equine vaccines and our local farmer Ken Nicoll who donates pumpkins and gourds. Our Life Skills participants delighted in tracking the brisk sales! We look forward to moving closer to the vision of building The Village at Sunrise Farm. Please continue to support Sunrise, financially, spiritually and supportively through this journey. We need each and every one of you.

Susan Fielding

Susan Fielding
Board President



In the uncertain times we are living in, I want to close with this inspirational quote:
"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in."

Auth. Unknown

DREAM ■ BELIEVE ■ ACHIEVE

Executive Director's Report

The Impacts of Therapeutic Equine Programs

The 102-acre Sunrise Farm including an emerging Therapy Forest, indoor Riding Arena, and a network of groomed trails, continued to provide a tranquil environment for many during the past year. Sunrise is a place of belonging where many friendships are made among those who might not be easily included in society. It is our hope that those who drive up the Sunrise farm laneway leave behind any challenges associated with disability and enter Sunrise's inclusive community. Throughout the past year, program participants joined Sunrise from Wellington County, as well as the Regions of Waterloo, Dufferin, Halton, Peel, Brant, and Hamilton-Wentworth.

Therapeutic Riding

Six days per week, children, youth and adults arrived for their Therapeutic Riding lesson. On the same horse each week, Riders had a happy reunion with "their horse". Instructor, Volunteer Leaders and Side Walkers plus the Therapy Horse, form the therapeutic team, and it works its magic with our Riders who represent a wide range of physical, cognitive, and emotional special needs. All of Sunrise's Therapeutic Riding Instructors are certified by the Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association and Equine Canada. Two newly certified Instructors were welcomed to Sunrise this past year. Up to 97 Riders visited Sunrise weekly, September through June.

Life Skills Adult Day Program

This vibrant program continued four days per week, working with horses on the ground and maintaining a horticultural program in season. Many life skills were practiced, and an invaluable social community was built among participants. Garden planning, feeding horses, baking pastries, preparing lunch, arts & crafts, stable management topics, painting birdhouses, indoor cardio exercises, themed social parties, are just a few activities at the Sunrise adult day program! 24 weekly participants year-round.

Equine Assisted Learning (EAL)

Sunrise's partnership with the Upper Grand District School Board grew to support many new students in the second year of this program of activities working in groups with horses on the ground to develop communication, problem solving, team building and cooperation. Participants also include individuals and families, as well as regular Sunrise program participants. 256 participants throughout the year.

Equine Facilitated Wellness (EFW)

This individual mental-health counselling program for adults became firmly established last year. Led by a registered Clinician and a CanTRA certified Senior Equine Specialist, it provided an effective alternative to

traditional mental health therapies. A non-riding program, the horse's responsive nature and nurturing attitude is an integral part of the session. 7 participants throughout the year.

Camp Sunrise / Little Breeches

Campers with and without special needs, ages 5 through teen participated in Camp Sunrise last summer enjoying riding, stable management, swimming, archery, low ropes challenge course, nature and sport activities. Based on a total inclusion model, it is always very special to see everyone doing all activities together. The energy continued five Saturdays in the Fall and Spring where children ages 4-11 worked with the Sunrise miniature horses and experienced an introduction to the farm. 264 Campers/30 Little Breeches participants annually.

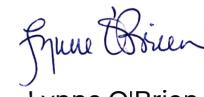
Sunrise Personnel

Sunrise was supported throughout the year by a dedicated team who showed ongoing commitment to Sunrise's Mission. Staff: 7 full-time and 9 part-time staff worked year-round, plus 9 full-time staff joined during July and August to provide the camp program. Our Volunteer Team are an integral part of Sunrise and provided 6,645 hours as Lessons Volunteers as well as assisting with fundraising events, farm maintenance, and office tasks.

Horses – the foundation of all Sunrise programs

The acute awareness of horses makes them exceptional teachers, and therapy horses are chosen for their steady, gentle temperaments. The horse is a powerful motivator and at Sunrise remarkable things happen every day. The foundation of Sunrise programs, these intuitive animals build relationships with their companions in our programs. Whether riding or working with horses on the ground, each program involves Sunrise's special herd of 20 therapy horses plus 3 miniature horses.

On a summer day at Sunrise, a young participant arrived. It was his first day and this six-year-old boy with special needs was filled with anxiety and would not get out of the car. Family members and centre staff worked to reassure him. Almost three-quarters of an hour later, moving across the barnyard very tentatively, he crossed paths with the therapy horse, Jack, who was being led into the barn. Jack stopped and gently stroked his big head alongside the boy's arm. Jack stood and watched the little boy for a while until the youngster had the courage to raise his hand to touch him. Suddenly, "bye mom!" and Jack and his new friend entered the barn together. As with most equine therapy horses, Jack just knew what was needed that day.


