

CHANGING LIVES,  
ONE RIDE AT A TIME.

# WALKON

BEAMING NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2024



## 2023: A YEAR OF GROWTH THANKS TO YOU

Looking back, 2023 was a very exciting year for us at BEAMING! In response to our community's needs, we added three new programs and hired new staff, and we welcomed many new volunteers and program participants to the barn.

Early last year, we launched our new Steady Strides for Parkinson's program, which was developed based on our evidence-based Riding in the Moment™ Dementia Support Equine Program. In the spring, we kicked off our new Pony Power Academy Children's Literacy Equine-Assisted Learning (EAL) program to help children with learning disabilities with reading and writing. Then in the fall, we added our new CANTER (Community Arts Network for Teens Empowering Resilience) Teen Support Program, which is an arts-based teen mentoring program.

In 2023, we welcomed more participants than ever before through all our equine programs - to help children and adults with diverse abilities, teens and troubled and hurting youth, veterans, adults with dementia, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's and their caregivers, and children and families affected by trauma. We provided 3,093 equine experiences to participants - 743 more than last year! The need in the communities we serve have never been greater.

We could not achieve our mission of "Changing Lives, One Ride at a Time" without your incredible support. We are so grateful to our grantors, corporate sponsors, and everyone who donated to help us continue to provide our equine support programs at no or low-cost to those in need. It is thanks to your commitment and generosity that we were able to have a record-breaking year.

We are geared up to serve even more clients in 2024! We just formalized a partnership with a Mental Health Consultant to provide more comprehensive emotional support to clients through individual or group sessions.

Thank you again for joining us in our efforts to provide a safe, welcoming space where those in need can find peace, hope and healing. 2024 will be another exciting year.





# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023

## ► Welcomed the Appleton Area School District to the barn

We were excited to welcome new children with diverse abilities and troubled and hurting teens to our *Partners in Riding* program

## ► Facilitated 89 equine experiences for children and families dealing with trauma-related struggles

Through our *RideStrong* equine support program

## ► Provided 232 equine experiences to transitional age youth

Through our two popular *Hold Your Horses* teen support summer camps and our *LAUNCH* and *CANTER* teen support equine programs

## ► Facilitated 1,563 equine experiences for children with diverse abilities

Through our *Saddle Up for Success*, *Dragons in Flight*, and *Partners in Riding* programs, our two annual Autism Camps, and our new *Pony Power Academy* Equine-Assisted Learning (EAL) program

## ► Facilitated 141 equine experiences for adults with dementia

We helped improve the quality of life for those living with dementia and their caregivers through *Riding in the Moment™* and *Steady Strides for Parkinson's*

## ► Provided 104 equine experiences in memory care facilities

We took our horses and activities to residents in several local nursing homes through our *Riding in the Moment™* Mobile program

## ► Welcomed 150 participants to Equine-Assisted Memory Cafés

We held 12 Cafés at which caregivers and their loved ones with memory loss enjoyed interacting with horses, presentations, music, art, socializing & more

## ► Provided 109 equine experiences to local veterans

Veterans enjoyed interacting with the horses during no-cost sessions at the BEAMING Barn through our *Horses, Hearts & Heroes* program



Teens



Seniors



Stetsen & Spuds



Shaddia at CANTER





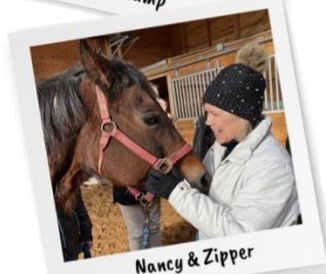
# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2023



Nellie with Sparkles & Siesta



Teen Camp



Nancy & Zipper



Nita & Annie

▶ **Continued our partnership with Rawhide Youth Services**

Rawhide youth counselors utilized equine-assisted therapy for troubled and hurting youth at the BEAMING facility twice weekly throughout 2023

▶ **Continued our partnership with UWO School of Nursing**

University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh nursing students and staff completed on-site training with program participants as part of their curriculum

▶ **Partnered with Rebuilding Together Fox Cities**

For National Rebuilding Day in May, at which they brought more than 200 volunteers from local businesses to the BEAMING Barn, who worked extensively to clean, paint and make improvements to the barn, build new horse shelters and benches, install fencing and beautify the grounds

▶ **Created the new Community Empowerment Circle**

An uplifting, outdoor space for community members, other nonprofits, local businesses and support groups to meet and gather together

▶ **Partnered with WOW-We Care Logistics**

For their collaborative fundraising event, *Barn Bash*, which raised more than \$20,000 for BEAMING's Equine Support Programs

▶ **Brought in 2 new horses to the BEAMING equine team**

Charlie and Cash joined the BEAMING family in fall of 2023

▶ **Welcomed 138 guests for Equine-Assisted Learning & Tours**

Including representatives from local businesses, other nonprofits, and church, civic and other community groups

