

TRANSFORMING LIVES

One child at a time



2022 Annual Report

MCKENNA FARMS



THERAPY SERVICES, INC.



Jessica "Jessie" Moore

At McKenna Farms, our mission is clear:

To be an essential resource for families navigating the challenges of ensuring a high quality of life for their children with special needs. We invite you to become part of our warm and welcoming community, where everyone is valued and belongs.

A Letter From our Founder and Executive Director

We're thrilled to tell you about the incredible year we had at McKenna Farms in 2022! Thanks to the amazing support of people like you, we were able to provide over 25,000 visits to 577 children with special needs.

But that's not all - we also hosted four weeks of summer camp, two horse shows, monthly parent support groups and workshops, and welcomed Santa to the Farm. Plus, we had our biggest and best Derby Day fundraiser and Fall Festival yet!

None of this would have been possible without you, our dedicated supporters. We're incredibly grateful for the time, money, and resources donated by individuals, local businesses, foundations, civic organizations, and churches. And of course, we couldn't forget to thank our hardworking volunteers who show up every day of the year to care for our therapy horses.

Thank you for being part of the amazing McKenna Farms family. Together, we're making a true difference in the lives of those with special needs.

Sincerely,



American Hippotherapy
Association Certified



PATH International
Accredited

Making Magic at McKenna Farms

Welcome to McKenna Farms! We provide the highest quality in comprehensive physical, occupational, and speech therapy to children and young adults that have a range of developmental delays, disabilities, and neurological disorders. Our focus is on early intervention, allowing us to work with children through the crucial developmental states of gross and fine motor skills and language development.

What makes us unique? Our 15 resident horses! These lovable, calming creatures serve as unique and innovative therapy resources, enabling us to provide valuable hippotherapy and therapeutic riding to the children who need it most.

We offer a family-friendly environment that provides all therapeutic services at one convenient location. Our caring staff ensures that every child receives personalized treatment plans that are uniquely designed to help them reach their individual functional goals. To the kids at McKenna Farms, it's not therapy—it's fun!

McKenna Farms, An Origin Story

McKenna Farms started out as a dream that was made into a reality by Jessie Moore.

With a profound love for horses, Jessie discovered the incredible power of hippotherapy and therapeutic riding during her college years and early career as a Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA). Witnessing the remarkable bond between animals and clients, she saw firsthand the life-changing impact this form of treatment had. Unfortunately, these services were scarce, especially for children.

In 2001, Jessie took matters into her own hands and began offering therapy services in various rented spaces throughout Paulding County. Alongside her trusty steed McKenna and a

dedicated team of five volunteers, she embarked on this journey.

Through word of mouth alone, the demand for McKenna Farms' services skyrocketed. Limited options for therapy in the area, particularly for those reliant on Medicaid, meant that people flocked to McKenna Farms as a beacon of hope.

Fortunately, fate intervened when Jessie's friends graciously offered their farm's barn in Dallas, GA as a temporary location. In 2003, McKenna Farms seized the opportunity and purchased the entire 30 acres and farmhouse, securing its permanent home.



2022 BY THE NUMBERS

577 *Children Supported*

25,000+ *Yearly Visits*

40 *Team Members*

24 *Licensed therapists with specialized training in pediatrics*

15 *Horses*

258 *Volunteers*

10,246 *Hours Volunteered*

Our First Year! →

	2001	2010	2022
# Yearly Client Visits	800	4,751	26,516
# Families Served	30	231	577
New Services Offered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical therapy Hippotherapy Aquatic therapy (off-campus) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occupational therapy Speech therapy Therapeutic riding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veterans program Parent support groups Summer camps Social skills groups
# FTE Staff	1	15	39
# Volunteers	3	40	300
Campus Footprint	8 acres	15 acres	30 acres
Annual Budget	\$24,000	\$520,000	\$2.8 million
Board of Directors	3	6	9

