



wetra

2022

ANNUAL REPORT



In thinking about the recent years, 2022 brought its own set of unique challenges. With the fears of disease transmission, new and different job commitments as well as unique family obligations, finding enough volunteers to support the day-to-day programs had been difficult. Costs of inflation and aging horses in need of extra vet care, had kept us on our toes

trying to manage the budget and the facility in the ever-changing times.

Although we focused on our approaching 50th anniversary, the team often found ourselves feeling like we were starting a new beginning. When we finally reopened our doors for the 4th time in the Spring of 2022, we saw our waiting list for service eliminated and the delivery of our services expanded. Our program session calendar was filled to capacity and our fundraisers would once again

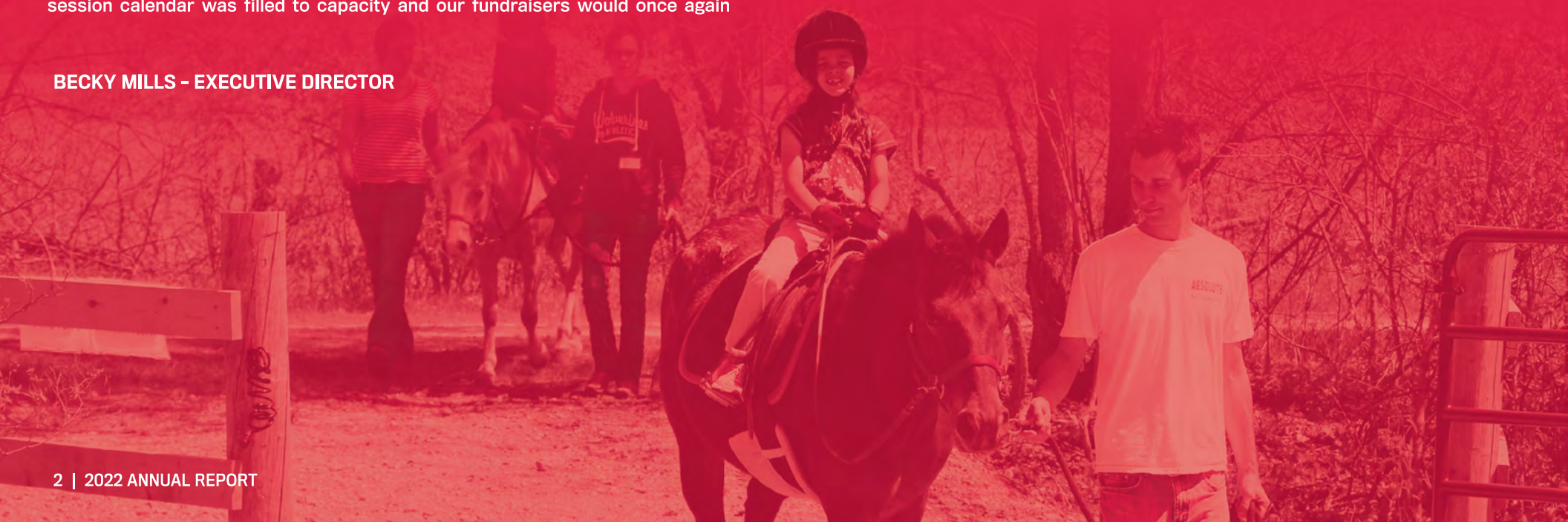
happen at the farm. In true Windsor - Essex fashion, the community's support was once again evident by the enormous attendance at the 1st Annual Fall Fair, a warm reminder that all was not lost and that we were going to bounce back!

We are continually growing, changing and adapting to meet the needs of our community and keeping up with the evolving processes of the world around us. Not only in the non-profit sector but in our personal lives as well. We never forget that at the core of our continued success lies the commitment from volunteers and donors who give their incredibly valuable dollars, time and energy. Our entire team is committed to ensuring that the people we deliver services to, are involved with motivated and well-trained personnel and therapy horses.

We have a vision to be a Centre of Excellence in our industry. Through offering training opportunities to potential new team members and collaborating with community partners, we will attract and retain passionate people who care about our clientele, our horses, our budgetary needs and our facility.

We are forecasting sunny days ahead with great things to come. Here's to 2023, WETRA's 50th Anniversary and a celebration of YOUR organization!

BECKY MILLS - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



2022 has been a year of getting back on track; it has been a year of coming back from programs that were shut down, staff layed off, and loss of revenue. During this time we continued to provide for a barn full of animals and the daily running of a farm.

