



Every child longs for the chance to play, to succeed, to try something new, to learn, and to make friends. Children living with special needs and disabilities have the same needs, sometimes they just require special supports to enable them to try and succeed.

Manitoba Riding for the Disabled Association (MRDA) provides that support to children so they can experience the joy, exercise, and ability to ride a horse. For children who may not be able to participate in many of the things that able-bodied children take for granted, this is a dream come true.

After starting in MRDA, Matthew a seven year old amputee, proudly went to school and told his classmates "I can ride a horse". He told his parents that his friends couldn't believe he was doing it! Finally they were envious of him! According to Matt's mom and dad he stood a lot taller after that.

MRDA has been in existence since 1977 providing all the benefits of therapeutic horseback riding to hundreds of children living with special needs including: Cerebral Palsy, Learning, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Down Syndrome, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Intellectual Impairment/Developmental Delay, Autism, Epilepsy & Seizures, Traumatic Brain Injuries, Spina Bifida and Hearing Impairment. For many of the children in our program, this is their hockey, soccer or baseball as they cannot participate in those activities, but they can say they rode a horse and belong to a group. As amazing as this is, it is even more amazing that this program has successfully operated entirely through individual, community and corporate donations. This is right – the program receives no government funding.

With only one paid position, the rest of the program is entirely run through the dedication of hundreds of volunteers. Administered by a volunteer board of directors, volunteer therapists assess the each child's abilities and develop the riding programs specifically for them.

Volunteer instructors lead the sessions, others are in charge of the horses, and side walkers instruct and assist the child in learning horsemanship catered to their abilities. Everyone involved including the children and their parents provide fund-raising support.

Your financial assistance will ensure the program can continue to provide children like Matthew with the opportunity to succeed at something they never dreamed possible.

Please take a few moments to review this package and complete the donation card, ensuring your membership in a unique life altering program. For more information on the program contact Peter Manastyrsky or myself. On behalf of the children and volunteers thank you for considering this request.

Respectfully submitted,

Graham Curnew
Chair, MRDA Board of Directors

Peter Manastyrsky
Executive Director, MRDA

Sponsorship Levels

The Manitoba Riding for the Disabled Association Inc. (MRDA) values your financial support to operate and grow this program. We are interested in meeting with you to recognize your contributions in a way that is meaningful to your company, organization, group or self. At this time, we are pleased to offer the following exposure and recognition for donors.

Thoroughbred Level Sponsor \$50,000+ level

- Recognition as top level sponsor on all MRDA promotional material
- Recognition as top level sponsor in twice yearly newsletter
- Take-home plaque honouring your donation
- Your company/organization logo on MRDA website with link to your site
- Prominent signage & commercial on TV at stable MRDA operates from
- Inclusion on the Donor Recognition Wall at the stable MRDA operates from
- Invitation to an annual donor recognition event and opportunity to attend a program session



Arabian Level Sponsor \$25,000+ level

- Recognition as Platinum level sponsor in the twice yearly newsletter
- Your company/organization logo on MRDA website under supporters
- Signage on TV at stable MRDA operates from
- Inclusion on the Donor Recognition Wall at the stable MRDA operates from
- Invitation to an annual donor recognition event and opportunity to attend a program session



Quarter Horse Level Sponsor \$10,000+ level

- Recognition as Gold level sponsor in the twice yearly newsletter
- Your company/organization logo on MRDA website under supporters
- Signage on TV at stable MRDA operates from
- Inclusion on the Donor Recognition Wall at the stable MRDA operates from
- Invitation to an annual donor recognition event and opportunity to attend a program session



Appaloosa Horse Level Sponsor \$5,000+ level

- Recognition as Silver level sponsor in the twice yearly newsletter
- Your company/organization logo on MRDA website under supporters
- Inclusion on the Donor Recognition Wall at the stable MRDA operates from
- Invitation to an annual donor recognition event and opportunity to attend a program session

Shetland Pony Level Sponsor \$500+ level

- Recognition as Bronze level sponsor in the twice yearly newsletter
- Your company/organization logo on MRDA website under supporters
- Invitation to an annual donor recognition event and opportunity to attend a program session



Friends of MRDA

- Recognition as a friend of MRDA on the website

All levels receive a tax receipt.

donation card

**Yes! I want to give a child
the opportunity to ride!**



Acknowledge:

Company Name: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Prov.: _____

Postal Code: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Date: _____

Send tax receipt to:

Company Name: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Prov.: _____

Postal Code: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Date: _____

Thoroughbred Level Arabian Level Quarter Horse Level

Unknown Level Shetland Pony Level Friends of MRDA



what families say...

"Riding provided my son Philipp with the opportunity to work out multiple muscle groups and a unique way of improving balance. Philipp enjoyed the sessions so much - he never considered them work, yet in the past couple of years, his balance improved so that he had almost no falls. His gait now looks more straight and even.