Honoring Our Volunteers of the Year

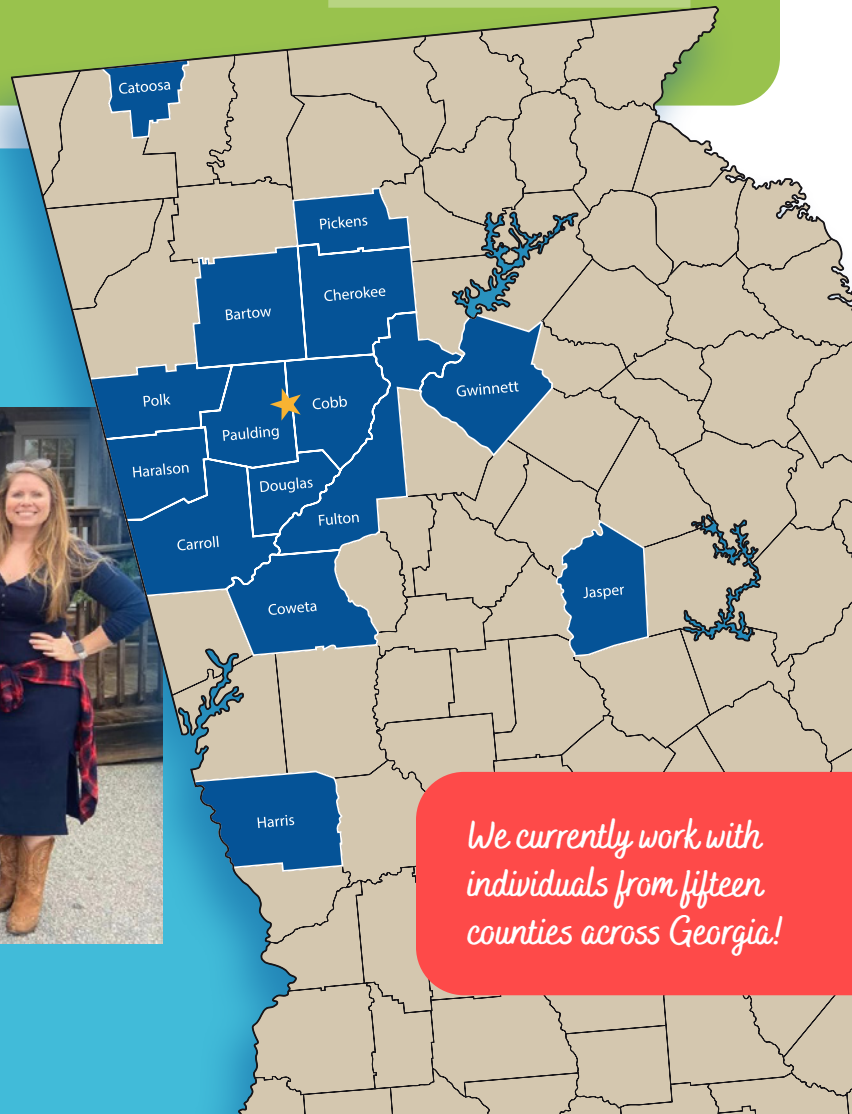
Volunteer of the Year: **Teresa Gordon**

Youth Volunteers of the Year: **Mia and Aidyn**

Volunteer Family of the Year: **The Cook Family**



(L to R) Cassie Erman, Aidyn Roberson, Bailey Cook, McKenna Cook, Michelle Cook, Teresa Gordon, Scocia Robbins (not pictured: Youth Volunteer Mia).



We currently work with individuals from fifteen counties across Georgia!

Your Support Helps Cultivate an Essential Community

McKenna Farms is a nurturing environment for therapy that's not just for kids, but also for parents and caregivers to have a place to come together. We create remarkable opportunities for anyone who's managing special needs circumstances to visit us and enjoy an unparalleled experience.

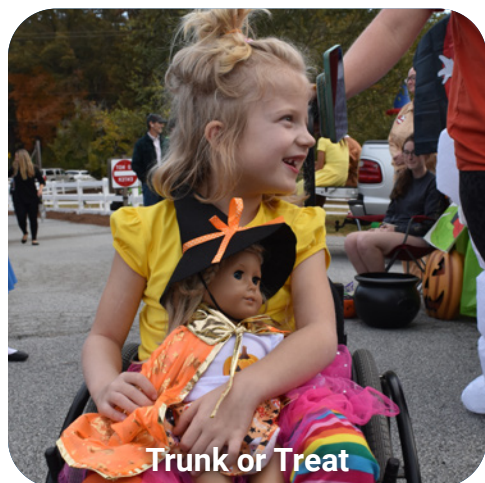
Events

Large crowds and loud noises can make public outings difficult to navigate. We curate these

occasions for particular sensitivities, allowing families to participate in fun outdoor events that they may not normally have access to.