Lynne O'Brien
Executive Director



Capital Campaign Steering Committee Report

The Project Steering Committee met less frequently during the last fiscal year, once in November and once in April. The vast majority of the project effort was focused on "Stage 2" activities. There were 2 areas of focus. First was working to completion of design drawings and readiness for Building Permit applications. Second was raising a target initial \$2 million in new capital funding.

With respect to preparation for building permit application, Fryett Turner Architects were very busy coordinating input from consultants, including structural, mechanical, electrical, photometric, hydrogeological, geotechnical, landscape, and civil engineering firms. By the end of the fiscal year updated contracts were in place with all the consultants needed to move the design documentation from the Site Plan Approval stage to permit application, targeted to be prior to 31 March 2025 to allow permits to be in place before implementation of a revised Building Code.

On the fundraising front we received some substantial donations from a handful of donors. However, by fiscal year end we remained well short of our goal. We received new capital donations in the amount of \$371,558. Additionally, a new application for funding was submitted to The County of Wellington on 4 October 2025, in response to an issued RFP.

During the 2024 fiscal year we presented to the County of Wellington Housing Department, the Guelph, Guelph South, and Guelph Trillium Rotary Clubs, as well as the Women's Probus Club of Cambridge and MPP Mike Schreiner.

Moving forward the application for Building Permits will be a key objective and renewed and heightened focus on raising capital funds will be the priority.


Peter Cummins,
Steering Committee Chair.



view campaign video here

COMMUNITY SUPPORT & FUNDRAISING

Thank you “Friends of Sunrise”

Capital Campaign

\$100,000

Anderson Therapy Services, Inc.
Bridgeway Foundation

\$50,000

Waterloo Region Community Foundation
*William & Mary Singer Family Foundation
*part of a multi-donation pledge

\$60,000

*Pearson, Larry & Joy
*part of a multi-donation pledge

\$10,308

Eden Park Holdings

\$1,000

Boyd, Ken

\$200

Curtis, Karen

Special Donation -equity

\$100,800

932005 Ontario Inc.

\$75,600

Clark, Celia & Peter

Operations Donations

\$28,200

Anderson Therapy Services

\$21,160

Creative Landscape Depot

\$20,000

Harold Adams,
The Estate of

\$15,000

Stoidi Group Inc.
William & Mary Singer Family Foundation

\$10,000

Barzotti Woodworking
Frasson, Susan
Harry E. Foster Charitable Foundation
Kelly, Jim & Alison
Petersen, Reg & Carol
Yzerman, Will

\$10,160

Anderson, Deborah

\$10,200

Cummins Family Fdn,
Peter & Susan

\$9,000

Pat Flewelling

\$8,200

Ken Lilycrop

\$6,000

Rotary Club of Guelph South

\$5000

Bast, Cheryl
Drenters, Johanna
Flewelling, Patricia

Fortier, Judy & Shane

Guelph Community Foundation – McKeough

Taylor Fund

L J Pearson Foundation

Melo, Maria

Standish, Richard

Wilkie, Dorothy

Woodbine Cares Fdn.

\$1000-\$4999

Arscott, Ted
Bousfield, Carl
Caine, Ann

Cambridge Centre Honda

Challenger Motor Freight
Christie, Donna & Jim
Fortier, Judy & Shane

GiftFunds Canada
Gowing, Kimberley

Graham Animal Hospital
Jacobson Specialty Landscape Co. Inc.