▶ **Welcomed 567 visitors to the barn for special events**

Including Women's Empowerment Series events, Red, White & Blue Day, BBQ & Bingo, Fall Festival, BOOfest and Santa at the Barn

▶ **Added two new part-time staff to the team**

We welcomed a new PATH-certified instructor and a grant writer



Community Empowerment Circle



# 2024EVENTS

May 4th: *Day at the Derby!*

May 11th: **Women's Empowerment Event**

June 8th: **BBQ & Bingo at the Barn**

June 17th - 20th: *Hold Your Horses Teen Camp Session I*

June 24th - 27th: *Hold Your Horses Teen Camp Session II*

July 27th: **Christmas in July Carnival & Craft Fair**

Aug. 5th - 7th: *Autism Camp Session I*

Aug. 12th - 14th: *Autism Camp Session II*

Sept. 14th: **Red, White & Blue Family Day** *for local heroes*  
**Women's Empowerment Event**

Oct. 5th: **BOOfest!**

Nov. 1st: *Holiday for the Horses*

Dec. 7th: **Santa at the Barn**



Visit [beaminginc.org/events](https://beaminginc.org/events)  
for event details!

Questions?  
Call/text Katie at 920-851-6160  
or email [incbeaming@gmail.com](mailto:incbeaming@gmail.com)





# TESTIMONIALS

We were honored to be able to Change Lives, One Ride at a Time for so many existing and new program participants last year! We worked hard to ensure that our programming helped enrich the quality of life for those we serve through connections with equine partners--to help improve both physical health and emotional wellness. Hear from some of our participants and their parents, guardians, caregivers and family members about how BEAMING helped them in 2023.



"As a parent of a child with brain cancer, finding the right support and therapy has been so important. Beyond the physical benefits, the emotional support our son receives from the horses and instructors has been truly remarkable. The connection he has formed with the horses provides him with a sense of comfort and understanding that goes beyond what we could have ever imagined. The nurturing environment at BEAMING, along with the compassionate staff and volunteers, has created a safe and special space for our son.

We are immensely grateful to BEAMING for the care, love and support they provide to our son and everyone that enters their doors. **It is an experience that not only fosters physical improvement but also nurtures the spirit and fills the heart with hope and joy.** Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for making such a profound difference in our son's life." *-Megan B, mother of Blake*

"Our son started attending BEAMING after we started to notice a decline in his grades and poor attendance at school. He lacked all motivation, seemed distant and would play video games all night. After a few sessions at BEAMING, we started noticing a positive change. He was waking up early, excited to start his day with the horses. It brought him to be more aware of his actions and he became increasingly less disrespectful. He has so much respect for all of the staff at BEAMING. He was welcomed with open arms from day one.

**Our son feels that he has gained more confidence, self-esteem and self-worth since starting BEAMING.** He has something to look forward to, and this motivates him. The horses give him a sense of peace and truly make him smile. He smiles more now than he ever has. He enjoys being a part of the team and making a difference in the lives of others. He also feels that he has a newfound respect for people with disabilities." *-Ashley J, mother of Parker*



Dorothy, who has dementia, began participating in our Riding in the Moment™ program in 2023. One of her greatest wishes in all her life was to ride a horse. At 96 years young, her wish came true. "I just feel something exhilarating, I don't know how to explain it," she says.

Dorothy continues, "Riding makes me feel young again! Anything that does that is good. It's so uplifting. It makes me feel good all over." Dorothy's daughter, Linda, also enjoys participating in the program with her mother. Says Linda, "We can be together and make memories, and I've met other caregivers. **I've told a lot of people about what a difference it's made in Mom's outlook on life.**"



Amanda has been riding at BEAMING since 2022. When she was 3 years old, she was diagnosed with hearing loss. She loved participating in many activities, but if instructors were not patient and accommodating, it could be a challenge. She loves all animals, especially horses, which is why her mother Linda was so excited to find BEAMING. Her instructors use a special hearing device and sign language with Amanda. "She loves to make connections with the horses," says Linda. **"Her lessons have helped her become healthier both physically and emotionally, and improved her confidence."**



My daughter was struggling with some anxiety with Covid, so we were looking for some help with emotional regulation and working through those struggles. BEAMING has really helped her confidence level and the way she carries herself. We can see that she's taken that confidence she's gotten from horseback riding back into the classroom. Teachers have noticed that school hasn't been as stressful for her...we haven't seen so many fearful situations for her...and she's handled other situations much better as well. Being at the barn, out in the country, it teaches the kids to just slow down...and taking what they learn here back out into life and using it...it's been amazing."

