ROCK, Ride On Center for Kids provides equine-assisted services to children, adults, and veterans with physical, cognitive, and emotional challenges.
MISSION
Improving independence and life skills in partnership with the horse.

VISION
To be the trusted leader in equine-assisted services through research, education, and programs.
Dear ROCK Family and Friends,

For over 25 years, individuals have been empowering others by lifting them up on the horse, fostering improved independence and life skills - this forms the foundation of ROCK.

This year, we achieved a significant milestone by fully paying off our land debt. We’ve also transitioned into our new Sport Clips Heroes Arena, inaugurated the Doc Breen Vet Clinic, unveiled the Charles Avery Plaza, and introduced the George and Barbara Brightwell Welcome Plaza. Additionally, we’ve established the Cecile Autrey Ham Family Room and the Barbara Brightwell Equine Alley - these spaces serve as the backdrop for our mission of connecting people and horses.

ROCK’s essence lies not in its physical structures, but in the symbiotic relationship between humans and horses. The devoted ROCK staff, selfless volunteers, generous donors, and our gentle equine partners come together to create a truly remarkable environment where miracles unfold every single day.

This past year has been one of expansion, welcoming new horses and staff, as well as the addition of new facilities. It’s also been a year of sorrow. We paid tribute to Barbara Brightwell at our inaugural Cowgirl Bruncheon, presenting her with the True Grit award, only to bid her and George farewell this spring. Their initial gift of 20 acres and 25 years of leadership have formed the solid foundation on which ROCK stands.

Through this annual report, we celebrate the impact of the past year of service. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every horse and human who took a step towards ‘Healing Thru Horses’.

Courage and Blessings,

Chris Miller, Board President

Dr. Nancy Krenek, PT, DPT, HPCS CEO & Founder
The impact of ROCK’s programs is seen in the research, goal documentation, surveys, and testimonies from the participants that ROCK serves.

**94%** of children & adults improved in independence*

**88%** of children & adults improved in life skills*

ROCK participants reported improvement in the following cognitive, motor, and behavioral skills:

- **78%** Focusing and Attention
- **76%** Sitting Balance
- **74%** Posture
- **61%** Following Directions
- **59%** Trunk Control
- **55%** Sequencing Skills
- **55%** Tolerating Transitions

ROCK On Veterans (ROV) participants reported improvements in the following areas**

- **89%** Decreased Anxiety
- **95%** Improved Mood
- **95%** Improved Stress Management

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**Results from 2022-2023 ROCK Participant Survey | **Results from 2022-2023 ROCK On Veterans Participant Exit Survey**

- **125** Children
- **121** Adults
- **156** Veterans & Families
- **324** Volunteers
- **32** Horses
Our Mission is accomplished thanks to the passion and commitment of our volunteers, lovingly referred to as ROCKateers, who range in age from 14 to 92.

Training is offered throughout the year and, while horse experience is valued, it is not required. Help is always needed in the following areas:

- Sidewalkers
- Special Events
- Welcome Wranglers
- Barn Maintenance
- Horse Handlers
- Work Groups

Scan QR code or visit ROCKride.org/volunteer to get involved today!
We are grateful for all our monthly and yearly donors, those who attend our special events and support us through ticket sales and event sponsorships, as well as our grantors and foundation gifts, all of which contribute to our operational budget. This year the average gift of the individual contributor was $830.83.

24 research projects and 4 have been published in peer-reviewed journals.

2022-2023 Annual Operating Budget
Audited financial statements available upon request

$1,884,000

2022-2023 Revenue Sources
- Grants & Contracts (19%)
- Special Events (36%)
- Contributions (33%)
- Tuition & Program Fees (11%)
- Other Income (1%)

2022-2023 Expenses
- Programs (78%)
- Fundraising (13%)
- General & Administrative (9%)
EQUINE-ASSISTED SERVICES

Programs

Speech & Physical Therapy
Incorporating Equine Movement
Also known as Equine-Assisted Therapies (EAT), this strategy utilizes the dynamic movement of the horse to achieve speech therapy or physical therapy goals.

Adaptive Riding
Also known as Equine-Assisted Activities (EAA), adaptive riding is designed to teach horsemanship and riding skills to individuals with special needs, with the goal of increasing functional life skills.