He developed very warm feelings for his horse, Duelly, and felt that affection was mutual, which created a feeling of a special friendship. He definitely felt more confident as his riding skill grew and his sense of humour received a good workout in conversations with instructors and volunteers.

As for me, I found the session times just as, if not more, enjoyable, because of the great opportunity for connection with other parents and MRDA staff. I truly believe that in the past three years, the parent group of MRDA was the best support I could find. That was the time to connect, hear stories of other families, learn tips on working out some problems that most parents of special needs kids encounter.

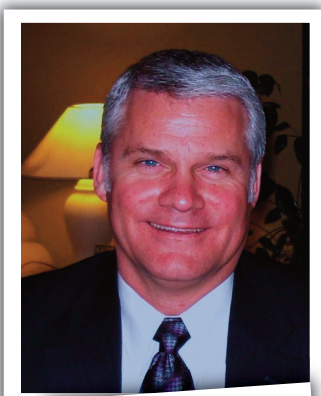
From such conversations I got some information on services, schools, health, supports. I saw that sense of humour makes some problems easier to deal with, and that some time spent on self-care can help parents care for their kids better. I learned a lot.

Thank you very much! We wish everyone at MRDA all the best. We know that many kids (and parents) that will attend the program in years to come will benefit from and enjoy the experience as much as we did."

Sincerely, Tatiana



what volunteers say...

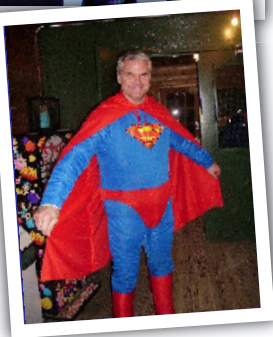


Graham Curnew has been an active volunteer with MRDA for many years. "Our approach when conducting a class is to *see the rider FIRST*, the disability second. For most people, heroes are those who hold high office, attain celebrity or wear a cape. My heroes are the kids in the MRDA program. They probably won't ever hold office, become a star, or move faster than a speeding bullet, but in spite of their challenges they come out every week and do what many able bodied soles can't, they ride a horse.

The volunteers are the core of our program, for without whom there would be no MRDA. They often first come to the program because they either like horses, like kids or just want to give back to the community in some way. Those reasons quickly take second place to the passion that builds from knowing that they are making a difference in a rider's life.

The best return on investment for my time given to MRDA are the smiles and hugs I receive from the riders, their parents and my fellow volunteers. My biggest fear as chairperson of MRDA is that I might one day have to tell a child they can no longer ride because of a lack of funding. MRDA doesn't just provide therapy for children with disabilities, we as a family provide **hope, support, recognition, lasting friendships and love.**

How do you top the feeling of learning that a child in our program has your name as one of the 11 words in their vocabulary!"





145 Pacific Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 2Z6
Tel: 204.925.5905 | Fax: 204.925.5792
www.mrda.cc

SPECIAL EVENT FUNDRAISING APPLICATION

**Thank you for entrusting your gift to us.
100% of the funds raised at your Community Event will remain in Manitoba.**

Please complete the following information:

Event Name (for recognition and promotion purposes): _____

Event Contact: _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

Address: _____ **Postal Code:** _____

Phone#: _____ **Fax#:** _____ **E-mail:** _____

Event Date: _____ **Time:** _____

Location: _____

Frequency of Event:

Annual One Time Only Ongoing

Anticipated Attendance/Participants: _____

Please describe your event:

What inspired you to hold this event?

How do you plan to promote/advertise this event?

How will funds be raised at this event?

Sponsorship Auction/Raffle Merchandise
 Ticket Sales Pledges/Donations Other _____



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Will MRDA be the sole beneficiary of this event? YES NO

If no, please explain _____

(Please note: all promotion of the event must clearly indicate the percentage to be donated to MRDA).

Would you like your event and contact information listed on the MRDA Web site? _____

If yes, please provide a paragraph about your event / key messages. (MRDA reserves the right to edit all material):

Once your event has been approved, we would be pleased to provide additional information or support materials, if available, including:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Banners and Signs	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brochures
<input type="checkbox"/>	Use of Logos	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sample Press Release/Sponsorship
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request Media Contacts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tax Receipt Information
<input type="checkbox"/>	Volunteers (if available)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pledge Sheets

Once your event is approved, the Foundation relies on your donation*. By naming the Manitoba Riding for the Disabled as the beneficiary of your event or promotion, you are required to donate the full amount you have specified on our behalf. All costs for this event are to come out of the proceeds raised or paid for directly by the event organizer. MRDA is not responsible for any financial losses. MRDA can only issue a tax receipt for the total dollar amount donated.

*Your signature on the application confirms that the MRDA will receive net proceeds within 30 days of the event date or campaign completion.

Date of Application: _____ Signature of Applicant: _____

**Thank you for choosing Manitoba Riding for the Disabled as your charity of choice.
 We look forward to working with you!**

Notes: