



2023

2024

CORRAL



ANNUAL REPORT



OUR MISSION

CORRAL is a faith motivated nonprofit that equips adolescent girls in high-risk situations through a long-term, holistic program of equine assisted therapy and education to prepare each girl and her community with skills, resources, and opportunities so that she can gain access to a bright future.

OUR VISION

Ending cycles of intergenerational trauma and systemic marginalization in our community.

OUR CORE VALUES



FAITH & CHOICE



RELATIONSHIP FIRST
& COMMUNITY



HIGH EXPECTATIONS
& ACCOUNTABILITY



SAFETY & RISK-TAKING



INNOVATION & GRIT



GRACE & LEARNING

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

In 2008, CORRAL was established with a calling to pair the sport of horseback riding with academic support to offer a transformative program to teens in need of “a leg up in life.” Over the years, our programs have grown alongside our teens - the addition of life skills, college prep, and (most critically) a strong therapy program, round out the holistic support we offer today. These components are essential to our work - **but for me, the true power of our program remains rooted in the community, confidence and motivation that come from working with horses.**



As a teen growing up in a single parent household, I was very shy. I was placed in advanced classes, which reinforced my wallflower tendencies. I often took a back seat and observed the happenings around me - my family was often the focus of my introspection. I have a very loving extended family, but I saw how trauma can cycle through generations, affecting families that seem perfect from the outside. My family didn't talk about our relatives who struggled with addiction. We didn't talk about the tough emotions that can come up when times are hard. I learned that when you've experienced abuse, you learn to hide anything that might set off your abuser - including your emotions. **You grin and bear it, not realizing the long-term, generational impact that can come from repressing your feelings in the name of safety.**

So, when I was 15 and my dad was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer, I did not talk about it. I had no guidebook on how to process such complex fear. Luckily, I started riding horses just a couple years prior. This sport gave me a community that helped me to keep going. My instructors pushed me to try out for the show team. They encouraged me to take on leadership roles at summer camp and in our 4H club. Unbeknownst to them, their influence kept me active and gave me joy at a time when I needed it most. **They helped me find my voice, my passions, and the strength to keep moving forward when my world could have fallen apart.**

This is what we are doing at CORRAL. The teens we have the honor to serve need the power of community. Our kids need a place to heal and lean on for support through the hard times. They need coaches and mentors who believe in their potential, pushing them to grow towards a bright future that they may not even know is waiting for them. They need access to the transformative power of horses - the opportunity to build trust and learn healthy relationship skills to find their way back to healthy human connection. **We saw these needs met in a profound way over and over last year as many CORRAL families faced major crises.** Our community was there to support, ensuring our students' journey towards the realization of their promise wasn't derailed while they dealt with unimaginable obstacles.

If you told me at 15 years old that one day I'd lead a non-profit organization, I would not have believed you. Our teens are in the same boat. They come to our farms needing people to believe in them. It is an honor for my story to come full circle - to now be the mentor and coach for the next generation. **We are here to provide a space for generational traumas to come to an end. We are here for our teens to build new legacies for the generations that follow.**

Thank you for being part of the CORRAL community - for believing in our mission and the bright futures of the teens we serve! As I reflect on the many ways CORRAL has come full circle, I am encouraged and excited for the journey we will take together in the years to come.

Sincerely,
Lauren Clements, *Executive Director*

Photo: @amarisphoto / amarisphoto.com

Full Circle, Every Day.

Kids who have experienced trauma and adversity find growth and healing in the safety of structure and consistency. **Healing leads to transformational life change**, but that work doesn't happen overnight. It takes place over time, in moments big and small. Take a closer look at one student's day in the Riding Academy: **meet Lilianna**.



When she joined the Riding Academy, Lilianna was three grade levels behind and overwhelmed.

Lilianna avoided work that didn't come easily to her and was anxious about CORRAL staff seeing her grades. The accountability that came with being in the Riding Academy was intimidating at first, but Lilianna discovered the high expectations came with grace and support.

Lilianna learned to prioritize her work and communicate with teachers. Volunteer tutors got her to dig deep instead of quit. She chipped away at the incomplete and low-scoring assignments holding her GPA down, finishing with a 4.0.