ROCK On Veterans
ROCK On Veterans offers co-ed and women-only programs for veterans and active-duty service members, as well as programs for veteran families partnering with horses and veteran volunteers.

Equine-Assisted Learning (EAL)
EAL is an educational approach that incorporates equine-facilitated activities using the experience of equine to human interaction in an environment of learning and self-discovery.

School Programs
Through partnerships with local school districts, ROCK is able to create connections with the horse and facilitate learning between diverse populations through Equine-Assisted Learning (EAL) programming.

Summer Camp
ROCK offers summer camps full of fun and learning about the horse during the summer months that includes Camp Bright Side, an inclusion camp, and Camp Courage which is offered to children of veterans and active-duty service members.

Education

TAMU Courtney Cares Equine Therapeutic Program
In 2012, ROCK began partnering with Texas A&M University to provide the staff, knowledge, and expertise in Equine-Assisted Activities and Therapies for a program on campus at TAMU in College Station, TX. Learn more at www.courtneycares.org.

Intro to Equine-Assisted Activities and Therapies (EAAT) Course
In Spring 2018, Dr. Priscilla Lightsey and Dr. Nancy Krenek began teaching an Intro to EAAT course at Texas A&M in College Station. The lab for this class is conducted in the arena of Courtney Cares.

ROCKateers
ROCK has many opportunities for volunteers (ROCKateers) to expand their horse knowledge, serve on a board or committee, help with office work, side walk, horse handle, and take on leadership roles in a volunteer capacity.

STAR Program
ROCK’s STAR (Student Teachers Aspiring to be Registered) program is a 20-week intensive learning program that offers instruction and hands-on experience to prepare participants interested in pursuing certification through PATH Intl. as a Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor.

Research

Research in Partnership with Institutions of Higher Learning
ROCK is fulfilling our vision to be the trusted leader in Equine-Assisted Services through research, education, and programs by collaborating with universities to conduct research to document the effectiveness of equine-assisted activities and therapies. To date, ROCK has participated in 24 published research papers within the field of Equine-Assisted Services.

H.O.P.E. (Horses Offering People Enrichment)
ROCK provides educational and intern support to this nonprofit EAAT program serving children with special needs in Beijing, China. Dr. Priscilla Lightsey, who works at ROCK and TAMU Courtney Cares, is the Founder and Executive Director of H.O.P.E. Learn more at www.hopebeijing.org.
"I wanted to thank you guys for helping to allow me to ride. I have benefited from ROCK in several different areas. I have decreased anxiety, have more self confidence, more independence and the ability to reason and deal well with life and its challenges. Thank you for the scholarship to be able to ride at ROCK.” - Sarah V., participant

"I am currently serving as a volunteer for ROCK in appreciation for the services they provided our family over 20 years ago. ROCK is an incredible program with exceptional leadership. It is amazing to see how the program has significantly grown in providing equine-assisted services to the community for many years. Speaking from both a client and volunteer perspective, ROCK consistently delivers an exceptional experience to all participants in the program. I highly recommend their services and encourage those looking for volunteer opportunities to join the ROCKateer team.” - Brian D., ROCKateer

"The veterans program made me feel welcomed and gave me a sense of belonging. The safety of the space allows us to share with the other veterans what we might not share elsewhere. I have found the time with the other vets, and especially the time with the horses, to be therapeutic and healing in unexpected ways.” - Steve D., ROCK On Veterans participant

TOP 10 DIAGNOSES TREATED

- ADHD
- Autism Spectrum
- Cerebral Palsy
- Down Syndrome
- Developmental Delay
- PTSD
- Seizure Disorder
- Speech Delay
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Visual Impairment

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

ROCK’s annual operating budget is supported by generous donors like you through special events and contributions.

Ways to contribute:

- Amazon Wish List
- Annual Giving Events
- Endowments
- Horseshoe Club
- Individual Gifts
- In-Kind Gifts
- Legacy of Hope
- Monthly Giving
- Stocks & Securities

Special Events:

- Amplify Austin (March)
- Barn Dance (April)
- Horseshoe Club (Year-Round)
- Legacy of Hope (Year-Round)
- Cowgirl Bruncheon (Nov)
- End of Year Giving (Nov–Dec)

Contact Karah Powell for custom giving plan options to suit any situation at 512-930-7625 or email karah@rockride.org.

