



Blue Rider Messenger

Year End Report Spring 2023

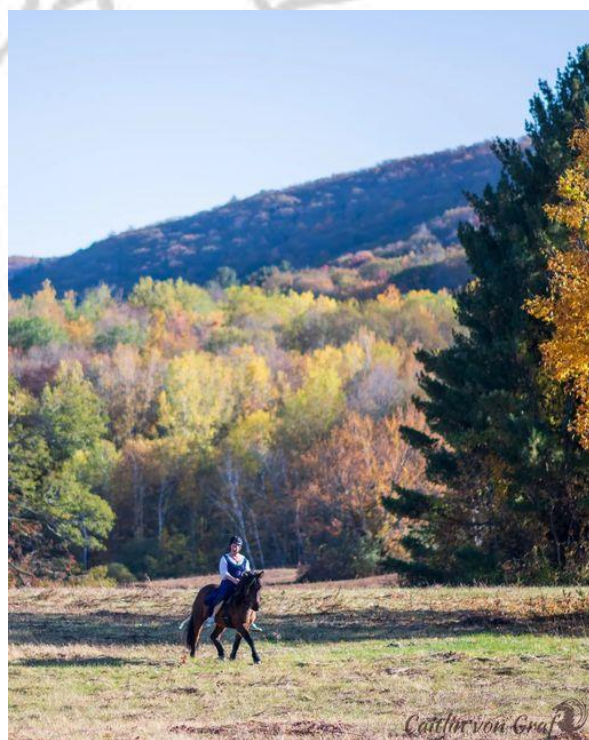
2022 gifted us with very many memories. Worrying weather patterns, wacky work loads, wondrous rainbows and magical moments in the barn, and so many encounters between humans and equines that take our breath away. We say again and again - Smiles are what we are paid in - how truly rich we are!

Our days are not without struggle, and some days these want to overwhelm us. The grace of the work we do, the beauty of our equines, the joyful look of our riders, and the strength of our staff make every obstacle conquerable, and we grow through this. Through the generosity of our community and the hard work of many people, we have managed to care for 18 equines to the best of our ability so that they can do the amazing work they do here with us humans.

Changes happen here every day, some small, many large. Often the big ones are the ones we don't catch until we reflect. Most of the changes cannot happen without a community behind the change. We treasure and honor every person in our community, be it donors, clients, volunteers, family members, or the myriad of others that send positive energy, money, helpful hands and so much more. Changes are what help all and any of us (equines included) grow in our mental, physical and emotional health.

I hope our reflections in the following pages help paint the picture that was Blue Rider in 2022 and create a palette for the year ahead.

In gratitude – Christine



Our Mission

Our Mission is to offer a holistic educational environment in which people and animals can safely interact, and through their mutual therapeutic experiences broaden the scope of their lives.



It has been a bit of a challenge adjusting to the new perceived normal of our lives. We are saddened that so many of our newer students that have been a constant for the last two years are gone all of a sudden. The reason is great - they have been able to return to their normal lives in the city or elsewhere, but we miss them nonetheless. Many routines are different for our students, and we are adapting to this. Our programs remain the same, with adjustments to timing and other factors. We have added our Horsemanship Program in the summer and continue to offer extended time at the barn. Coming this year, we will be offering an introduction to vaulting and building this program to intermediate levels. Our Helper Program will be revitalized. We will also offer Family Programs on a limited basis. We have a series of Adult Workshops planned. Our Groundwork Programs

will be extended during the summer. Our team works hard to bring the best and newest to our students. All of these new impulses come from the work the students, staff and horses did together in the past year. If there is anything that you would like to see in our programs, let us know and we will see what we can do.

Our old fence line, put in in 1996 with reused fence posts, finally got the makeover it deserved. Our old fence really was worth the money, keeping the horses safe and standing up to everything but a moose. In time though, it became impossible to keep sturdy and straight. More than an eyesore, it became unsafe for the horses.



Our new fence line is a pleasure to see and will continue to do a great job for years to come.

Our feedlot was also updated with mats so that the horses have an easier time eating, and we have an easier time mucking!