Summertime Activities

We offered two different day camps this year, Camp Abilities and Saddle Up Camp, providing a place to continue crucial skill development in a structured environment, and giving kids a chance to have a blast with new friends.



Trunk or Treat



Fall Festival



Derby Day



Horse Shows



Camp Saddle Up



Santa at the Farm

Empowering Special Needs Children: How McKenna Farms Transforms Lives



Introducing Jonah: A Tale of Triumph

Meet Jonah Pitts, a brave little boy born with Hypoplastic Right Heart Syndrome, several other heart defects, a cleft palate, kidney problems, and other challenges. Unable to walk or talk, he began his journey at McKenna Farms in February 2014 with a future that seemed uncertain.

Fast forward to today, and Jonah is a remarkable 9-year-old. With the help of his dedicated McKenna Farms team, his self-confidence and fine motor skills have soared. He can now walk, talk, ride a bike, and fearlessly conquer obstacle courses, martial arts, and yoga. We dare you to meet Jonah without being inspired!

"Jonah's doctors said he would likely never walk or talk, and now he's doing both and much more," said Jonah's mom, Amy. "The progress he has made at McKenna Farms is phenomenal. He absolutely loves his team. I am forever grateful for everyone who has impacted our family."

Sydney's Story: Thriving Against All Odds

Sydney Forte is a beautiful soul born with Down Syndrome and a multitude of health issues. At McKenna Farms, she's been on an incredible journey of growth and development.

Working diligently on her grasp patterns, hand strength, and pre-writing skills, Sydney is becoming more independent in her self care every day. Not to mention, she's also the farm's resident fashionista, always looking fabulous while horse riding.

Thanks to the highly personalized treatments she receives here, Sydney's coordination and vibrant personality have blossomed even further. Dancing and jumping independently are now second nature to her!

In her mom's words, "Sydney's story is one of inspiration, hope, resilience, and strength. She loves coming to McKenna Farms and has thrived so much since her first day. Whether it's a therapy session or adaptive dance, she loves the atmosphere and staff at the farm."



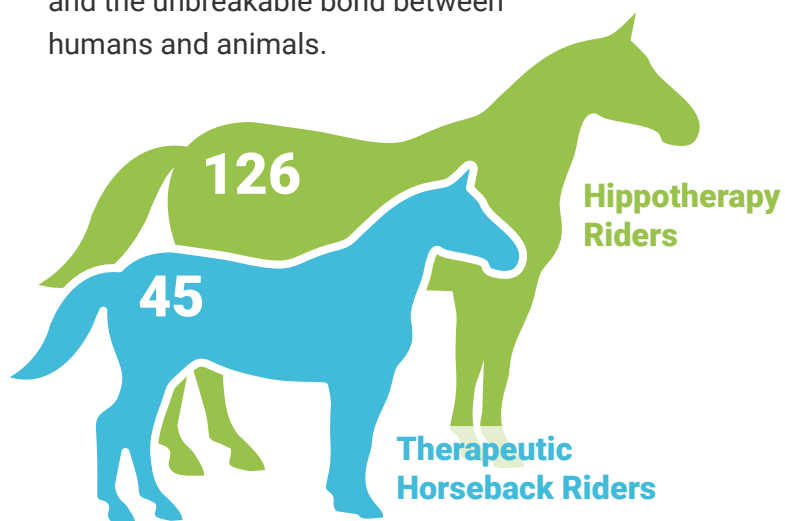
Meet the Equine Therapists, Our Healing Heroes of Hope

Our 15 gentle giants are more than just majestic creatures – they're the heroes of our hippotherapy and therapeutic riding programs, bringing joy, hope, and healing to special needs children every day.

Each of our horses has its own unique story and personality. Our riders and volunteers alike can't get enough of their adorable quirks, and their incredible abilities to help children build confidence, improve motor skills, and connect with their surroundings like never before.

With their extraordinary patience, gentleness, and affection for our riders, it's no wonder why they've become such a beloved part of our organization.