Horseshoe Club

ROCK Horseshoe Club is made up of sponsors who provide for the care and feeding of ROCK therapy horses. Sponsorship of a horse through a monthly or annual gift provides for the ongoing needs of the ROCK herd.
Our mission to improve independence and life skills in partnership with the horse would not be possible without the support of our generous donors. The following are individuals, foundations, and corporations that invested $1,000 or more between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023. Thank you!

**FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS**

Cheryl & Ronald Helson  
Cherie & Rick Rowder  
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.  
Alissa Johnson  
AmazonSmile Foundation  
American Legion Post 447-Round Rock  
Amy & John Gantt  
Angela Miller  
Ann & Ken Loudermilk  
Anna+Anton Olson Legacy Fund  
**Group**  
Applied Materials - Your Cause  
April & Paul McCartney  
Ascension Texas Foundations  
Ashley & Beau Whitaker  
Ashley & JB Barnes  
Audra Spahn  
Austin Community Foundation  
Barbara & George Brightwell  
Barbara Bergin  
Becky Adkins  
Beth Avery  
Betty Koonce  
Betty Woods  
Bettye & Gordon Logan  
Bill M & Cecile Autrey Ham Foundation  
Bob Ernst  
Brown Distributing  
Bruce Whits顿  
Bud & Norma Johnson Family Foundation  
Calao Wealth Management Group UBS  
Capitol School of Austin Booster Club  
Carl C. Anderson Sr. & Marie Jo Anderson Charitable Foundation  
Carlson Law Firm  
Carol Ann & Lance Sandlin  
Carol Atwood  
Cathy & Mike Godfrey  
Cathy & Patrick “Doc” Breen  
Cavender's Boot City  
Central Texas Community Foundation  
Cedarwood Endowment  
Nancy & Nyle Maxwell  
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.  
Cherie & Rick Rowder  
Cheryl & Ronald Helson  
Chet Garner  
Chisholm Trail Communities Foundation  
Connie & David Clark  
Sport Clips Philanthropic Fund  
Chisholm Trail Financial Group  
Chris & Jeff Miller  
Christie & Lindsey Roberts  
Christine & Joe Calao  
Christy & Edward Logan  
Cindy & Jim Harrington  
City of Georgetown  
City of Round Rock  
Claudia Ryner  
Connie Aldrich  
Dana & Chris Smyth  
Darlene & Dwight Jeter  
Dawn & Tom Harris  
Deanne & Shawn Bredevold  
Debbie & George Christianson  
Deborah Mathias  
Debra & George Woods  
Dee Grimshaw  
Dell Giving - YourCause  
Diane & Clint Truitt  
Don Garbe  
Don Hewlett Chevrolet  
Dorothy & Ron O’Neal  
Dru Nell & Danny Maxwell  
Edie & Don Robertson  
Elaine Guilory  
Embree Group of Companies  
Emily & Glenn Befort  
Eric Marin  
Erik Miller  
Erin & John Kiltz  
Ewald Kubota, Inc.  
Experience  
Faith & Vic Bero  
Farris Morrison  
First Texas Bank  
Fish City Grill  
Flora McCormick  
Floyd R. Carlson Charitable Trust  
Ghattis Ranches LLC  
Gaye & Doug Watkins  
General Motors  
Georgetown Behavioral Health Institute  
Georgetown Health Foundation  
Ginny & Cory Delz  
Half Community Initiative  
Harry & Eda Montandon Charitable Trust  
Hasso Philanthropic Foundation  
H-E-B  
Heidi & Scott Sjule  
Heidi Conranth  
Helen & Bruce Bessner  
Helen & Kris Johnston  
Henry Lucid  
Heroes Night Out Inc.  
Hewlett Packard  
Highland Homes, LLC  
Holly & Patrick Stevens  
Holly Hogue  
HTeaO Georgetown  
I Live Here, I Give Here  
IBEW Local Union 520  
IRE Group LTD  
Jamahl Labbe  
James Bolton  