- Rico had eyelid surgery due to a carcinoma on his third eyelid. The eyelid had to be removed. This went very well, and he shows no adverse impact due to the surgery. We were very grateful that we could fund the surgery through donations to this beautiful boy.
- Staff and interns went to 2 games days at French Park in North Egremont. Fun was had by horses and humans alike, and much was learned. We hope to participate this coming year again.
- Christine and Tom took 5 weeks off to drive to Montana to see their daughter Anna, who many of you still remember. It was a memorable vacation for them, and Tom even got on a horse!



We had our very own neighborhood Moose through the summer, what an interesting animal they are. The horses got used to him/her, as it respected our fences and spaces. We are fortunate to live in harmony with a wealth of wildlife, including bears, foxes, bobcats, deer, and many others. It is satisfying that we are able to be one with the nature around us and get to experience the many incredible wild animals that call the surroundings of our barn their home.

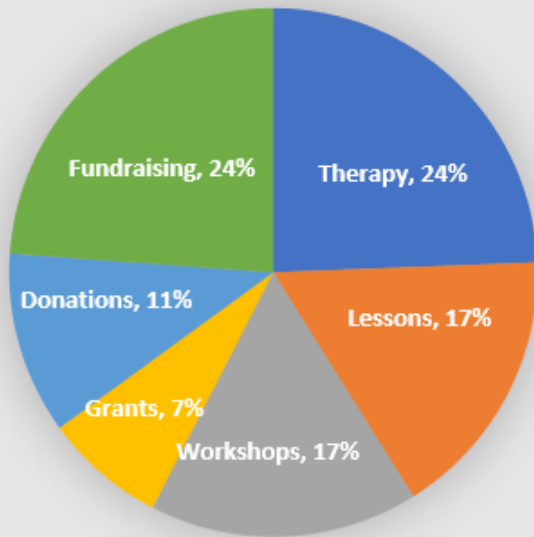
"Blue Rider is a place of healing for me and my family. Our family tries to ride as often as possible! I love the physical therapy of the lessons and the knowledge I gain to engage parts of my body I normally don't use. It is a place where one is taught how to reset the mind, body and soul". - J.R.

Donors are what make our work possible – we cannot thank you enough

Eric Aber	Paul & Alexcia Adams	Richard & Laura Allen	Jane & Richard Andrias
Dea Angiolillo	Ron & Sandy Ashendorf	Harry & Judith Ballan	Ann Elizabeth Barnes & Richard Meyers
Ann B. Barrett	Diane Barth	Dana Bartlett	Timi and Gordon Bates
Frank and Maria Battista	Katherine Baum	Gavin Berger	Danielle Rose Bernstein & Jonathan Rosen
Esther Bernstein	Donna Bersch Gorden	Meryl Blackman	Marion Blanchard
Bronwen Bober	Michelle Booth	Susan Boults	Jennifer J Bradley
Susan Bradley	Debbie & Nathan Brazie	Patricia & David Brooks	Joseph & Kate Burke
Joan & Daniel Burkhard	Rebecca Busch	Andrew Cader	Jonathan Caplan
Cheryl & Tim Cardillo	Joe & Erika Carini	Pat Carlson	Lisa Carullo
Angel Cassista	Barbara Chester	Donald & Bonni Chester	Robert & Elizabeth Christinat
Sandy Cleary	Beth and Jeffrey Cohen	Nicole Colantoni	Dana & Joseph Coleman
Christine Colon	Patricia Cook Brown	Molly Cooper	Leiko Coyle
Marianne Dastoli	Allan Dean	Rita Deely	Olivia Dhaliwal
Monica Dorr	Anne Douglas	Rachel Duke	Lisa & Eric Ecklund
Judith Eddy	Amy Edelman	Elizabeth Empleton Hellman	Dr. Jerome F. Errico

