



2016 Fact Sheet

Mission Statement

Pony Power Therapies gives special needs and at-risk individuals a unique opportunity to interact with horses and a farm.

A Brief History

Pony Power Therapies was founded in 2000 to provide horse-assisted activities to children and adults with a broad spectrum of developmental, physical and emotional disabilities. A lifelong equestrian, Founder and Executive Director Dana Spett discovered therapeutic horseback riding while researching alternative therapies for one of her daughters with mild special needs.

In 2005, Pony Power transitioned to a 501(c)3 organization to meet the increasing needs of the community, and now serves as Bergen County's only facility providing horse-assisted activities for special needs populations.

In June 2012, Pony Power Therapies became a PATH International Premier Accredited Center, recognition of its commitment to excellence in maintaining industry standards. PATH International (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship) is the equine-assisted activity industry's leading accrediting body. Pony Power instructors are either certified by PATH or working toward their certification.

Populations Served by Pony Power

Each week, Pony Power serves between 125 and 175 participants, ranging in age from two and a half to 80. Please note, all numbers are approximate, as the organization's client base is continually evolving.

Autism Spectrum (19%) ♦ Cerebral Palsy (8%) ♦ Seizure Disorder (6%) ♦ Developmental Delay (14%)
Mental Health Issues (21%) ♦ Visual Impairment (5%) ♦ Medically Fragile (21%)
Traumatic Brain Injury (1%) ♦ At-risk Youth (18%) ♦ Veterans (5%)

Pony Power Horses

Pony Power is home to 19 seasoned therapy horses and ponies. All of its horses and ponies have been donated or rescued, and each has been screened to ensure a quality of movement and temperament, essentials for safely learning riding skills and more. While all of Pony Power's horses and ponies have had previous "careers," each exhibit an understanding of the significance of the new responsibility with which they have been entrusted.

Staff & Volunteers

Pony Power currently has a staff of 18 (10 full time, 8 part time). During any given semester, the organization has between 100 and 120 active volunteers who serve as side walkers for our riders and lead walkers for our horses.

Board of Directors

Pony Power currently has a ten-member board of directors that advise, govern, oversee policy and assist with the promotion of the organization. Members are selected based on their understanding of and commitment to Pony Power's mission and their professional skill-sets. Our board meets four times per year, and we usually have at least 80% attendance at each meeting.

Susan Viniar, Chair ♦ Anne Armstrong-Coben, MD ♦ Mark A. Berman, Esq. ♦ Basil Bruno, MD ♦ Steven Hirsh
Michael Jenkins ♦ Elissa Goldner ♦ James Napolitano ♦ Linda Rosato ♦ Dana Spett, MSW

Budget & Funding

Pony Power's FY16 (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016) organizational budget is projected to be \$1,100,000. Its fundraising efforts are led by the Director of Development, with oversight from the Executive Director, and involvement from the board of directors. The current breakdown of Pony Power's funding base is fee for service (1/3), fundraising events (1/3), and individual contributions and grant revenue (1/3).

Partner Agencies

Bergen County Special Services ♦ Center for Hope and Safety ♦ Children's Aid and Family Services
The Children's Therapy Center Academy ♦ George Washington Middle School (Ridgewood)
Hackensack University Medical Center ♦ Kinnelon Public Schools ♦ New Pathway Counseling Services
Paramus Public Schools ♦ Springboard Program ♦ The VA Hospital – Lyons ♦ The Valley Hospital in Ridgewood
Waldwick High School ♦ Women Supporting Women ♦ Yachad of New Jersey

Programs & Services

Therapeutic Riding: Incorporates the pleasures and skills of horseback riding to build developmental, emotional, social and physical skills for each individual rider. We also offer Sibling Riding, which provides a "shared" experience for special needs riders and their siblings.

Pony Power for Heroes: Pony Power offers unique horse-centered programming to those who have served in our country's armed services. Veterans can experience a variety of physical, psychological and social benefits by using horses as a learning tool in mounted and unmounted experiential learning activities.

PALS Program: Children and adults with developmental disabilities, as well as those facing life challenges, participate in non-riding activities such as grooming, stable management and team leading walking; each session focuses around one of six life skills (i.e. communication, critical thinking) and allows participants to learn by doing.

School and Specialty Groups: Horseback riding is proven to address several symptoms commonly found in special needs classrooms. School groups come weekly to the farm for a one-hour session that is evenly divided between riding and horse-centered classroom and farm activities. Pony Power has developed a new farm-based program for adults with developmental delays.

Summer Programs:

Weeklong summer intensive programs for specialty groups include riding and non-riding activities. Participants learn about horsemanship and horse behavior, stable management and partake in farming activities, such as gardening, composting and beekeeping.

Operation Pony Power: For children of veterans and active duty servicemen and women living in Bergen County, NJ.

Programming for At-Risk Children: We partner with Children's Aid & Family Services and Center for Hope and Safety to offer designated weeks of programming to at-risk children living in foster care homes and temporary shelters.

Hospital-Based Programming: For The Valley Hospital's Butterflies and Home Care Programs, as well as families from the Joseph M. Sanzari Children's Hospital, we provide riding and horse-assisted activities.

Media Contact: Kerry Donovan ♦ Pony Power Therapies ♦ 1170 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ 07430
(201) 934-1001 ♦ kerry@ponypowernj.org ♦ www.PonyPowerNJ.org ♦ www.Facebook.com/PPTherapies