*-Andrea A, mother of Mariana*

▶ See more testimonials & videos at [beaminginc.org/testimonials](https://beaminginc.org/testimonials)







## 2024 HOLD YOUR HORSES CAMPS

**Hold Your Horses** Teen Camp is a free, 4-day horse experience for young adults ages 12-18 that includes hands-on horse activities such as grooming, walking, saddling and riding horses; learning about horse care; barn activities such as cleaning tack; team building and life skills exercises; and educational sessions with relevant topics to teens today. We also have arts and crafts activities to allow our campers to learn new techniques to express themselves visually.

Qualified instructors join BEAMING staff to present relevant sessions, including human service professionals, educators from local schools and youth advocates from local nonprofits.

Two sessions of *Hold Your Horses* Camp will be held in 2024, June 17-20 and June 24-27. Camp runs from 9am-2pm, and lunches are provided. To sign up, have a parent or guardian contact Katie Samuelson, our Center Director, at 920-851-6160 or [incbeaming@gmail.com](mailto:incbeaming@gmail.com). Spaces are limited so please sign up as soon as possible to reserve your spot!



## CANTER 2024

We will be offering monthly 2-hour sessions of **CANTER** (Community Arts Network for Teens Empowering Resilience), our new teen arts/mentoring equine program, in 2024. This fun new program provides youth ages 11-18 with the materials, knowledge, and guidance to engage in art as a form of self-expression that will help them discover their innate gifts and talents while building their self-confidence. We have a few openings left for CANTER; if your teen is interested, please contact Katie Samuelson at 920-851-6160 or [incbeaming@gmail.com](mailto:incbeaming@gmail.com) to sign up.

## 2024 AUTISM CAMPS

Our popular **Autism Camps** offer autistic children the opportunity to engage in hands-on horse activities with qualified staff and trained volunteers. We will hold two sessions of Autism Camps in 2024, August 5-7 and August 12-14. Parents attend this camp with their children, either during one of the morning sessions (9-10:30am or 10:30am-noon) or afternoon session (12:30-2pm) each day. To sign up, please contact Katie Samuelson at 920-851-6160 or [incbeaming@gmail.com](mailto:incbeaming@gmail.com). Spaces fill up quickly, so please reserve your spot soon!



### Want to learn more?

Check out our Hold Your Horses, CANTER and Autism Camp videos below:



### Want to sign up?

To register for any of the above programs, please complete the Participant Application and have your physician complete our Medical Release form:

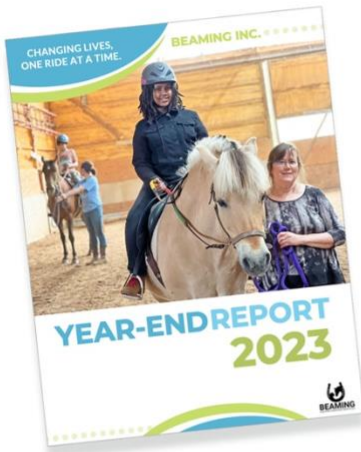




# NEW IN 2024: CHRISTMAS IN JULY CARNIVAL & CRAFT FAIR

We are excited to share that we will be hosting a new event this summer: a **Christmas in July Carnival & Craft Fair!** Join us on Saturday, July 27th at the BEAMING Barn for a fun day of horses, kids'carnival games and craft booths! This is a collaborative event to benefit BEAMING and other local nonprofits.

We will be inviting other local nonprofits to participate in this exciting new event, along with craft vendors. If your organization would like to participate, or if you are a craft vendor who would like to have a booth at this event, please contact Katie Samuelson at 920-851-6160 or [incbeaming@gmail.com](mailto:incbeaming@gmail.com). More details will be posted soon!



## THANK YOU 2023 SUPPORTERS

We could not do our life-changing work without you! We are incredibly grateful to all of our supporters, including our grantors, corporate supporters and event sponsors for 2023, who are listed below. Copies of our 2023 **Year-End Report** will soon be available; if you would like us to email or mail you a copy, please email [shelly.beaming@gmail.com](mailto:shelly.beaming@gmail.com).

*Lynne Cumings-Keller*



### WILLIAM E. DEAN III CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



United Way Fox Cities



## JOIN US TO HELP MAKE THE MAGIC HAPPEN!

We are always looking for wonderful volunteers to help us out in many areas, from side walkers, horse handlers and grooming and saddling horses for our programs, to helping with horse-related educational activities, assisting in our office, special events, and helping with lawn work, maintaining our flower gardens and general groundskeeping. **To sign up for a volunteer orientation, please contact Denise, our Volunteer Coordinator, at [volunteer4beaming@gmail.com](mailto:volunteer4beaming@gmail.com).**



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# WALKON

BEAMING NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2024

BEAMING provided

**3,093**  
life-changing  
equine  
experiences

to participants  
of all abilities  
in 2023.

*Read all about it inside!*



Congratulations  
**COOPER**  
Voted Favorite  
Horse of 2023!



BEAMING  
EQUINE-ASSISTED SERVICES