2022 At a Glance

2022 Income

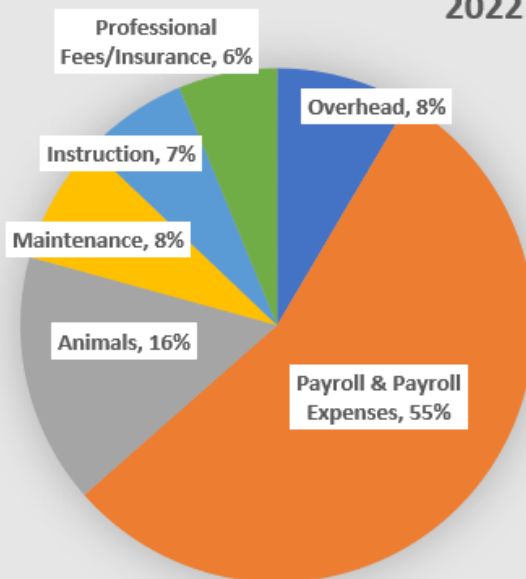


Therapy	\$ 100,405.00
Lessons	\$ 68,767.00
Workshops	\$ 67,717.00
Grants	\$ 30,659.00
Donations	\$ 45,868.00
Fundraising	\$ 98,207.00
Total Income	\$ 411,623.00

Services Delivered in 2022

- Therapy: 68 adults, 35 children (103 Total)
- Students (340 Total):
 - 128 adults, 212 children
 - 208 all year, 132 one-time
- Average weekly instructor lessons: 94

2022 Expense



Overhead	\$ 34,410.00
Payroll & Payroll Expenses	\$ 223,177.00
Animals	\$ 63,860.00
Maintenance	\$ 31,678.00
Instruction	\$ 27,124.00
Professional Fees/Insurance	\$ 25,228.00
Total Expenses	\$ 405,477.00

We are grateful for the Grant funds we received from:

Berkshire Farm Fund
Janey Fund Charitable Trust

Berkshire Life Charitable Fund
PayPal Giving Fund
UKOGF Foundation

Coolidge Hill Foundation
Rhode Island Foundation



This was the year our Circus came back to town! We called it "It's Circus Time!" and boy was it ever! As usual, it was hard to find time to practice drills with the weather we have here in the Berkshires, but the production was spot on. It was really great to have an outdoor activity where we could have an audience and see so many of our friends in one place at one time. We know our riders, instructors, and equines were thrilled to once again be able to show everyone what it is we work so hard to accomplish! We're excited to see what this year's Circus will bring, and we hope you'll join us. Circus also gave us a joyous way to start the summer, and our new Horsemanship Program, which replaced summer camp.

We thank our donors for making all of our accomplishments possible!

"5 words that are important to describe my time so far at Blue Rider"

**Journey
Softness
Intention
Observe
Be (as in just be) -A.L.**



Michael Fallon	Parker Fennelly	Joel Ferat	Catherine C. Fisher
Hope Fitzgerald & Jim Sexton	Cathy Fracasse	Isabelle Frank & Richard Allen	Anne Fribourg
Clark Friedman	Donna Gallers & Anthony Grillo	Ben Gantscher	Linda Gatter
Pamela & Richard Giles	Paul Gitterman	Benes & Alan Glackman	Robin & Peter Goldberg
Laurel & John Graney	John P Greene	Sebastien Grouard & Michele Machalani	Rajiv Gulati
Claire & Donald Gulick	JoAnne Gundersen	Juliette Haas	Gretchen Hachmeister
Carrie Harper	Hope Hewlett	High Spirit Community Farm	Jade A Hogan
Catherine Hollis	Sindy & Mark Holmes	Caitlin & John Hotaling	Joan Hotaling
Kimberley Hyatt	Jennie & David Jadow	Julia Kadison & Steve O'Donnell	Barbara Kalish
Melissa Kantor	Tayo Kaufman	Sarah Kessler	Amanda & Rick King
Martha H. King	Gary & Rita Kobran	Pat Konecky	Holly Kulka
Jeanne Laskin	Kelley Lazarus	Alice Leason	Annabel Lee
Lena Leonardsson	Laurie Lindner	Pat LoNano	Jonathan & Amy Lyons
Susan & Robert Macveety	Anne Malcolm & Richard Tuck	John & Joanne Mallory	Christiane B. Marks

