



## Why It Works

The Rein-Bow Riding Academy is a place of promise, where individuals with varying abilities receive innovative therapy while riding a horse. For some riders, this is the only "sport" they will ever participate in and they are very proud of it! We have witnessed many incredible moments while children are riding these horses...children have said their first word, while others after several riding sessions have taken their first steps. It's a place where individuals come to gain skills, success, and confidence and that's why each achievement, no matter how big or small, is celebrated!



The Rein-Bow Riding Academy has greatly impacted my son's life, bringing opportunities to him that he may never have had without it. Because of Luke's participation in hippotherapy, he is now able to crawl on high knees, kick both of his legs and has better trunk control and balance. The Rein-Bow Riding Academy means the world to our family and we are forever grateful to the therapists and volunteers who make the program available to our son. -Kim Mabie, mother to Luke who has been riding for 8 years.



## Rein-Bow Riding Academy

A service of the Therapy & Learning Center

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Huron, Tennessee 38345

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This is one of the many programs provided to our community by the



## Therapy & Learning Center™

A Service of Ayers Children's Medical Center

# The Ride of a Lifetime...



## Rein-Bow Riding Academy

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# How Our Program Works

During a Hippotherapy session, a specially trained therapist uses a horse as a therapeutic tool to achieve the rider's therapy goals. The term hippotherapy comes from the Greek word hippos, meaning horse; thus the term literally means treatment with the help of a horse.

Our Therapeutic Riding program allows riders to increase their emotional and social well-being with the goal of the rider controlling the horse on his or her own. In this program, a therapeutic riding instructor emphasizes proper position and rein skills with riders.

Why a horse? A horse's multidimensional movement provides therapeutic input as a means of improving coordination, balance, and strength. Our trained staff use the movement of the horse with therapeutic exercises and activities to improve the rider's overall functional ability. Any child or adult with a special need may qualify for our program.



*Our daughter Violet has Dandy Walker Syndrome and has received various therapies since she was 4 months old. Violet enjoys her sessions on the horses so much that she doesn't realize she's working hard and improving the brain functions that were damaged. It's also helping her socially and emotionally because she's interacting with horses, volunteers, children, and therapists while having a great time. - Bridgett, mother to Violet who has been riding for 1 year.*

# Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are the heart and soul of the Rein-Bow Riding Academy. Without volunteers available to safely assist the riders during their sessions, they would be unable to ride. No special skills are required for volunteers as each person is trained by the program staff. Volunteers must be at least 14 years of age and come with an enthusiastic, energetic spirit ready to improve the lives of individuals with special needs.

## Volunteer opportunities include the following:

**Horse Leader:** The leader is responsible for starting, guiding, and stopping the horse during the session while allowing the rider to do as much of the handling as possible.

**Sidewalker:** The sidewalkers walk alongside the rider during a lesson and are responsible for the rider's safety.

**Horse Care & Arena Assistants:** The assistants bring the horses from pasture, groom and tack them, and later return them to pasture at the end of the riding sessions. Additionally they keep the arena clean and open/close gates as needed.

**Special Events:** Volunteers are needed to help with fundraising activities held throughout the year. They assist with planning, set up, event activities, and clean up.



# How You Can Help

Caring for the horses, maintaining the riding facility, and therapeutic sessions are costly. Because insurance reimbursement for hippotherapy is very limited, we do not bill families' insurance for these services. Raising a child with special needs comes with unique financial challenges; it is the Therapy & Learning Center's desire to provide this service free of charge for each participant. Thus, we rely heavily upon individual, corporate, and community support for these worthwhile programs.

Hippotherapy and Therapeutic Riding are two of the many programs offered by the Therapy & Learning Center. As a non-profit organization, financial contributions and in-kind donations are always welcome. You may volunteer your time at our riding facility or you may choose to support our life-changing program with a financial gift. For one rider to participate in a four month session, it costs an estimated \$1,200. Your tax deductible donation can be made to the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation. Please note that your gift is in support of the Rein-Bow Riding Academy at the Therapy & Learning Center.



**This life impacting program would not be possible without the generosity, service and compassion of Trish Stanfill and her late husband, Gary Stanfill.**

**Send tax-deductible donations to:  
West TN Healthcare Foundation  
Attn: Rein-Bow Riding Academy  
74 Directors Row, Jackson, TN 38305**