Lockhart, Lynn
MacLachlan, Dr. James - Hoover

McDermott, Don

McKay, Don & Barb

Melo, Maria

Norm's Esso, Guelph

Pawsitively Paradise

Peter & Susan Cummins Family Foundation

Prior, Elizabeth

Reid, Alan

Renahan, Mea

River Dali Foundation

Ross-Shire Foundation

Scalia, Janet M

Spaetzl, Pauline – Canadian National

Christian Foundation

Stanton, Kenneth

Thorne, Randie

vanEngen, Scott & Carrie Rutter

Veenstra, Sara

Young, Terry & Janet

Donations up to \$999

Andersen, Donna

Baker, Paul

Badger, Lynn

Bailey, Laura

Baxter, Clara

Bennett, Lyndsey

Bienzle, Dr. Dorothee

Billings, Ralph

Bolster, Wayne

Bowman, Nicole

Bowring, Kay

Bowring, Michele

Brouwer, Walter

Brzozowski, Rosalind

Butler, Pat & Ed

Canada Helps
Canadian Online Giving Foundation

Carter Shiela

Ceelen, Debbie

Chanyi, Betty

Christie, James & Aneta Clapperton, Ken

Clark, Celia & Peter

Copp, Terry & Linda

Curtis, Karen

Curzon, David

DeLuca, Peter

Dawkins, Roberta

Diaz, Anita

Dickson, Vicki

Dilworth, Carol

Donkersgoed, Philip

Dublin St. United Church

Douthwaite, Stephanie

Ecker, Gayle

Elmira Pet Products

Everett, Dayna

Farrell, Nancy & David

Feairs, Janet

Florica, Lori & Pete

Freelton Lions Club

Gall, Susan

Ganning, Patricia

Gardner, Brianne

Grainger, Andrea

Griffiths, David

Guelph Red Chevrons

Guelph Township Public

School – Reunion Committee

Hamilton, Janet

Hollis, Susan

Hull, Brad

Ireland, Sharon

Kaczorowski, Michael

Kapur, Ashok

Kearns, Lorna

Kilgour, Joan & Marc

Klutt, Vicki

Knox, Merebeth

Kruth, Stephen

Laing, Nancy

Leachman, Barbara

Lillie Fund, Jack



COMMUNITY SUPPORT & FUNDRAISING

Thank you “Friends of Sunrise”

Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation
 Litchfield, Martin & Beth Love, Robert Marshall, Linda Mason, Robert & Patricia Master Machining Inc.
 McBey, Betty-Anne McGee, John McLean, Bill McManus, David McMillan, Jacqueline McNeilly, Avril & Derek McNeilly, Elsie & Ivan McRobert, Darleen Melnyk, Susan Miller, Kristin Miller, Stuart Milton, Joanne Minnick, Francis & Claudette Morris, Judi & William Morrison, Joanne & Peter Morrison, Peggy Munro, Andrew Nicoll, Kenneth OPP Veterans Assoc. – Guelph OPP Veterans Assoc. – Guelph/KW Chapter Omori, Jonanne Ottewell, Geri Pahl, Calvin Pahl, Jackson Parks, Cynthia & David Paul, Joyce Pavli, Peter & Candace Picard, David Piercy, Joan Pimentel, Edgardo Pollock Family Fund – Waterloo Region Community Foundation Prosser, Ryan Rainford, Paula Redmond, Stephen Reed-Davis, Moira Reilly, Catherine Roberts, Colleen Roy J. Fabbiani Professional Corp. Rutter, Christine & Bernard Rutter, Mary Lou Salt, Stephen Schiedel, Allen Settlers Supplied Inc.

Shaver, Patricia Skoll, Heather Slack, Susan Sims, Dale Smith, Glenna Smith, Kevin Stainton, Lois Steer, Christina Stemerdink, Dr. Chris Stimas, Mary Stone, Jim Sugg, Jessica Thompson, Barb & Dick Thompson, Susan United Way Halton & Hamilton Vandermeer, Stuart Walker, Janice Wigan, Chris & Sarah Wilson, Mary Wojcicki, Helen Women's Probus Club of Cambridge Wood, Wendy Wright, Kristin Young, Mattew Young, Pamela

Monthly Donors:
 Bailey, Laura Baxter, Clara Bennett, Lyndsey Bienzle, Dr. Dorothee Bowring, Michele & Kay Caine, Ann Clark, Celia & Pete Copp, Terry & Linda Curzon, David Diaz, Anita Farrell, David & Nancy Gall, Susan Hollis, Susan Hull, Brad Morrison, Peggy Nicoll, Kenneth Pimental, Edgardo Prosser, Ryan Reed-Davis, Moira Roberts, Colleen Reid, Alan Stemerdink, Dr. Christopher

In Memory of:
 Charlie Armstrong Heidemarie Bratusa Barbara Curzon

Brian Dolmer Sandy Gall Helga Hunter Robbie Fitton Susan Johnston Barry King Peter Lidster Eldon Lyngseth Sue MacConnie Edie Madott Moira Minke Ann Scalia David Stephens Kate Welch

In Honour of:
 Edenbrook Hill School Laura Bailey Christopher Caine Shirley Caine Sean Gaisford Rayshelle Kalinics, Elmira Pet Products Madeleine Kruth Jennifer & David Leger Donald Rutter Mateo Vandermeer Luba & Lad Rudik