Caitlin Marsden McNeill	Doone Marshall	Joseph Maskin	Christina McCarthy
Derrick McMaster	Ava Mikkelsen	Don Mikkelsen	Joel & Kate Millonzi
Lauren Mitchell & Michael David	Sandra Morningstar	Ben Morris-Siegel	Margaret Morse
Rosemarie Mullin & Thomas Friedman	Maria Murillo	Chris & Diane Netzer	Dr. Carol R. Noble
Margaret O'Donnell	Sylwia Orczykowska	Pamela Owen	Brandon Pantorno
David Pena	Anne Pennington	Jessica Petrie	Donald Platt
Carol Potts	Charles & Ellen Proctor	Lorena Proia	Anne Putzel
Katherine Rankin	Jonathan & Joelle Resnick	Adam Ring	Patrick Riordan & Steven Hatfield



The instructors and horses at Blue Rider Stables have made a large improvement in our sons' development. When he started riding, he had little to no core strength. He can now sit up without support keeping him up and is standing with minimal support. Their understanding and patience with him are unbelievable. It makes us feel welcome and safe when there are few other places our son can just be himself and be included. The horses bring a feeling of peace and understanding that you rarely get from other humans. Being Tony's mom isn't easy. He's not interested in much of anything and getting him motivated is impossible most days. But even on those days, riding is still helping him. His muscles and body are still working, even if he's not. We're so thankful for Blue Rider Stables and everything they do for us as a family and for everyone's lives that they touch. MS

Julio Rodriguez	Jonathan & Michael Roemer	Amanda & David Rogers-Thieroit	Roberta Roll
Joe Ronayne	Karen & John Rosier	Marymar Ruggles	Katherine Russell Anderson
Antionette Russell	Claudia & John Ryan	Stephen & Janis Sagarin	Elinor Saltz
Benjamin Saul	Richard & Virginia Scarlet	Cathy Scarpaci	John Schaefer
Sarah & Donald Schneider	Karen & Will Seltzer	Ellen Shaby	Christine A. Sinclair
Gail Smallridge	Wendy Smallridge	Carol Smola	Rebecca & William Stanton
Toby & Anna Stanton	Melissa Strattman & Jeff Gamelli	Ann Strattman	Christine Symons
Gioacchino Taliercio	Rachel L Tarnauskas	Emily Taylor	Carrie Thompson
Deborah Todd	Benjamin Trout	Ainka Turner	Jo Valens
Scot C. Vighi	W. Galen Wade	Suzanna Wall	Joyce Welzel
Patti West	West Stockbridge Congregational Church	Marjorie Wexler	Dian & Kevin Wheeler
Joanne & Kevin Wholey	Rebecca Wolin	Thomas H. Young III	Deirdre Ypma & Arwinder Yindra

We bid farewell...



We said goodbye to our longtime barn helper and mentor to the helper program, **Julian Stanton**. His constant presence in the background was felt for many years, whether he was helping train horses, keep up with hoof care, mowing and weed whacking to keep our place presentable, or leading horses in lessons with a steadfastness that was admirable. He will be missed, and we hope the future holds good things for him.

Joely Snyder, who has been the constant voice on the phone and contact for us here in the office, has moved on for personal reasons. We will miss her terribly and wish her all the best!

Oskar - Oskar came to us in 2008 and was a well-loved part of every program we ran. He had an enormous presence and was willing to do his job with grace and heart. He had been retired for over a year due to his physical and mental capacity after having a pasture accident in 2020. His

condition deteriorated, with his anxiety and balance issues ruling his days. It was with the utmost kindness in our hearts that we released him from his physical body as the weather became detrimental to him. He has left a big hole to fill in our barn!



Our Legacy Gala was a great success thanks to many that came out for the event, and an awesome crew that brought it together. Special thanks to Crissey Farms who supplied the venue, and to Oskar and Mike of Only In My Dreams Events for helping to put it on. It was a beautiful evening and we loved seeing so many friendly faces. Billy Boy came as a special guest and stole the show. Stay tuned for the next one, you won't want to miss it!

