

Mission: Through sustained investment in rigorous research, HHRF serves as a catalyst to advance global knowledge of horse-human interactions and their impact on health and wellness.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2016

- \$88,000 awarded to Slippery Rock University for therapeutic riding and autism spectrum disorder research.
- University of Missouri-Columbia College of Veterinary Medicine reported on PTSD/military veterans research findings.
- Achieved the highest number of donors in a single year in HHRF history.
- Launched our Focused Research Initiative to help build capacity and direct future research funding.
- Findings were reported from Baylor University's research on PTSD and military veterans.
- The HHRF Board awarded their first Science Achievement Award to Nancy McGibbon, MS, PT, HPCS.
- HHRF welcomed new Executive Director Kenneth Boyden, J.D., Ed.D. and gratefully thanked parting ED KC Henry.



Image courtesy Caisson Platoon Equine Assisted Partners

Grant Application Recapitulation 2006-2016**

Research Grant Applications Received: 265

Number of Universities represented in applications: 196

Number of EAA/T programs represented in applications: 172

Number of Organizations (including Veterans Admin. programs) represented in applications: 29

Number of USA States represented in application: 42

Number of worldwide countries represented in application: 17

**Some applications are from combined sources

HHRF has funded eleven equine-assisted activity projects in as many years. Ten projects have been completed. Three of the awarded projects studied Cerebral Palsy/movement/balance, three studied post-traumatic stress disorder, three focused on autism, one regarding children with bonding issues and one on the horse's response to physical/cognitive disorders. Three of the completed projects have been published in peer-reviewed journals and three had their pilot studies published.

About the HHRF research review process: The applications go through a four-tier review process: 1) Internal screening, assessing for complete applications that have followed the required process and format. 2) Applications that move forward are reviewed by at least two scientific review committee members. A detailed assessment including scoring and comments is completed for every application and each applicant receives feedback from these forms. 3) Two to four finalists are reviewed by a three member Scientific Review Committee team who identify all finalists worthy of funding. 4) Scientific Review Committee members present the finalists to the Board of Directors, who make the final decisions regarding the actual funding award(s). Awarded grants/teams are tracked by staff and Scientific Advisory Council representatives. Projects are monitored from start to finish. Final funding is awarded when the project and data analysis are complete.

FUNDED RESEARCH

1. "Improvement in Trunk/Head Stability and Upper Extremity Control after HPOT," Washington University School of Medicine, Program in Occupational Therapy - St. Louis, MO. Principal Investigators: Tim Shurtleff, Dr. Jack Engsborg, Dr. John Standeven. Funded 2006. Status: Published in the Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, 2009 Jul;90(7):1185-95.
2. "The Effect of Equine Assisted Activities on the Social Functioning in Children with Autism," Good Hope Equestrian Training Center - Miami, FL, USA. Principal Investigator: Dr. Margaret Bass. Funded 2008. Status: Submitted for publication, pilot study results published in the Journal for Autism & Developmental Disorders.
3. "Hippotherapy to Improve Postural Control in Children with Cerebral Palsy," Université de Sherbrooke - Quebec, Canada. Principal Investigators: Dr. Helene Corriveau, Dr. Claude Dugas, Danielle Champagne. Funded 2010. Status: Submitted for publication.
4. "Effects of Hippotherapy on Balance and Gait in Ambulatory Children with Spastic Cerebral Palsy," Central Michigan University, USA. Principal Investigators: Debbie Silkwood-Sherer and Nancy McGibbon. Funded 2010. Status: Pilot study published in Physical Therapy, Journal of the American Physical Therapy Association May, 2012.
5. "Basic Neurobiological and Psychological Mechanisms Underlying Therapeutic Effects of Equine Assisted Activities (EAA/T)," University of Rostock, Germany. Principal Investigators: Dr. Andrea Beetz, Dr. Henri Julius, Dr. Kurt Kotrschal, and Dr. Kerstin Uvnas-Moberg. Funded 2010. Published in the Journal of Occupational Therapy, Schools and Early Intervention, 2015.
6. "Effects of Hippotherapy on Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders," Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO, USA. Principal Investigator: Tim Shurtleff. Funded 2011. Status: Pilot study published in American Journal of Occupational Therapy, Nov/Dec 2013.
7. "Effects of Equine-Assisted Activities on PTSD Symptoms, Coping Self-Efficacy, Emotion Regulation, and Social Engagement in Military Veterans," University of Missouri, Columbia, MO, USA. Principal Investigator: Dr. Rebecca Johnson. Funded 2012. Status: Study completed, preparing for submission.
8. "Effects of Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy on Post-Traumatic Stress Symptoms in Male Youth," Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, Medford, MA, USA. Principal Investigator: Dr. Megan Mueller. Funded in 2013. Published in the Journal of Child and Family Studies 2017.
9. "Examination of the Effects of Equine Assisted Activities on PTSD Symptoms, Quality of Life and Participation in Combat Veterans," Baylor University, Waco, TX. Principal Investigator: Dr. Beth Lanning. Funded 2014. Status: preparing a submission.
10. "Can Horses Distinguish Between Neurotypical and Mentally Traumatized Humans?" University of Guelph, Guelph, ON, Canada. Principal Investigator: Katrina Merkies, PhD. Funded 2015. Status: preparing a submission.
11. "The Effect of Therapeutic Riding on Stress Levels in Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders," Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, PA. Principal Investigator: Elizabeth Kemeny, PhD. Funded 2016. Status: Active.