So, stop by and say hello to our magical equine heroes! We guarantee they'll steal your heart – and teach you a thing or two about the power of love, compassion, and the unbreakable bond between humans and animals.



Meet Elvis - Our Sweetheart Horse of the Year!

In 2022, we crowned our first Sweetheart of the Year through a Valentine-themed fundraiser! Our therapy horse Elvis received the most votes and helped bring in donations to support our equine programs.



Hippotherapy vs. Therapeutic Riding— What's the Difference?

Hippotherapy: Enhancing Strength, Posture, and Communication

Hippotherapy refers to how occupational, physical, and speech-language pathology therapists use equine movement as a therapy tool to engage sensory, neuromotor, and cognitive systems to promote functional outcomes.

Did you know that when a horse walks, the movement of its pelvis is similar to that of a human?

This is precisely why hippotherapy is so valuable for children who may not be able to walk on their own. By mimicking the sensations of walking, it helps build strength, muscle tone, and improve posture. The sensory input of the horse's movement can even inspire a non-verbal child to find their voice.

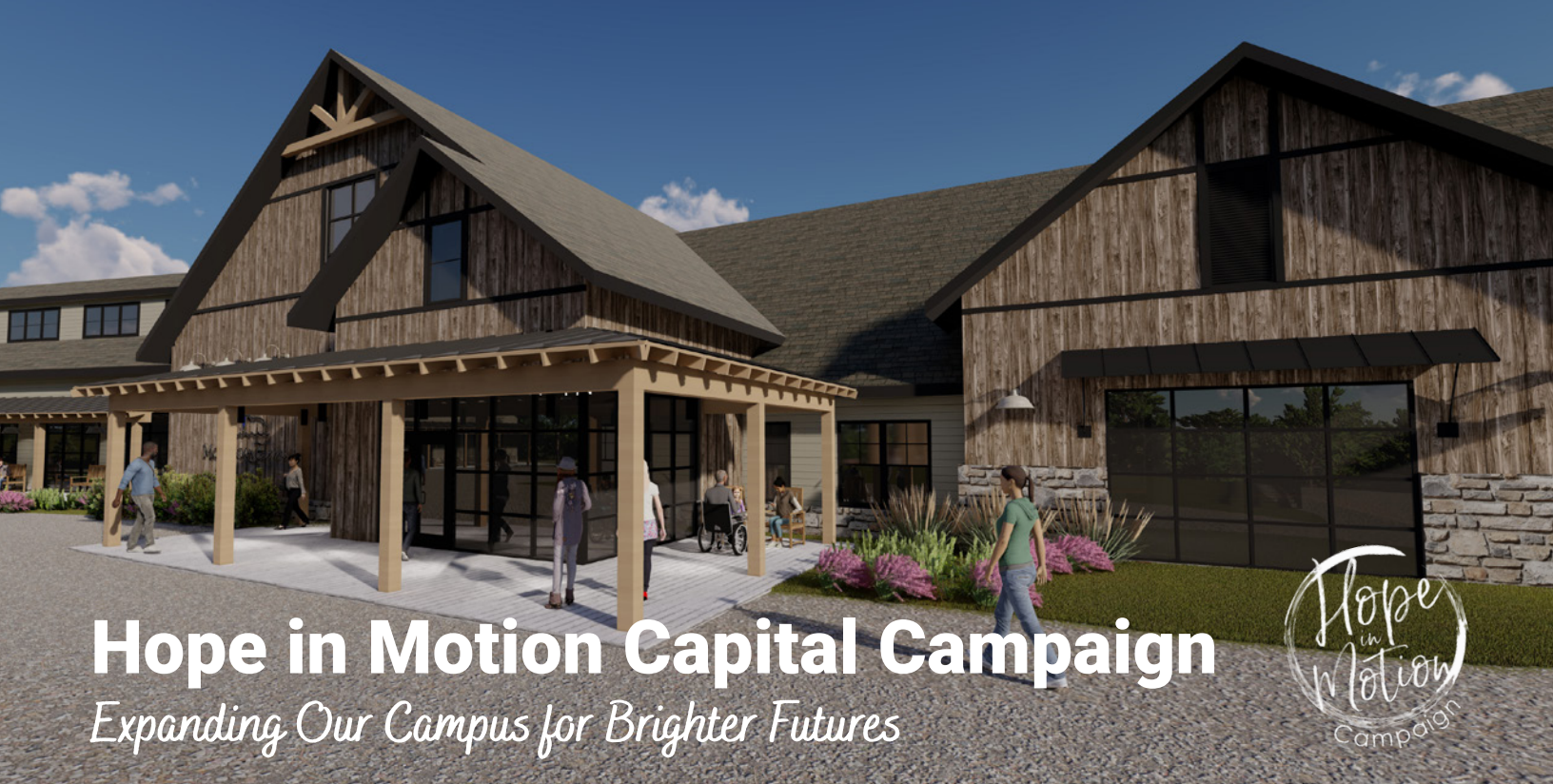


Therapeutic Riding: Building Skills and Confidence

Designed for our higher-functioning clients, this specialized program focuses on the development of riding and handling of horses. Through engaging exercises and activities, therapeutic riding improves coordination, balance, posture, muscle tone, confidence, and more. It also empowers individuals to connect with horses and harness their therapeutic benefits, improving their physical and emotional well-being.

But our impact reaches far beyond the arena. We now host two special needs horse shows each year, showcasing the incredible abilities of our participants. We have also expanded our therapeutic riding program to serve veterans suffering from PTSD and adolescents who have been victims of human trafficking.





Hope in Motion Capital Campaign

Expanding Our Campus for Brighter Futures



With our waitlist exceeding 100+ clients, the demand for our services is outpacing our current capacity. These circumstances further compromise our commitment to the importance of early intervention.

That's why McKenna Farms recently launched the Hope in Motion capital campaign, an essential fundraising effort that aims to raise \$7.6 million to build two new facilities onto our campus to help expand our service offerings.

The Hope in Motion capital campaign will fund the development of a new 14,000-square-foot Therapy Center, which will have enough clinical space so that we can take on an additional 265 clients a year. It will provide:

- 11 treatment rooms, bringing all clinical staff into one location
- Two gyms for gross and fine motor therapy