Jan & Charlie DiMare  
Jan & David Sharp  
Jane Nadine Tucker  
Janet & Don Ross Hewlett  
Janet Tribble  
Janice Crenewge  
Jay Gaett  
Jay Lloyd  
Jayme & Brad Bates  
JDI Constructors, Inc.  
JDI Contractor and Supply, Inc.  
Jean & Al Mowdy  
Jen & Clint Henderson  
Jennifer & James Moreland  
Joanne & Bill Harrah  
John Bausch  
John Blazier  
Joseph French  
JT Bates Group  
Julie & Steven Klaus  
Karah Powell & Glen Breder  
Kathryn & Daniel Voss  
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Kaye & Ron Coleman  
Kaylah McCord  
Kendra Scott Designs, Inc.  
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Kita Rutherford  
Kristie & Scott Johnston  
Krystal & Ronald Swain  
Laura & Brett Chotkey  
Laura & Josh Mowdy  
Laurel Pilkington  
Law Offices of Christie Williams  
Leeanne & Todd Moore  
Leiselle & James Sadler  
Lesley & Timothy Gentz  
Linda & Sam Jones  
Linda Kolinek  
Linda Silva  
Lisa & Danny Harris  
Lisa & John Jones  
Lisa & Lance Raybong  
Lola Wright Foundation  
Lorey & Eugene Stabeno  
Lori & Les Sherman  
Lori FERR  
Lucretia & Curtis Crenewge  
M/SGT Ben D. Snowden VFW Post 8587  
Marie & Mike Melton  
Mary & Donald Capes  
Mary & Perry Steger  
Mary & Troy Rodriguez  
McCormick Charitable Trust  
McCourt Building Equipment  
McCoy’s Building Supply  
MDRT Foundation  
Mercedes-Benz of Georgetown  
Meta Payments Inc./Facebook  
Michael Dillon  
Michelle & Chris Bubela  
Michelle & Josh Baran  
Missy & Richard Gordy  
Nancy & Carrie Laing  
Nancy & Bob Knowles  
Nancy & Frank Krenke  
Nancy Amaral  
Nikki Tran  
Nolan Ryan Beef  
Pam & Dayne Carlson  
Pati & Ross Taggart  
Patricia & Fred Sides  
Patricia & Jerry Figures  
Patricia & Stephen Tranter  
Patricia Barton  
Patricia Sharp  
Patsy & David Seal  
Patti Groce  
Pepsi Co.  
Personal Administrators, Inc.  
Pleasant Murphy  
Priscilla & Joel Rappaport  
R Bank Texas  
Rebecca & Alan Terrell  
Rebecca & Ty Barho  
Regina & David Holden  
Region 9 Arabian Horse Association  
Robert Gibson  
Ronah Currey  
Rotary Club of Georgetown  
Round Rock Women’s Club  
Ruth Lange  
Sally & Les Stolte  
Sandy Wilkens  
Shana & Dan Gattis  
Shannon & Carl Illig  
Sharon & Ed Bradshaw  
Sharon & Michael Daggett  
Sharon Domel  
Shattuck Foundation of Central Texas  
Shawn & Jeff Maurice  
Sherman Fairchild Foundation, Inc.  
Shewvawn & Jack Walzel  
Shonnie & Steve Stapp  
Soukup Family Living Trust  
South Texas Fundraising Solutions Inc.  
Stacey Chism  
Stephanie & Tony Troxell  
Stephanie & Nate Zinsmeyer  
Stephanie Williams  
Steve Lambert  
Steve Shook  
Susan & Craig Harris  
Susan & Dexter Harmon  
Susan Warren  
Suzonne & Randy Slaughter  
Take2 Holdings LLC  
Tania & Matthew Easton  
Taylor Crenewge  
Teresa & Dennis Sandlin  
Teresa & Steven Shearer  
Teresa & Steven Anderman  
Terry & Chris Connman  
Texas Dreamin’  
Texas Methodist Foundation  
Texas Mutual Insurance Company  
Texas Quarter Horse Association  
Texas Veterans Commission  
The Murphey Foundation  
Charitable Trust  
Third Coast Bank  
Tiffani & Jeremy Wampler  
Tito’s  
Tracey & Rocky Hardin  
Tracy & Kevin Samsel  
Tress & Keith Pearce  
United Way for Greater Austin  
Vicki & Jim Banner  
W.D. Kelley Foundation  
Wendy Chapman  
Weslie & Stephen Elliott  
Wild Basin Investments  
William Baird
THE ROCK HERD