Details and updates at the HHRF website

Strategic Plan

Mission:

Through sustained investment in rigorous research, HHRF serves as a catalyst to advance global knowledge of horse-human interactions and their impact on health and wellness.

Vision:

A world where the unique capacity of the horse to transform lives is universally understood and valued.

Values:

EXCELLENCE: Driven to facilitate and support the highest caliber of competitively selected scientific research; Strive for creative solutions, originality and innovation; Rigorous and unbiased pursuit and transmission of new knowledge through research; Cooperation, collaboration and teamwork in achieving our mission

RESPECT: Guided by the highest ethical and professional standards as they relate to humans and equine research; Embracing diversity, integrity and mutual respect as paramount in all activities, business management and personal interactions

ACCOUNTABILITY: Ensuring wise and efficient use of resources; Upholding highest level of transparency in all dealings; Committed to consistent, open communications with our stakeholders

Goals:

I: Expand our capacity to fund RESEARCH

- Increase the scale and impact of the endowment fund
- Establish a thriving planned giving fund
- Diversify and increase investment from individual donors
- Increase support from foundations and corporations

II. Fund projects that clearly address prioritized RESEARCH Gaps

- Expand Scientific Advisory Council's role in directing research/identifying gaps
- Enhance proficiency of internal research support processes
- Enhance the capacity of Focused Research Initiatives

III. Develop collaborations to advance RESEARCH priorities and fund strategic objectives

- Pursue allied associations to advance research objectives
- Establish corporate funding partners
- Partner with a university to complete a systematic analysis



Finance Summary

INCOME

Grants	\$147,315	94%
Special events	\$4,090	3%
In-kind	\$1,625	1%
Interest	\$2,722	2%
Investment, dividends and investment gains	\$1,224	<1%
Total Income	\$156,976	



EXPENDITURES

Program	\$164,516	77%
General & Administrative	\$31,559	15%
Fundraising	\$16,394	8%
Total Expenditures	\$212,469	



Full financial reviews and 990's available at www.horsesandhumans.org

HHRF's financial position remains very stable. Contributions decreased in 2016 as compared to the previous year due to the special 10-year anniversary campaign in 2015, but showed a strong base comparison. We received a restricted grant for capacity building, most of which will be used in 2017. Our 10-year anniversary grant was awarded in 2016 - our largest grant ever! Other expenses increased by a modest 1.4% from their 2015 levels. Our endowment has grown 8.7% from inception to a total of more than \$125,000. Overall, 2016 built a solid basis for our strategic plans moving forward. \$88,000 (accounted under program expenses) was awarded in a research grant in 2015, but funding was contributed/accounted for in 2015, causing the appearance of discrepancy in 2016 income and expense.

2016 Donors

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