A Riding Academy student and horse partner, Maya



2:45: Heading to the Farm

After a chaotic day at school, Lilianna is grateful to see a familiar car pull up. She slides into the backseat and says hi to Miss Natalae, a transportation volunteer. They catch up on the drive.

3:10-3:45: Welcome In!

The CORRAL staff and teens chat over a meal provided by Interfaith Food Shuttle. Lilianna still feels jarred by the fighting she saw after gym class, but starts to relax a little.

3:45-4:00: Preparation

Lilianna writes her Daily Contract - an outline of her mental health and equestrian goals, as well as her school assignments. She prioritizes her tasks and estimates how much time she needs, setting her schedule for the day.

4:00-5:30: Session 1 | Tutoring

Lilianna sits down with her favorite volunteer tutor, Mr. Mark. They review her contract so he knows what support she needs - today, it's help preparing for an Algebra test.

5:30-7:00: Session 2 | Horse Time

Lilianna loves to practice trotting with her horse partner, Maya - but today, she needs help managing her anxiety after a hard time at school. She asks the therapist for EAP (equine assisted psychotherapy) support. Lilianna used to need lots of encouragement to ask for help - taking herself seriously and advocating for her needs is a huge win.

7:00: Heading Home

When her mom gets to the farm, Lilianna shares about her day alongside CORRAL's Education Manager and therapist. The daily update covers her grades, upcoming homework, and her focuses from tutoring and horse time.

The therapist praises Lilianna for advocating for herself during horse time and shares the mindfulness techniques they used with her mom to reference in the future.

With everyone on the same page, Lilianna heads home. She feels ready for tomorrow - calmer, centered, and way more prepared for her Algebra test.



JOURNEY TO FULL CIRCLE

Meet Teddie, a CORRAL alumnus who defied all odds.

Teddie and equine partner, Noel



Pauline knew her child was gifted.

Teddie's drive to create and express their thoughts through art made that very clear. At school, the potential that Pauline saw in Teddie was stifled by the social challenges that came with their autism diagnosis. Individuals with high-functioning autism may experience difficulty with communicating as well as recognizing and expressing emotions. **However, the more difficult part of Teddie's diagnosis was how people responded to it.** Teddie explains: "My whole life, the whole autism diagnosis has shifted how people look at me... it's held me back." On the receiving end of harmful and conflicting messages that their diagnosis meant they were either "Einstein" or "dumb," Teddie's ability to believe in a bright future was clouded. The stereotypes and lack of support bruised Teddie's self-esteem, leaving them feeling that "no one really knew what to do with me. No one really wanted to deal with the autistic kid in the class."

Teddie's struggle to be truly seen by their teachers and peers, combined with the challenges of managing their symptoms, led to bouts of intense depression and anxiety. Desperate for a solution, Pauline decided to submit a referral to CORRAL. Though Teddie was reluctant at first, this intervention became a turning point.

"I want people now to know that people are capable of building a future for themselves. It doesn't matter what you're born with or what you look like." - Teddie, 2024 Riding Academy graduate

The longer they stuck with CORRAL, the more Teddie bloomed, but it was hard at first. The message they'd heard from so many teachers - that their failure was inevitable - was tough to shake. Eventually, the encouragement and support Teddie received at CORRAL started to change their perspective - they began asking for help with school work and imagining what their future could hold. Taking the leap to trust in others and in their own potential was new, but it was also transformative. Teddie recalls being told:

"You're capable of having a future if you work for that. You aren't doomed to drop out and do nothing for the rest of your life."

Teddie's newfound faith in their ability to succeed led to some truly astounding growth, in defiance of the limitations others placed on them. Having entered CORRAL with grades in the single digits, they finished high school with a steady stream of A's - and over 25 college acceptance letters.

Teddie's journey to full circle is set in motion - they are setting their path towards a bright future, exploring all the possibilities that branch out before them in college. **We can't wait to see what their story holds and how their voice changes the odds for those who follow in their footsteps.**



23-24 | OUR YEAR IN DATA

In 2008, Joy Currey started CORRAL. At first, she worked to change the odds for one girl, with one horse.

Her vision and leadership led CORRAL to come full circle again and again. This year, CORRAL operates across two permanent farms with 17 horses, under the leadership of Executive Director Lauren Clements (one of CORRAL's first volunteers). **Since its founding, CORRAL has expanded to provide over 566 youth access to bright futures.**

In 2024-25, we will continue to deepen our program services and increase access to CORRAL for kids that need us the most.



