

AHEAD With Horses Inc Annual Report 2019-2020



HOW IT ALL STARTED

AHEAD With Horses

AHEAD (Accelerated Habilitation Education And Development) With Horses Inc was founded 52 years ago in 1968 by Liz Helms in Sun Valley, CA, the same year that the sport of vaulting (gymnastics on a moving horse) was brought to the United States. Liz had started her career by teaching riding to "normal" children, and along the way she came across disabled children and saw what a difference it could make. It was one of those first children, a boy with shallow hip sockets who required surgery every year, and his father who was a heart-surgeon at Hollywood Presbyterian Hospital, that encouraged his son to join the program because it would maximize the effect of the surgery. The articulation of the hip joint kept his sockets functioning longer and led to him requiring less and less surgery.

Using the techniques that Liz and her former husband Lew Helms had learned, they began working with more severely disabled children, developing individualized programs to meet each student's needs. The horse's movement stimulates the brain, which in turn changes the body and the individual's ability to integrate and process sensory input. The children have fun and experience a sense of success while facing real challenges.

AWH's mission is to:

Maximize the potential of disabled / disadvantaged / special-needs children providing developmental therapy, education and recreation through horses and related experiences, with measurable improvement physically, mentally, socially and/or emotionally resulting in increased self-sufficiency and the ability to lead better and more independent and productive lives.

In 2012, AWH moved their primary facility from Sun Valley to Shadow Hills, California. Today, AHEAD With Horses serves multitudes of individuals of all ages and disabilities each year, utilizing the main facility and a mobile program in Brentwood at Sullivan Canyon. Program services are comprehensive and combine the benefits of physical, occupational, speech, educational and recreational therapy; psychological and sociological counseling, other developmental services such as behavior management, sensorimotor services, etc.

Two unique aspects of this therapy are the immediacy of response and visibility of its effectiveness across multiple domains (motor, communication, social, emotional, cognitive, self-help, vocational). Predicated on the philosophy that everyone can learn and achieve, the emphasis is on working with those others feel lack the ability to respond. Most have not responded to traditional forms of therapy and/or education or are not eligible for other services.

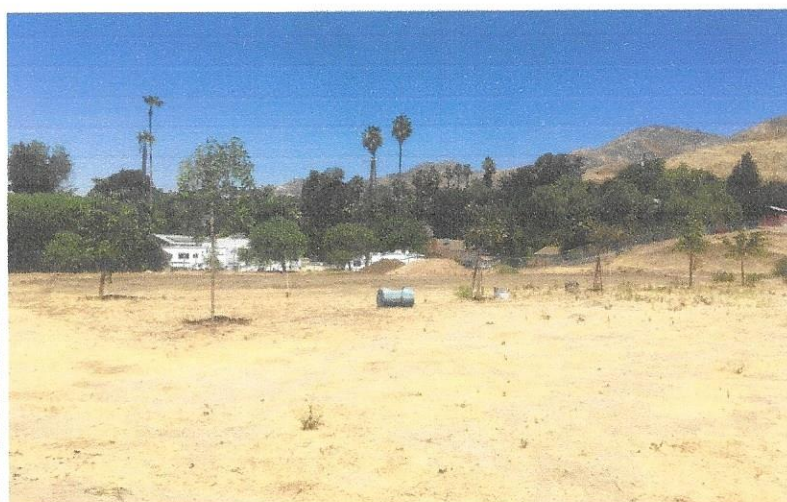
The first disabled student was served over 50 years ago and more than 100,000 have been served since. The program has been recognized educationally, scientifically, nationally, and internationally. Its work has been presented at prestigious forums and major conferences including Grand Rounds at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, Council for Exceptional Children (state conference), National Autism Conferences and the Olympic Scientific Congress (just to name a few). AWH children have performed in demonstrations including the XXIIIrd Olympiad, Tournament of Roses, Del Mar National Horse Show, Vaulting Fests, L.A. County Fair, The Hollywood Charity Horse Show and so many more! The program has been featured on national and international television, radio, and print media. One of the highlights of AWH's history was President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan's attendance at Fun Day '92, presenting two of their personal horses to be used as therapy horses in the program and achievement award medals to more than 150 program participants residing in all areas of Los Angeles, including housing projects. Many other prestigious Government officials, including Councilmen, Supervisors and Mayors have honored us by their attendance to our events as well as financial support.

Other AWH projects over the years include: PROJECT M.O.V.E. (Motivation, Opportunity, Values, Ethics) AHEAD meeting the social and developmental needs of disadvantaged/poverty level children, at-risk youth and gang youth; PROJECT MOUNTAINS AHEAD, an innovative multi-sensory nature trail and learning center; a special summer project served 1500 children living in subsidized housing; AWH supervised and/or provided work training and employment for handicapped, disadvantaged/poor (Summer Youth Employment); field work for education requirements; projects for youth service, at-risk-youth, gang diversion, etc.; court ordered community service for adult and youth offenders and much, much more!