In Memory of Animals:
 Freddy (Nicki & Regie Pollock) Motley (Kate Welch) Sherman (Michele & Kay Bowring) Toby, Sunrise Horse

Donations-in-Kind/Services
 Amos, Ali & Bill Strumos Anderson, Jane Arscott, Ted Barker, Dorothy Brenegan, Lynne Bryan's Farm Equipment Caine, Ann Capital Paving Inc. Charbonneau, Terry Christie, Jim & Donna Classy Lane Stables Copper Connectionz Cox Construction Limited Curry, Amanda Creative Landscape Depot Curtis, Karen Gerdau Metal Gowing, Greg

Jenetti, Robert Kerr, Jennifer & Alan Klemm, Jenifer Nicoll, Kenneth Pharoah, Jeremy Porche Centre Kitchener-Waterloo R & C Chartered Professional Accountants Rona Cashway, Guelph Rylko, Richard & Suzie SBG Realty Ltd. Settlers Supplies Inc. Shouteten, Tanya ShowWorks Inc. -Craig Bickerstaffe Slack, Laura Smith, Jill System Equine -Dwayne Job Tomboyz Landscaping UPI Energy WASTECO Yberman, Will

HEALTH CARE PARTNERS

Veterinarians Halton Equine Veterinary Services -- Dr. Laura Frost Southgate Animal Hospital - Dr. Barb Deter

Farriers Coy, Victoria Veenstra, Sara Wood, Wendy

Equine Veterinary Product Donors Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health, (Leanne Pollack) Leis Pet Distributing Inc., (Melissa Wolters) Zoetis Canada (Gordon Collier)

Healthcare Advisory Team Dr. Christopher Stemerdink Angela Meyer OT (R) Carol Peachy-Hill OT Winnie Warywoda PT Andrea Gow SLP

Environmental Partnerships Forests Canada Martin Litchfield RPF (R) Williams and Associates, Forestry Consulting Ltd.

VISION

To be a leading Therapeutic Riding and Learning Centre where children and adults with special needs can experience farm activities and the joy of working with horses.

To encourage and support participants by providing a positive environment, enabling them to realize their full potential, by taking on responsibilities in diverse and appropriate interactive farm and animal programs.

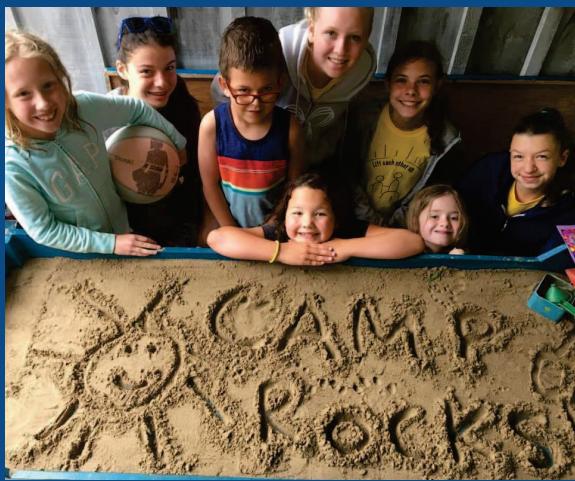
To further enhance a sense of supportive, caring and inclusive community through the development of a residential and respite facility for adults with special needs.

To continue to reevaluate standards and embrace innovation pertaining to services, programs and fundraising.



Overarching Statement

"Sunrise is committed to the physical and mental well-being of our horses and the protection of the environment and wildlife. This is reflected in the learning experience and training available to all the children and adults in our Sunrise programs."



42 YEARS BEHIND US

NOW - "BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES"

Village at Sunrise Farm & Program Expansion



"I would absolutely love to live at Sunriseit would be a freeing, independent feeling to know I live here and I help take care of these horses that I love so much ."

Brooke F (adult participant)

"SUNRISE HAS THE VISION, THE PLAN AND THE EXPERTISE TO MEET THE OVERWHELMING DEMAND FOR A RESIDENTIAL / RESPITE FACILITY."



Reception Hall



Interior Courtyard



Studio Suite



Dear Horses,

Thank you for all that you do for us.
Thank you for allowing us to ride on you, it feels pretty awesome.
You make us feel tall and proud.
You are so friendly to be around. You are smart and curious. It's nice for people like me.
When I groom you, make your food and clean your stall it gives me something to do for you in return.
When you put your head down and let me pet you, when you breathe warm air on me, I feel loved inside.
Sunrise horses, thank you for all the support you give us, and the way you make us feel.
You're pretty special.

-Haley V