

RideAbility Mission Statement:

To serve families of children and adults with special needs; providing horses and related activities. We create an environment of fun and therapy *where everyone is able!* (enhancing physical, mental, spiritual and emotional health)

Comments from the executive director:

Receiving horseback riding trophies and ribbons mean more to our kids than I ever thought possible! I began to understand the effectiveness of RideAbility in a very unexpected set of circumstances, described below -

Sadly, I have attended several funerals over the years, each for a young person I met when they were riding horses at RideAbility. Each one of them was courageous, patient and inspiring. Each had a heart of gold and touched me deeply during their life. Each of them loved riding horses. Even though I knew RideAbility was important to them I did not fully realize the impact our healing ministry was having on them and their families.



These 3 each left us in a different way, but they all had something in common when they left us - their horseback riding pictures, awards, trophies and/or ribbons were proudly displayed at their memorial. These awards (especially the trophies and ribbons) were one of their most heartfelt and memorable achievements in their lives. RideAbility was talked about at each funeral and emphasized by each family. The stories of what the horses meant to them were wonderful and surprising to me. I hadn't realized the depth of how we had touched these boys!

Each one of them left families behind - families who came back to RideAbility for support. Each one of the families is looking to RideAbility to help their family heal, to provide a lasting memory of their wonderful young man. And RideAbility has come through for each of them - one of these boys has an annual fundraising event in memory of him, using his name each year to strengthen his memory for his family and help them remember the love and joy he gave them, another boy had his story read at the RideAbility first annual horse show and that entire day was in honor of his memory, another young man will have a booklet of stories printed in his memory to inspire others and pass on the courage he had in his short life.

RideAbility will continue to strive to be a supportive and healing ministry for families.