The following businesses donated this year, even as they are still struggling with the economy themselves. Without them, our fundraising efforts this year would not have been successful.

It surely takes a village to stay afloat and we are so very thankful for ours!

Applebee's	GB9	Great Barrington Bagel Company	Jake's Barber Shop
Baba Louie's Sourdough Pizza	John Andrews Farmhouse	Old Mill, South Egremont	Robin's Candy Shop
Back to Heart Center	MainStreet	Guido's Fresh Marketplace	Mahaiwe Chiropractic & Health Services
Egremont Market	Crystal Essence	Taft Farms	Berkshire Aviation Enterprises
ExtraSpecialTeas	Flying Church Coffee	Williams & Son Country Store	Tom's Toys
GB Eats	SoCo Creamery	Happy Nail & Spa	Carr Hardware
Lennox Jewelry	Rubiner's Cheesemongers	South Egremont Spirit Shoppe	Pawsh Buddies
Moms Country Cafe	Linda Clayton	The Bookloft	Southern Berkshire Power Equipment
Sewards' Tires, Inc	Farm Girl Farm	Evergreen Fine American Crafts	Chocolate Springs Cafe
The Bistro Box	The Prairie Whale	Peter Goldberg, Acupuncturist	Mielke Confections
The Shop by Only In My Dreams Events	Barrington Outfitters	Fuel Bistro/Coffee Shop	Eagle Shoe & Boot Company
Ward's Nursery & Garden Center	Depart Wine, Beer & Beverage	Roberto's Pizza	Gt. Barrington Pizza House
Yellow House Books	Greenhouse Yoga	Berkshire Bike & Board	The Egremont Barn/Sara's Place

We welcomed new additions to our herd this year...

Freyja has joined us in the hopes that we can be her forever home. She is a sturdy, small 20 year old Icelandic mare. She used to live with Tonka, let's see if they remember each other!

Mystery was donated to us by Steven Hatfield and Patrick Riordan, in the hopes that she will be an asset to our riding lessons and our other programs. She is fitting in well with the other horses, and loves to say hi to people. She is steady, gentle, and very big!! We all appreciate her already, and hope that we have many great years with her.

... and to our staff and Board of Directors!

Julia Kadison loves being around and taking care of the horses and she truly believes in the stables' mission and the amazing work done here. With the desire to help out even more to ensure the long-term prosperity of the stables, she joined the Board in the spring of 2022. Julia has Board experience from both the inside and outside, having sat on 2 corporate and an NFP Board, as well as running the Board of the National Milk Promotion Program, with oversight of a \$100MM+ national program



Tayo Kaufman has been involved with Blue Rider for over 15 years. He became involved with Blue Rider through his niece and nephew, who both grew up at the barn. Tayo became directly involved by volunteering at events and helping with sound and music over the years – and thus forming friendships and connections with so many people involved with Blue Rider. Tayo joined the board to help support the mission and because of the haven and special place the Blue Rider represents in the world for so many people and animals.

We welcomed **Letty Malin** to Blue Rider in November as Director of Office Administration. She has many years of experience in not-for-profit finance and office management. Letty has always had a love for horses and purchased her first horse at the age of 16 with savings from her summer jobs and raised Morgan horses with her husband.

Full Bios can be read on our website

Our Volunteers: Thank you for making miracles happen!

Volunteers make our jobs much easier, be it helping with barn chores, maintenance, or fundraising. Our world turns a bit easier with the goodwill and muscles of our faithful volunteers, and the miracles they achieve. We are always looking for volunteers and new Board members, as there is so much to do! Our staff and instructors work wonders, but only with the help of many hands and hearts can our work continue.

