

Hope Haven Therapeutic Riding Centre  
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April 30, 2020

Submitted by email to **Tracy Petrescu** [tpetrescu@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:tpetrescu@thebluemountains.ca)

Dear Town of The Blue Mountains Grants and Donations Committee:

***Due to COVID-19, the funding needs of our original grant application have been critically altered.***

Hope Haven Therapeutic Riding Centre is a specialized equestrian centre offering adaptive riding, horsemanship and therapy programs for individuals who have intellectual, physical, social and/or emotional challenges. Our therapeutic and adaptive riding programs serve individuals with special needs and elementary and secondary students with challenges living in Grey Bruce County and the Town of The Blue Mountains.

On March 18<sup>th</sup> Hope Haven Therapeutic Riding Centre was closed to all but essential staff to care for our therapy horse herd. We are facing an urgent financial crisis as we no longer have the program fees that contribute to the daily feeding and care of our 13 therapy horses. We are mobilizing our Board of Directors, community partners and foundations, our volunteer base and staff to help raise \$30,000 to support the costs of hay and feed supplements, farrier fees, vet fees for vaccines, teeth care, deworming and veterinary emergencies during this closure.

We know this unprecedented isolation is especially challenging for our families of children with special needs who rely on the routine of structured programs to provide mental, physical and emotional health and learning for their children. Once the pandemic safety measures are lifted, over 300 children and adults with physical, intellectual and emotional challenges will need our therapeutic riding programs more than ever. Community funding will allow us to re-open without delay with a healthy horse herd.

If the Town of The Blue Mountains Committee is able to provide grant relief to Hope Haven, all funding will directly support feed and health care for our 13 therapy horses until we can re-open.

With our deep gratitude for your consideration,

Barb Sheperd  
Development Officer, Hope Haven Therapeutic Riding Centre  
[Partnerships@hopehavencentre.org](mailto:Partnerships@hopehavencentre.org)

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