AWH has served the LA Unified School District as one of very few approved sites for Special Education. Classes from various areas of Los Angeles have participated. These programs have reached over 1000 students. Field trips and special events combine developmental therapy, education and recreation disguised as **FUN**, providing positive alternatives and opportunities for success and increased self-esteem.

Additional services have included transportation, food, shelter, computer, clothing, holiday gifts, advocacy, referral, etc.

There have been so many more exciting memories over the program's history... some of which are seen in the accompanying pages. The most important however, are the memories of the children. Each week, we see tons of children making progress... some big and some ever so small. Whether it is a child taking his first steps or speaking his first words, another sitting for just a moment longer or just a smile from a "non-responsive" child... this is the real history of AHEAD With Horses! These are the gifts that last a lifetime. In December of 2017 we purchased our own property in Lake View Terrace which we have been working to make into the backdrop of many more memories to come over the next 50 years and on!



Some of the pictures you will see on the following pages look quite different than in years past. A few of the students will be on a horse and wearing a mask. In March of 2020, the world had a major event that has affected everyone: the COVID-19 pandemic. It caused us to close our doors under the "Stay At Home" Mandates starting in mid-March. We were able to start allowing some students back to the ranch at the beginning of June, with several changes made to keep everyone safe. This has been different from any period of time in our past, and we have had to limit which of our students we are able to work with. We look forwards to when restrictions can be lifted, and we can allow all our students back so that they can continue to reach new milestones and improve their quality of life.

The success of AHEAD With Horses is best summed up in the words of a parent. "With this program, we have the hope for our son to be the best he can be... Isn't that what we all want for our children?"

AHEAD stands for Accelerated Habilitation Education And Development. We receive much more than we give. Those we are privileged to work with teach us all that we know! We depend on the validation and support of the public.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Joyce Davison

Dear Cherished Friends,

This fiscal year of July 2019–June 2020 was very unusual for all of us. Here at AHEAD With Horses lessons for our wonderful children, normal activities around the ranch, fund raising and preparations for our anticipated move to our FOREVER HOME continued as planned until March when all of our lives had a significant change with the pandemic. We found ourselves having to close our doors to plan for the future of the lesson program and how to make all the changes necessary to keep everyone, (all of the students, staff and volunteers), safe. Michelle Newman, Executive Director, did a wonderful job of investigating all the precautions needed to continue. Our move was also put on hold with the pandemic, as the City and the permits crawled to a halt and we are still waiting on one last permit to be able to move. Judy Beem has been doing an amazing job overseeing the Forever Home Move.

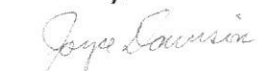
At the beginning of June, we were able to resume lessons for our clients who can wear their masks while on the horse, do not need too much physical assistance (do not require a third person to spot), and whose parents feel they are not a more vulnerable population. This has reduced our numbers to about 20% of our normal students. It now takes 1 hour for a lesson; ½ hour for the lesson as usual and the following ½ hour for a complete cleaning and disinfecting of the arena space and equipment needed for the next lesson to be given. We are also limiting how many students and volunteers are on site on any given day. This has reduced the number of lessons possible dramatically. We all hope this will change soon. We sincerely want to be able to help the children who are not able to participate in the program under the new guidelines, but are doing what is best for everyone's safety given the current conditions and are continuing to monitor the situation.

Michelle has been able to find some funding for AWH to help during this time, but it is never enough. The horses still need care and feeding—they are the backbone of our program, along with our many volunteers who continue to do what they can to keep things going as well as they can. Donations are needed now more than ever because funds from lessons have been diminished and our normal fundraising events, including our Annual Children's Demonstration and Fun Day, have had to be canceled, postponed or adjusted to become virtual events, making our funds very tight. We will find a way to continue somehow, just like we have for the past 50+ years.

I have been President of AWH since 2006. As of July 2020, I am stepping down from that position, but will be staying on the Board of Directors. Judy Beem will be succeeding me as the new President of the AWH Board. I have moved to Green Valley, AZ to be with my family. This was not an easy decision for me as I do love and am very proud of all of the work I have seen AWH do with the many children over the decades (from the 1980s to the present). I have seen many positive changes for them and know they will be successful in their lives and have so much to contribute to our world.

God bless all of you. Thank you for letting me continue for such a long time as a volunteer for AHEAD With Horses.

Sincerely,

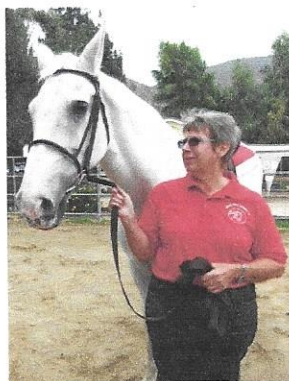


Joyce Davison, President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Members of the AHEAD With Horses Inc Board of Directors represent diverse ethnic and economic backgrounds. Some have been supporters for over 30 years, some have children that are currently in the program or who used to ride in the program. All have a love for what we do!!!