The return has not been easy, that uncertain time led to many changes in people and the world, WETRA has been determined to keep moving forward, and has worked hard to design strategies to restore programming and funding to serve our communities.

The board also made plans to expand the board membership to reflect diversity, equality and seek out individuals with a variety of talents to enable us to provide our Executive Director with the tools she needs in her role of the management and services of W.E.T.R.A.

Our Farm had some wonderful improvements; the overhang on the barn will be utilized for our many programs and a great place to hang out for our many visitors.

Improvements to the driveway and parking lot made our facility even more accessible. New paddocks run in sheds and pastures have enhanced the lives of our equine partners.

W.E.T.R.A. is excited at the prospect of growth, expanded and innovative programming that has a positive impact within the community and for all with a diverse need. W.E.T.R.A.

is truly a place where everyone is welcomed and valued.

We are grateful for the ongoing support of our volunteers, donors, partners and supporters; you are an important part of our mission. We will continue to work hard to ensure a financially stable future for W.E.T.R.A.

The W.E.T.R.A. team is fortunate to have the leadership of our Executive Director Becky Mills and her staff. Thank you, we appreciate your dedication and perseverance throughout the Covid shut down. Becky has brought us through this tough chapter and we look forward to many more years of providing a service of excellence to our communities.



SUE KLOTZER - PRESIDENT

2022 was a year of recovery. After a slow and unsteady start to the winter program session, March brought our first camp since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. 22 spaces filled within 6 hours! Spring would mark the first uninterrupted riding/HOOF session to be delivered at full capacity without mandated closures and Covid restrictions. Our families and volunteers were optimistic and excited to be back at the farm, with anticipation for warmer days ahead.

Summer was booming, with 7 weeks of camp, instead of our usual 6, campers enjoyed a summer filled with riding, special guests and so much fun! Group visitations were on the rise, and the first EACPT client would complete the program, with several others to follow before the year's end. After a short break to reset, retrain and plan for a full fall schedule, fall session went off without a hitch, welcoming new clients, new instructors and a new application process which will better serve our clients moving forward.

PAIGE SHEPLEY - PROGRAM DIRECTOR





WETRA FALL FAIR

On Sunday, October 16th, we held our first outdoor event in two years! Our WETRA Fall fair welcomed over 1000 people throughout the day. Attendees had the chance to visit over 30 local vendors who were onsite, tour our property and enjoy pony and carriage rides. The event was an overwhelming success, and this reminded us how the community comes together to support WETRA!



BARNYARD FRIENDS PROJECT

As WETRA continued to emerge from the pandemic, we did so with the vision of growth and continued sustainability. With our programming demand growing, we found ourselves needing more areas to run our programming efficiently and effectively. Prior to adding the new addition to our barn, the Barnyard Friends Project we invested in making our farm more accessible for all who come out

to the farm. With the upgrade of our underground drainage and plumbing, we were then able to focus on accessibility. With regrading, asphalt installation and further ground improvements, our new barn addition was able to be completed. This was made possible by the generous donations from the Solcz Family Foundation.



2022 WE WELCOMED QUINCY! WETRA'S VERY OWN "EQUICIZER"

WETRA's Equicizer 'Quincy' whose name comes from the Latin word "quint", meaning 5; was named in honour of our 50th anniversary. He was made possible with a grant from the W.E. Care for Kids Foundation, and is the perfect addition to our rider warm-up and physio space. Quincy is used as part of the lesson preparation. Clients mount the Equicizer, using their core to engage its movement, allowing its barrel and rhythmic, repetitive motion to loosen their joints, relax spastic muscles and warm-up their bodies in preparation for their ride. A heated pad is often added to his back, to further increase the benefits. Quincy is also used on days when weather prohibits clients from safely riding; instructors can use him in place of a live equine to reap some of the same benefits. Quincy offers a welcoming first introduction to those who may feel afraid, and often breaks the ice for new riders in terms of mounting, holding reins and steering. Additionally, he can be used as an educational tool to introduce things like grooming, tacking and braiding.



VISION

A Center of excellence for
innovative equine assisted services

MISSION

Improving the quality of life of individuals with
diverse needs through equine assisted services

Thanks to Patty's keen eye for Windsor events, we found ourselves at WETRA's Spooktacular in October 2007. Four-year-old Cathy, whose autism was expressed socially in wariness of new places and people, ran around the facility checking everything out and from stall to stall to see all the horses decked out in costumes. Clearly, this was a place she felt safe and secure. Any doubt about whether WETRA would become an important place in Cathy's life disappeared with the pony ride. She rode around the ring 10-12 times, ending her evening by looking at and speaking to her side walker. An amazing accomplishment for a child who avoided eye contact and rarely spoke to anyone.