108 YOUTH SERVED THIS YEAR NEXT YEAR WE WILL SERVE 160

IMPACT

The need is real.

CORRAL received 108 referrals for services with a **22% increase in referrals from high-risk partner agencies.**

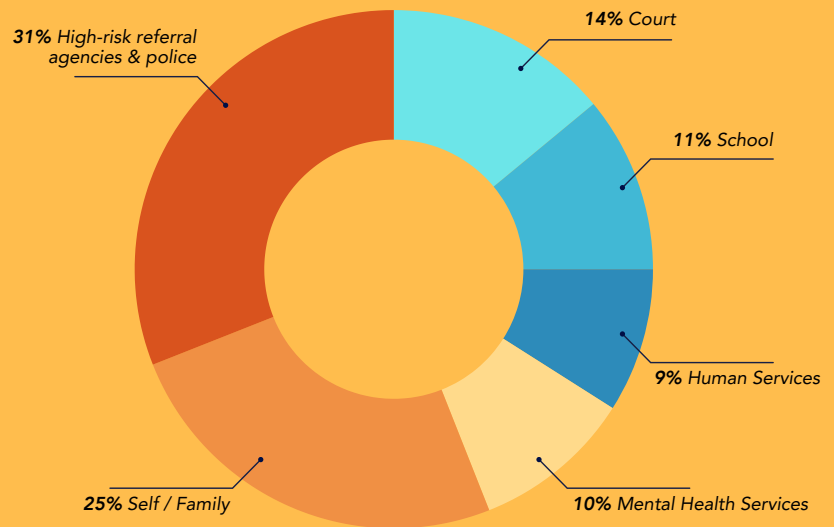
Our intervention works.

Riding Academy participants showed a **50% decrease in risky behaviors, regardless of the amount of time they'd been in the program.**

CORRAL students make academic strides.

In August of 2023, the average GPA for kids who had been in the Riding Academy for at least one year was 2.23. **In June of 2024, this same group had an average 3.0 GPA.**

REFERRAL SOURCES, 23-24



This year, our community provided access to:



Holistic support to families, including:

- transportation to and from programming
- resources & counseling to navigate complex systems and crises

17 hours

of weekly programming, including an average of:

- 7 hours of academic support
- 7 hours of equestrian skill building

over **36**

college and career prep sessions

Meals, field trips, college visits and guest speakers



54 an average of

equine assisted psychotherapy sessions individual and group, per student



Interested in volunteering with CORRAL? Take Volunteer 101 online!

23-24 | OUR YEAR IN DATA

POWERING THE MISSION

Rooted in equity, our program restores access and opportunities to underserved girls. They hold so much potential, but face multiple risk factors: trauma, abuse, neglect, low socio-economic status, involvement with foster and court systems, and the pervasive impact of systemic racism.



CORRAL champions at the 2024 Grow and Bloom Gala

FINANCES

For CORRAL, coming full circle means continuing to expand access to our programs and deepen our services. **Investment from our community of champions sustains our work and makes this journey possible.**

TOGETHER WE RAISED **\$1.43 MILLION**

607 TOTAL DONORS

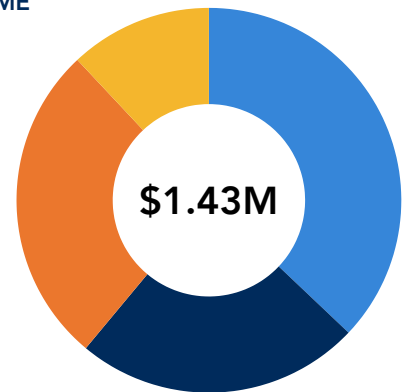
329 RETURNING DONORS



Help us expand access to life-changing programs by joining our circle of champions. Make a one-time or recurring gift online today.

