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2022

# ANNUAL REPORT

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"There is no sense of freedom equal to what I  
feel when I am riding my horse."

Anonymous

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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

**ELIZABETH WALZEL**

Dear SIRE Community,

I am honored to report that because of your support and a lot of hard work by the staff and volunteers, SIRE again made tremendous progress on our 5-year plan during the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

We are close to completing the \$3.5 million improvements to the Spring facility. In September we moved into the LGI Homes Education and Visitors Center, the barn is nearing completion and the arena is well underway. I cannot give enough thanks to all the supporters who made this transformation possible. If you haven't yet had a chance to see the additions, please contact Joe Wappelhorst and make plans for a visit.

In the late summer of 2021 SIRE acquired a 'forever home' for Fort Bend in Fulshear, TX. The acreage, barns and arena have 'good bones' but are aging. We moved in, got up and running, and have made significant strides in updating this facility. A multitude of individuals and corporate volunteers have contributed countless hours and supplies helping with the move and needed maintenance. If you are a handy person and would like a physical project, we sure could use your help out there!

These improvements open the door to serving many more clients, so the need for volunteers, horses and donations is more pressing than ever. Please know that your gift of funds, assets or time directly results in more people served.

2022 saw the kick-off of our Equine-Assisted Services to veterans. Through partnerships with Camp Hope and Easter Seals, SIRE is now serving over 50 military veterans per week. Demand for this service is high, and

SIRE is working hard to find the resources to meet this demand. Additionally, SIRE served 180 people per week via traditional therapeutic riding and 45 young people per week through Equine-Assisted Learning.

On behalf of the SIRE board, I want to thank the people who make all this possible:

- The incredible staff at SIRE have shown tremendous adaptability through this time of growth and change. Their dedication and passion for serving our clients is truly an inspiration.
- Volunteers are the heart and soul of SIRE! It takes hundreds of volunteers each week to provide the high-quality programs that SIRE is known for. Whether it is three hours one time fixing a broken pipe or 200 hours per year as a weekly side walker or leader, their contributions enable the everyday miracles experienced by those we serve.
- And finally, you the donor, foundation, or corporation who entrust us with your financial gifts. We could not provide the services we do without your continued dedication of donations throughout the year.

With Warmest Regards,



Elizabeth Walzel  
SIRE Board  
President



# TIMELINE OF ACHIEVEMENTS

- Purchase of 38 acres permanent facility in Fulshear
- Partnership with Camp Hope and Easter Seals to launch equine-assisted programs for veterans
- 100% Board participation and giving
- Lauren Grochocki (Spring Volunteer) named as PATH Region 8 volunteer of the year
- Saddle Up for SIRE trail ride was back in person with over 100 people present
- SIRE riders garnered over 40 belt buckles, trophies and awards at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo
- Purchase of a new tractor for the Fort Bend location thanks to a very successful gala in April





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## THE IMPACT OF SIRE

SOPHIA STARTED RIDING IN 2016



Thanks to the dedication and support of our volunteers, foundations, corporations, and many individuals, SIRE continues to provide life-changing programs for riders like Sophia. Back in 2016, when Sophia first started riding at SIRE, she had difficulty controlling her energy and emotions. She also had difficulty staying focused.

The short-term goals set for Sophia by the evaluator were to learn to use her hands quietly and smoothly, and to meet and talk to a new friend. Sophia's long-term goals were to ride independently and to compete in shows. It didn't take long for Sophia to accomplish her goal of competing in shows and at Top Hands this year she won a buckle in her English Equitation class. She is also able to focus consistently so that she rides with the lead rope tied up for a good portion of the class.

About a year later, Sophia's mom shared that Sophia's focus has improved and did within the first 6 weeks of riding. Mom has observed a much greater ability to follow directions. Additionally, she reported that Sophia's ability to hold a pencil has grown and her handwriting has not only improved but blossomed to a point that it is legible and getting smaller continually.

