

BraveHearts' FAQ SHEET

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



Where are you located?

- BraveHearts: 7319 Maxon Rd. Harvard, IL
- BraveHearts at the Bergmann Centre: 4950 Illinois Route 173 Poplar Grove, IL

• What is your website?

- www.braveheartsridding.org

• When did BH start?

- BraveHearts was incorporated into the state of Illinois in 2002, by founder Marge Gunnar and the program began in 2003. It is a non-for-profit 501c3
- The program has two facilities (Harvard and Poplar Grove) operating year round, six days a week.

• Services Offered:

- BraveHearts is a PATH Premier Accredited Center, AHA member center, Special Olympics Illinois Equestrian Games hosting facility and largest veteran program in the nation offering equine-assisted activities.
- Therapeutic riding, outpatient clinic specializing in hippotherapy, outpatient therapy clinic, therapeutic driving, operation mustang, veterans program, retreats, foundation horsemanship, volunteering, continuing educational experiences, conferences, workshops and certifications, trail rides, Special Olympics, Horse Shows

• Therapeutic Riding vs. Hippotherapy

- The main difference is that therapeutic riding is a recreational activity instructed by a certified PATH Intl. instructor with the goal to learn or improve riding skills.
- Hippotherapy is a treatment strategy that is used by a physical, occupational or speech therapist to address specific physical, occupational and speech goals by using the movement of the therapy horse to assist in meeting the goals. A prescription for physical, occupational or speech therapy must be provided.

• Do you offer Physical, Occupational and Speech therapy in a clinic setting?

- Yes, at BraveHearts we have a fully functional outpatient clinic at our Poplar Grove facility. A prescription for occupational, physical or speech therapy must be provided. We are also able to process your insurance to determine if you have coverage that we accept.
- Contact treatment@braveheartsridding.org or 815-765-2113 for more information.

• How many people do you serve weekly?

- Average 100 therapeutic riding lessons
- Average 40 hippotherapy sessions
- Average 75 veteran lessons – VETERANS PARTICIPATE WITHOUT CHARGE

• How many therapists do you have?

- Seven therapists (PT, OT, and SLP) work at BraveHearts Outpatient Clinic
- Therapists are AHA Level and/ or II certified

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- **How many instructors do you have?**
 - Nine PATH Intl. certified therapeutic riding instructors work at BraveHearts
 - Instructors range from registered, advanced, and master level
- **How many horses do you have?**
 - 40+ horses between both facilities
- **Do you take donated horses?**
 - Sometimes, based on our need and requirements
 - Anyone interested in donating a horse should email meggan@braveheartsridding.org
- **Can I visit?**
 - Please set up a meet and greet session on our website <http://braveheartsridding.org/contact-us> and select "Schedule an Appointment" or call ahead to be sure we can have a staff member dedicated to answering your questions during your visit
- **Can I make a donation?**
 - Visit our website to donate: www.braveheartsridding.org
 - Please mail check made out to BraveHearts to:
 - Attn: Donation
 - 7319 Maxon Rd, Harvard, IL 60033
 - Donation envelopes available
 - Monthly online automatic donations available for set up
 - Sponsoring a horse opportunities
 - Fundraisers and events are hosted
 - Your email and/or mailing address will enable us to inform you on various campaigns
- **How can I volunteer?**
 - Volunteers must be at least 14 years of age to volunteer
 - Sign up for a volunteer training with Jen 815-765-2113 or volunteer.director@braveheartsridding.org
 - Check the website for training dates
- **How much does it cost?**
 - Therapeutic Riding costs \$30/ 30 minute lesson and \$50/ 60 minute lesson
 - Our outpatient services using hippotherapy as a treatment strategy is billable through insurance, therefore rate is based on insurance
 - Financial assistance for those in need is available. Please contact our Program Director for more information at 815-943-8226 or program.director@braveheartsridding.org
 - EVERY participant at BraveHearts is subsidized in some capacity.
 - Veterans participate without charge
- **How many individuals did you serve in 2015?**
 - BraveHearts served a total of 1,192 individuals
 - A total of 17,515 sessions were provided
 - Of the 17,515 sessions provided, 10,557 of those sessions were provided to military veterans and 534 military veterans received services
 - 30,580 hours were donated by volunteers