TOTAL CONSOLIDATED INCOME

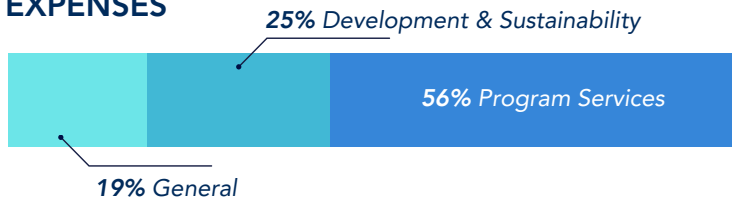
- 37% Individual Donors
- 24% Grants
- 27% Foundations
- 12% Other



OUR INVESTMENT IN BRIGHT FUTURES

Transformational change doesn't happen overnight, or with a one-size-fits-all approach. **We invest considerable time and resources into each girl to be responsive to her unique circumstances.**

EXPENSES



2023-24 PROGRAM YEAR

\$2,372: EACH JOIN THE HERD STUDENT
1 round = 12 weeks | 5 rounds offered at each farm
77 served this year | 120 will be served next year

\$23,112: EACH RIDING ACADEMY STUDENT
10 months of program services
31 served this year | 40 will be served next year

\$7,829: COST OF CARE PER HORSE
17 horses across 2 farms



Clancy & Theys volunteers install siding on the new Neuse River barn. Email info@corralriding.org for details about group and corporate volunteering.

CORRAL

CORRAL Main Office
3620 Kildaire Farm Road, Cary, NC 27518



JOIN OUR CIRCLE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steve Superville, *Board Chair*
Dr. Crystal Chen Lee, *Vice Chair*
Joy Currey, *Founder*
Rob Currey, *Co-Founder*
Gillian Pearson, *Co-Treasurer*
Evan Covington Chavez
Dr. Nneka George
Natalae Velez
Dan Pratt
Malindi Robinson
Andrea Moore

STAFF

Lauren Clements, *Executive Director*
Jessica Harrison, *Director of Operations*
Heather Brewer Constantatos, *Director of Special Projects & Programs*
Dr. Dee Harrison, *Kildaire Program Director*
Shera Everette, *Neuse River Program Director*
Jessica Ortiz Phillips, *Program Administrator & JTH Operations*
Kathryn Weber, *Kildaire Education Manager*
Shelby Edmond, *Neuse River Education Manager*
Jennifer Chapman, *Neuse River Manager of Mental Health Services*
Christina Lashley, *Kildaire Equine Manager*
Rachel Lane, *Neuse River Equine Manager*
Sarah Buddendeck, *Volunteer Manager*
Laila Payton, *Executive Assistant*

PARTNERS & SPONSORS

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Apex United Methodist Church
Arbor Ob Gyn
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Carolina Alehouse of Raleigh
Cary Dermatology
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CSL Seqirus
Department of Social Services
Di Fara Pizza
DPR Construction
EatWell Exchange
Easterseals
Fairway Home Detailing
Green Chair
Haven House
Interfaith Food Shuttle
Kiotei
Lady Prestonians
Legal Aid
Lifeline Children's Services
Luihn VantEdge Partners
Methodist Home for Children
Mission Triangle
Mt. Zion Church

New Waverly Place Dentistry
NC Department of Public Safety
Peak City Puppy
Pfizer
Pope Farms
Qualcomm
Raleigh Parks and Recreation
RTI Corporate
RTI International
S&P Global
SECC
St Francis of Assisi in Raleigh
The Gidley Group
Triangle Land Conservancy
Utility Innovation Group
Vintage Church
Women in Networking, Holly Springs

FOUNDATIONS AND TRUSTS

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Luke Garrison Foundation
Nancy Ann Wright Foundation
Richard D. Reis Family Foundation
Silverback Foundation, Inc.
The Dorothy Cate & Thomas F. Frist Foundation
The Mead Foundation
Triangle Community Foundation
William C. Etheridge Foundation
Woodson Family Foundation

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

City of Raleigh
Governor's Crime Commission
Juvenile Crime Prevention Council
Town of Cary

STAY CONNECTED

Kildaire Campus
3620 Kildaire Farm Rd., Cary, NC 27518

Neuse River Campus
3120 Tarheel Clubhouse Rd., Raleigh, NC 27604

 info@corralriding.org

 [@corralridingnc](https://www.instagram.com/corralridingnc)

 [/corralriding](https://www.facebook.com/corralriding)

 [CORRAL Riding Academy](https://www.linkedin.com/company/corralriding)