Sophia's horse played a critical role in her success. SIRE maintains a wide variety of horses to meet the physical and emotional needs of each rider. Each horse is specially trained to handle an array of noises, quick motions, and unexpected actions that can arise during any session. The bond between a human and a horse is pivotal to the success of therapeutic riding.

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# SPECIALLY TRAINED HERD SPONSOR

A NEWFOUND PURPOSE IN THEIR GOLDEN YEARS



SIRE's specially trained therapy horses serve a crucial role in the success of a rider's experience. The horses at SIRE receive exceptional care which includes a special diet, veterinary care, and plenty of pasture time. They also receive massages and chiropractic treatments when needed.

SIRE horses thrive in their new career that gives them a newfound purpose well into their golden years. To the donors who have sponsored many of our horses throughout the years, thank you. It is because of you that SIRE's horses are guaranteed the health and well-being they deserve to make life better for all who interact with them.

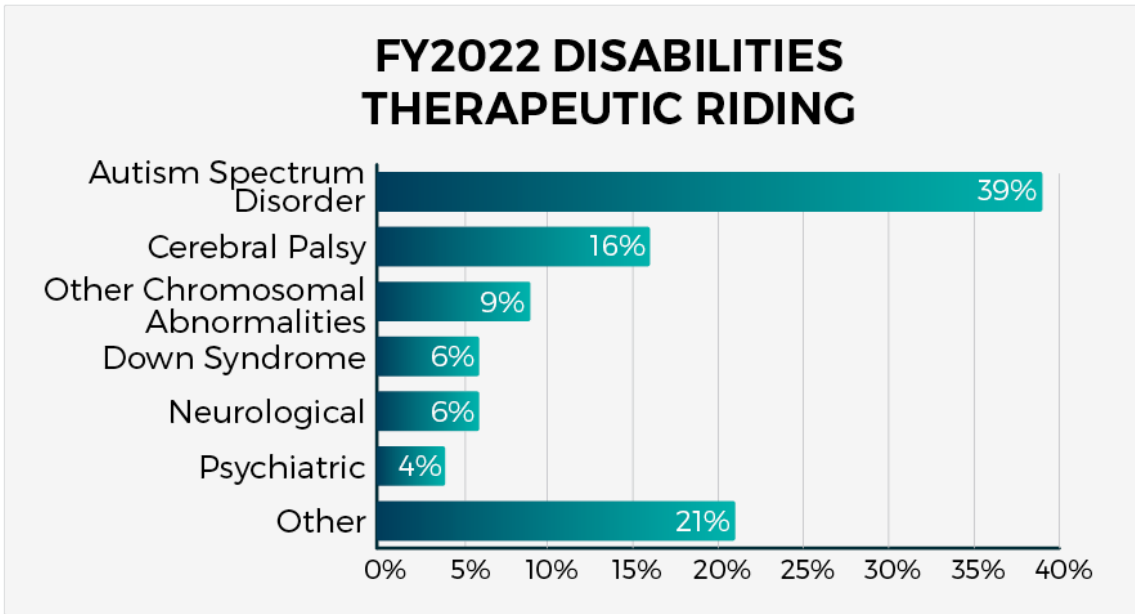


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## FY2022 DISABILITIES THERAPEUTIC RIDING



## FINANCIALS

**JULY 2021 - JUNE 2022**

Program expenses were 69% of the total expenses. Complete financial statements and the most recent income tax forms may be found on the SIRE website at [sirehouston.org](http://sirehouston.org).

<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 4,187,467</b>
<b>2022 INCOME</b>	
Corporate	\$ 9,784
Foundations & Org.	\$ 237,776
Individuals	\$ 209,276
Gifts In Kind	\$ 99,701
Capital Campaign	\$ 1,255,000
Tuition	\$ 246,204
Government Grants	\$ 116,112
Special Events	\$ 223,281
Other Income	\$ 56,889
Total Income	\$ 2,454,023
<b>2022 EXPENSES</b>	
Programs	\$ 992,320
Administration	\$ 232,392
Development	\$ 184,908
Loss on Disp. of Assets	\$ 33,392
Total	\$ 1,443,012



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