

Educational Services

University of Central Florida
Affiliated Program



Education

Educational offerings include communication and bedside skills for UCF College of Medicine students, UCF cross-disciplinary classes, and continuing education for industry and health professionals.

Competitive Teams

Both Heavenly Hooves and Horses and Heroes participants join the Competitive Teams. Activities include the Equestrian Special Olympics, the NSBA World Championships, and possibly the Paralympics in years to come!

Training and Instruction Services

Riding instruction and Summer Camps are offered for riders of all abilities and skills. Come saddle up!



Visit us!

Healing Hearts,
Changing Lives,
One Horse at a Time!



Volunteer

Join the team today and discover the joy of serving others and making a meaningful difference in your community.

Participate

Come to the stable to experience a culture and community where the world is changed for better, together, one step at a time.

Donate

The McCormick Research Institute is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible as allowable by law.

McCormick.us

407-933-7433

Mailing Address/Administrative Office

1631 East Vine Street, Suite 300
Kissimmee, FL 34744

Stable Location

Harmony Square Drive East
St. Cloud, FL 34773

Federal Tax ID

13-420-5662

Incorporated Name

Heavenly Hoofs Inc.



Our Mission

To provide equine-assisted therapies to veterans and individuals with disabilities, and serve as a research and educational center for the equine-assisted therapeutic industry.



Horses and Heroes

*Serving Veterans
Challenged by PTSD*



Recreational Activities

Horses help Veterans reconnect in a foreign world and rediscover a sense of purpose. A certified therapeutic riding instructor facilitates group sessions that include both mounted activities and ground work.

The Horses and Heroes Drill team showcases Veterans at various rodeos and events. Veterans who have completed extensive riding instruction and ten Group Counseling Workshops can apply to join the Drill Team.

Therapeutic Services

Group and individual counseling sessions are available to Veterans diagnosed with PTSD. A licensed mental health professional utilizes horses as a therapeutic tool to support the client's goals. Participants engage in both groundwork and mounted activities. Program activities are designed to improve mental health and foster successful relationships in a civilian society.

Research Initiatives

*University of Central Florida
College of Medicine Program*



The McCormick Research Institute is driven by a theory of change. Traditional treatments often come in the form of a pill, but a powerful remedy promises a cure that can be found upon four legs. In partnership with the University of Central Florida College of Medicine, evidence-based research is conducted with the goal of producing research, identifying best practices, and designing the most impactful treatments for Veterans struggling with PTSD and individuals with autism.

Autism and Equine-Assisted Therapies

Medication is sometimes prescribed for people with Autism, but mostly to control symptoms like hyperactivity and seizures. While there is no known cure for this disorder, researchers suspect that equine-assisted therapies may be a highly beneficial treatment program for individuals with autism. A horse's fuzzy muzzle stimulates the tactile senses and the rhythmic movement of a horse inspires a rider to focus and improve motor skills. Horses engage social interaction, calm and soothe timid individuals, and inspire children to make eye contact, perhaps for the very first time.

Veterans and Equine-Assisted Therapies

The suicidal rates among Veterans are a loud cry for more effective treatments for those who served our nation. Promising equine-assisted therapies are studied in an effort to identify practices that may help Veterans rediscover hope and reintegrate into civilian living.

Heavenly Hooves

*Serving those with
therapeutic and special needs*



Recreational Activities

Participants can enjoy therapeutic riding activities, driving horse-drawn carriages, or even a hospital visit! Therapeutic riding instruction is provided by a certified therapeutic riding instructor and is designed to improve balance, coordination, communication, focus, flexibility, and muscular strength. Driving is often a great alternative for those in wheel chairs or too timid to begin riding. When you can't come to us, we come to you! Our ponies are regular visitors at local children's hospitals.

Therapeutic Services

Participants who have been prescribed occupational, physical, speech, mental health treatments enjoy the experience with their health professional and the help of a horse! Clients engage in mounted therapies as well as conventional treatment methods. This approach is often referred to as Hippotherapy.