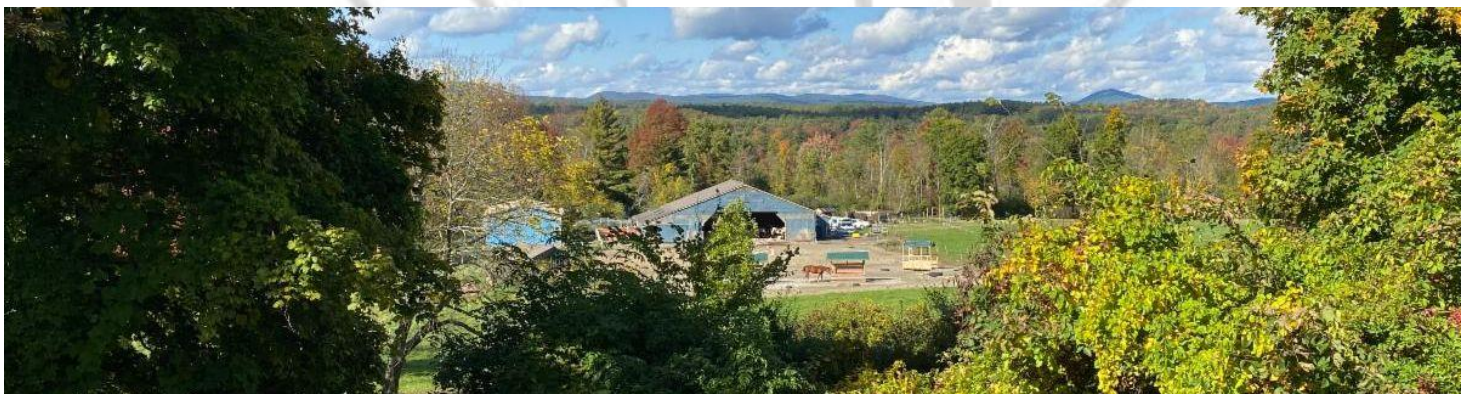
Early days volunteering at Blue Rider are spent mucking - horses and donkeys produce a lot of manure! So much manure! The act of mucking is akin to painting the Golden Gate Bridge - it's a task that's never done. And there is something about that fact - and the understanding that these types of maintenance tasks are perpetually essential - that turns mucking oddly tranquil. Being present at the barn, observing the behavior of the horses, donkeys and people, learning how these beings all thrive together - these are the payments I receive for my physical labor. Early mornings, late evenings, cold, rain, heat - time and weather continue without regard to the work to be done, and being immersed in that understanding is a tremendous gift. I relish every minute spent at Blue Rider, whether helping to feed, tacking up horses for lessons or, yes, mucking. CF

Jen Solak
Jeannie Bassis
Gretchen Ball
Avery Ball
Burt Ball
Dan Levinson
Cathy Fracasse
Don Chester
Anna Stanton

Scott Solak
Julia Kadison
Margaret Morse
Kristin Daigle
Tom Sierau
Raven Cole
May Gantscher
Michael Daddona
Caitlyn Snyder

Maggie McRae
Betsy Schuster
Tayo Kaufman
Jeff Daigle
Paul Sierau
Kaitlyn Howell
Isha Bindra
Rachel Tarnauskas
Jin Fernbacher

Joely Snyder
Sally Longford
Julian Stanton
Steve O'Donnell
Amanda Sierau
Jacky Boyd
Sonia Pauley Gulati
Josh Webb
Deirdre Ypma



Looking forward:

At Blue Rider we grow smiles, confidence, attitude, self-respect, gardens, manure heaps, tasty vegetables and so much more.

Come share in the bounty!



Garden produce and composted manure for sale when available.

Our *Spring Scavenger Hunt* will be held on April 8 this year. Hopefully the snow and mud gods will be good to us!

We will hold our *HippityHop Circus* on June 3, showcasing the talents of our equines and riders.

The summer will be packed with *Horsemanship Weeks*, where our students can learn about the many aspects of horsemanship and disciplines.

October will bring our annual *Wings for Willie Walk/Ride/Movathon* to help bring in funds for the winter months.

All of our events will be posted on our website: **bluerider.org**.

Our team is ready to work tirelessly for those smiles and accomplishments, both from humans and equines. Stay tuned!