Over the 9 years that Cathy rode at WETRA, we watched her achieve milestone after milestone. WETRA was the place where she began to speak in full sentences, bending over to hug her ride, Simon, as she said, "I love you." Riding Monty she learned how her moods affected others, that when your mount won't go around a pole or you encounter a feat that seems impossible, patience, together with a calm and steadfast demeanour, will pay off. That you can be the one in charge even when your horse (or the task you are facing) is so many times bigger than you and that you can control the anxiety you feel before a competition.

WETRA was a major force in Cathy becoming the outgoing and caring young woman she is today, maturing from client to volunteer at the organization that has meant so much in her life. What made all of this possible? The horses, side walkers and leaders, instructors, many volunteers, and the donations and financial support from so many others. When asked what WETRA meant to her, besides living her love for riding horses, Cathy said it was a place she fit in, where families connect and learn from each other, where she made friends, where she was respected and felt safe and capable.



*The
Huffstetter-Tyndale
Family*



We've met many people who have benefited from WETRA's programmes. Each person has a different story to tell, but the common thread is the positive results that come through therapeutic riding. WETRA is a place where magic happens through its programmes. They are not only fun but bring life altering changes and benefits for those with special needs. We cannot imagine a place we would rather support with our time and donations.

Thank you WETRA, Catherine Huffstetler-Tyndale, Lorne Tyndale, Sandy Tyndale, Eleanor Maticka-Tyndale and (the late) Patty Huffstetler



As 2022 came to a close, I reflected on my time at WETRA. Originally starting as a volunteer, I have seen firsthand the positive community impact that WETRA provides each and every day. Providing service to hundreds of families throughout the year through therapeutic riding, mental health programing,

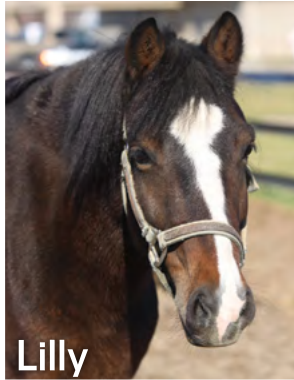
group visits and our camps, we are able to offer a wide range of beneficial services to our clientele and families. Throughout 2022 we have had over 150 volunteers help us deliver our programing, help with facility maintenance, and engage in administrative duties. WETRA truly is a unique opportunity for the Windsor - Essex area where everyone involved comes together to make a difference!

JOHN CASEY - PREVENTION OFFICER/VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

2022 SPONSORED HORSES



Cody



Lilly



Otie



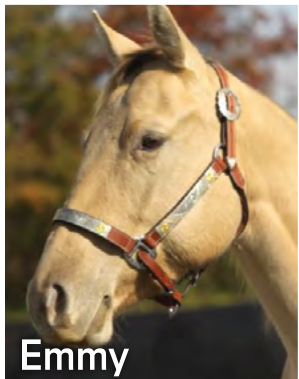
Major



Scout



Babe



Emmy



Dixie

CARE FOR A HORSE COST

PER HORSE	# OF TIMES PER YEAR	COST	TOTAL
Feed/grain/hay	365 days	\$1500.00	\$1500.00
Teeth	Once	\$100.00	\$100.00
Inoculations / vaccines	Once	\$150.00	\$150.00
De-wormer	4 times	\$20.00	\$80.00
Feet (farrier)	5 times	\$40.00	\$200.00
Farm hand	365 days	16.00/hour x 8	\$46,720.00 divided by 20 = \$2336.00
			\$4366.00