- Three sensory/play gyms
- An evaluation room
- Two conference/multi-purpose rooms

New Therapy Center

Centralizing clinical staff into one location will make moving between rooms easier for children and families who may be receiving multiple treatments from different therapists. It will also allow for the staff to seamlessly interact with each other and cut down on the time needed to properly transition clients.



The new 14,000-square-foot Therapy Center includes an indoor therapeutic pool, flexible classrooms and meeting spaces, and more.

Access to Aquatic Therapy

The Therapy Center will house a unique addition—a 1,688-square-foot heated, saltwater pool designed specifically to offer aquatic therapy to the special needs population.

Aquatic therapy creates increased stability, comfort, and the development of body awareness. With a lack of gravity, clients who are unable to walk on land are able to move their arms and legs and experience the sensations of walking.

Additionally, the soothing nature of the water provides a comforting environment for physical, occupational, and speech therapy to take place by disguising work as “fun”.



The new therapeutic pool will be the ideal place for children to lessen physical stress and gain muscle activation and movement.

Building Life Skills Enables Independence

The Life Skills Development Center (LSDC) will offer a new day program that not only provides clients with consistent activity and stimulation, but will gauge their potential to be independent. It will include tools, resources, and opportunities that focus on developing and evaluating life skills using two main amenities:

- A 342-square-foot Mock Apartment enables clients to practice everyday activities, such as preparing food, making a bed, brushing their teeth, and dressing themselves.
- A Coffee & Sandwich Shop that's staffed by high-functioning young adults, giving them access to their first job and training, which will prepare them for other employment opportunities in the future.



The Life Skills Development Center will support adolescents with disabilities as they transition into adulthood.



Support Our Community's Potential to Thrive!

At McKenna Farms, we are dedicated to providing a vital place for special needs children and young adults to gather, grow, and unite. But we need your help to make an even greater impact.

Expanding is crucial to serving more individuals and reducing our extensive waitlist. We want to create a better experience for our clients by

eliminating the need for public aquatic therapy and extending our services as they transition into adulthood.

So, let's make Hope in Motion a reality! Join us by donating here and make a difference in the lives of those who need it most. We are incredibly grateful for your support!



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