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Manes & Motions Therapeutic Riding Center Receives Grant to Support Program for Horseback Riders Living with Special Needs

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. (June 17, 2013) – [Manes & Motions Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc.](#), announced today that it has received a \$10,000 grant from the Bernau Family Foundation for its therapeutic horseback riding program that provides equine-assisted activities to help riders with special needs develop and improve skills such as balance, trunk control, hand-eye coordination, following instructions as well as increased interpersonal skills. Manes & Motions, *A Member of the Hospital for Special Care Community*, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of [Hospital for Special Care](#).

The Manes & Motions program is currently limited to April through October and becomes inactive in the winter, leaving its horseback riders with no opportunity to ride. Therefore, the grant from the Bernau Family Foundation will specifically help to benefit the launch of the [Indoor Arena Campaign](#), an initiative to raise funds that will help provide a riding experience for Manes & Motions program participants year-round, regardless of the weather.

“The indoor arena site plan calls for a 10,580 square-foot riding arena plus a classroom, observation area, offices and restrooms at a cost of \$600,000 in total,” said Janice Anderson, Facility Coordinator, Manes & Motions. “We are very grateful for the Bernau Family Foundation’s generous contribution to help us get started on this important campaign that will eliminate the need for the program to be shut down due to inclement weather, and enable us to open the door for improved services for all of our riders.”

Currently, spring, summer and fall are the three semesters in the Manes & Motions’ riding season, and each session is tailored to the specific needs of the individuals riding at that time. An individualized riding plan (IRP) is developed for each participant to ensure the achievement of the rider’s goals, which targets five core areas: physical, social, emotional, sensorial and cognitive.

Anderson added that through the use of equine-assisted activities with an individualized approach, Manes & Motions uses this non-traditional form of development therapeutic activity and education to make a significant difference in the lives of each rider.

As the only therapeutic horseback riding center in the nation that is affiliated with a hospital, Manes & Motions provides cognitive and physical benefits through the use of equine-assisted activities to children and adults living with a wide range of conditions including [autism](#), Down Syndrome, [spinal cord injury](#), spina bifida, [brain injury](#), cerebral palsy, and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

For more information on Manes & Motions or the Indoor Arena Campaign, please call Linda Glovna at 860.612.6312, or visit <http://hfsc.org/mane-motions/indoor-arena>.

About Hospital for Special Care

Hospital for Special Care (HSC) is one of the five largest, free-standing long-term acute care hospitals in the United States and the nation's only long-term acute-care hospital serving adults and children. HSC is recognized for advanced care and rehabilitation in pulmonary care, acquired brain injury, medically-complex pediatrics, neuromuscular disorders (including ALS research), spinal cord injury, comprehensive heart failure as well as diagnostic, assessment and consulting services for children and adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Located in New Britain and Hartford, CT, HSC operates inpatient and outpatient facilities serving Southern New England on a not-for-profit basis. For the latest news and information, please visit www.hfsc.org, and follow us on Twitter [@HospSpecialCare](https://twitter.com/HospSpecialCare).

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