Belle • Cash • CB • Charles • Donut • Echo • Grant • Henry • Icy Ike • Jet • Lee • Mayo • Midnight • Mooch • Partner • Peggy Sue Playboy • Scooter • Shimmer • Shug • Skippy • Sonny • Tony

In loving memory of Buddy and Dunny.

ROCK Staff

Donelle Beal **
Kevin Bowers
Brittney Brigham
Bob Byrns
Louisa Chandler
Christina Clary
Olivia Coleman
Lauren Crabb
Rebecca Delich
Heidi Derning
Mark Dial
Todd Essary
Devon Felts
Susan Finfer
Chris Foret
Sidney Garrison
Karis Johnson **
Betsy Kahl

* ROCK & Courtney Cares staff
** Courtney Cares Staff

We welcome new 2023-2024 staff members Melanie Allison, Nikki Anthony, Loni Chagnon, Scott Cummings, Joan Cutler, Steve Duhamel, Sidney Korry ** and Angie Loiselle.

ROCK Board of Directors

Chris Miller, President
Victor J. Bero, Vice President
Steve Shook, Treasurer
George Brightwell, Secretary
Patrick Breen, DVM, Past President
Bruce Bessner
Matthew Easton
Dan M. Gattis
Carter Hall
Craig Harris, Past President
Barrie Laing
Judy McLeod
Patti O’Meara
Lindsey Roberts, Past President
Carol Ann Sandlin
Dana Smyth
Ron Swain
Stephanie Zinsmeyer

ROCK Board of Advisors

Patti Colbert, Chair
Dr. Barbara Brightwell
Ron Coleman
Dr. Charles W. Graham, DVM
John Gustainis
Dr. Wayne Hurst, DPM, FACFAS
Frank Krenek
Hon. Betsy Lambeth
Edward Logan
Bill Mateja
Al Mowdy
Nolan Ryan
Reid Ryan
Ron Shelly

We welcome new 2023-2024
Board of Advisors member
Curtis Crenwelge.
In September 2022, ROCK proudly unveiled the Sport Clips Heroes Arena, a project made possible through the collaboration of Sport Clips, the Mabee Foundation, the Montandon Foundation, the WD Kelley Foundation, and the support of 144 donors. This joint effort not only brought the arena to life but also retired the land debt, initiated pasture improvements, and set the stage for our 2024 expansion. Anticipated highlights include the HEB Serving Kitchen, a revamped Patti Colbert Learning Center, and an expanded staff office. In a momentous November 2023 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, attended by over 100 donors, we celebrated the completion of the Doc Breen Vet Clinic. Our heartfelt thanks to The Embree Group for their exceptional design and construction. To all who continue to lift and support ROCK, your commitment shapes our success, benefiting our families, staff, and beloved herd. Your contributions propel us forward, and we express our deep gratitude for being integral to the ROCK community.

In loving memory of George & Barbara Brightwell

25 years ago, George and Barbara Brightwell heard about ROCK through an article in the Williamson County Sun, and then they heard that Nancy Krenek was interested in their twenty acres that were for sale on CR 110. After meeting each other, George and Barbara prayed and gave their beautiful twenty acres for the purpose of ‘Healing Thru Horses’. This gift gave ROCK the foundation to build on. In addition, George joined the Board of Directors, serving as the secretary and parliamentarian, and Barbara served as the head of the Executive Advisory Committee and served on the Advisory Board. This couple was the ROCK of ROCK. They are sorely missed and will always be remembered.

Providing Equine-Assisted Services to Central Texas since 1998!

2050 Rockride Lane | PO Box 2422
Georgetown, TX 78626 | ROCKride.org
Tax ID# 742917659

ROCK, Ride On Center for Kids (ROCK) is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides equine-assisted services to children, adults, and veterans with physical, cognitive, and emotional challenges.