ANIMALS ON THE FARM

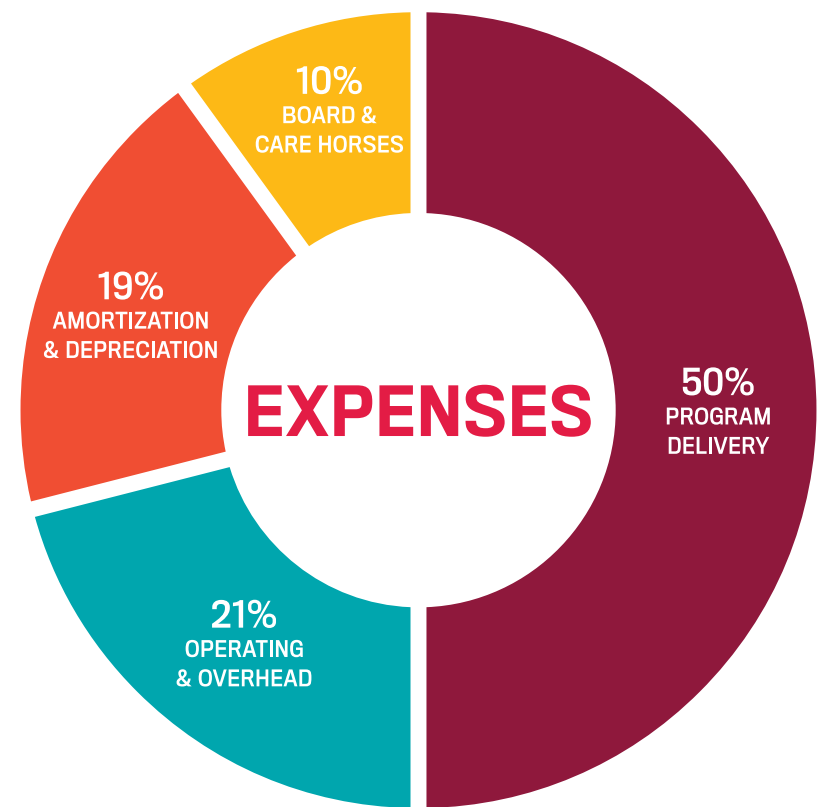
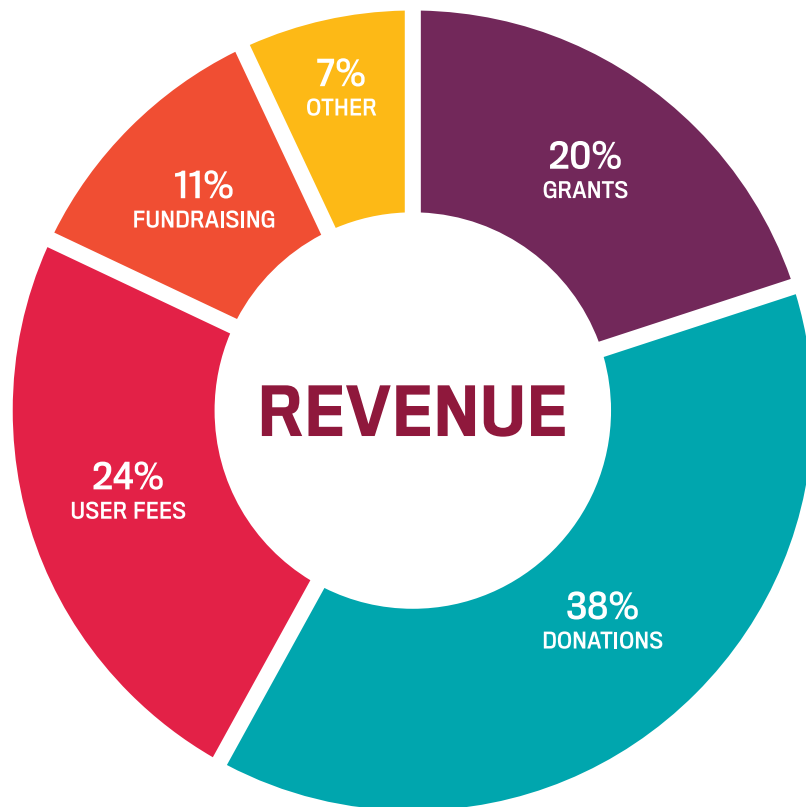


ATTENDANCE

Student attendance has increased 20% compared to 2021.

STATS

- ★ 150 individuals received weekly therapy sessions in 2023
- ★ \$68,000 spent on board and care for horses









WENDY

1995 - 2022

2022 marked Wendy's 20th year at WETRA and in that time, we never did find anything she couldn't do.

Whether it was carrying our tiniest, most delicate riders, carriage driving, teaching small campers, visitors and new volunteers to lead and handle horses, working alongside first responders and other mental health clients, taking off-site visits to a special event, or to bring smiles to those in long-term care and assisted-living, it didn't matter, Wendy could do it all. She not only did it all, but she did it all well. She set the standard by which we have measured and will continue to measure our therapy horses, knowing all the while, that even the best of them will likely never measure up. If there's one thing we take away from her life and her contributions to our community it should be this:

"The greatest gift we can give one another is kindness. It's free and it requires no prerequisites, training or unique ability. It is renewable and infectious. Share it, like Wendy did."



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Improving the quality of life of individuals with diverse needs.

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