Joyce Davison; President
 Arline Latino; Vice-President
 Judy Beem, RN; Secretary
 Floyd Newman, Treasurer
 Michelle Newman; Executive Director
 Laurelyn "Timi" Brown
 Pam Currie
 Annie Howley
 Alexandra Lind
 Beth Muraida
 Terry Rioux
 Rev. Arlo Tysinger



Advisory Board

Jim Cain
 Saul Del Toro
 Jill Glosser
 Melodie Hart
 Elsa Marin
 Nicole Miller
 Bradley D. Perdue
 Jennifer Richards
 Ed Santiago

THANKS TO AWH STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Our Miracle Workers



Michelle Newman- Head Instructor, Executive Director

Rae Aaselund
Lisa Baragosh
Judy Beem
Timi Brown
Pam Curie
Jairo Omar Diaz
Marci Dinkin
Chandler Garland

Jill Glosser
Annie Howley
Luke Hunter
Kevan Husky
Ben Jensen
Helene Jutras
Nancy Kenyon
Arline Latino

Elsa Marin
Kathleen Meyer
Rex Meyer
Nicole Miller
Will Miller
Gianna Piro
Ava O'Connor

Tate Reuter
Jennifer Richards
Terry Rioux
Sarah Shaw
Mary Sweeny
Happy Watts
Sandi Zaslaw

- We had over 2,100 volunteer hours this past year, including Middle School, High School and College students completing hours for graduation.

- We had over 167 volunteers join us this year.**

**This number is smaller than usual due to the pandemic and having to close our doors for a time, canceling some of our big events, and once reopening, we had to limit how many volunteers could be on site at a time.

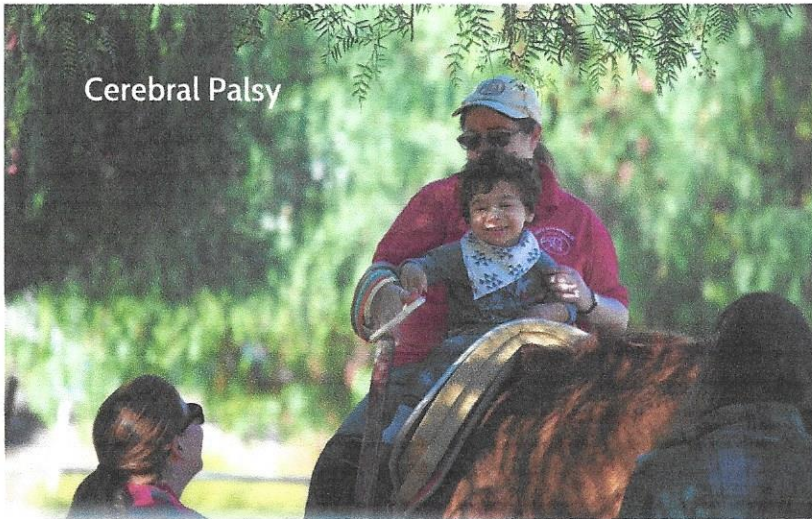


www.AWHLA.org

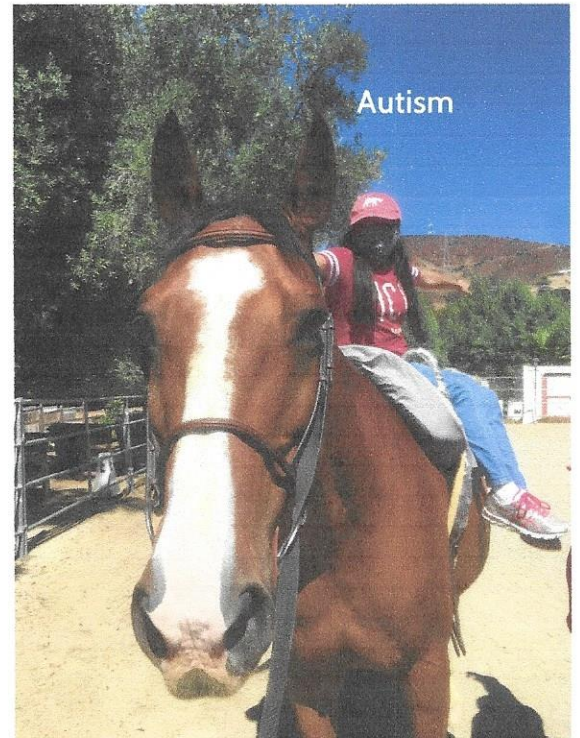
WHO WE SERVE

AWH is a developmental, therapeutic vaulting program that specializes in working with children with multiple and severe disabilities. Our clients have a variety of different diagnosis, including:

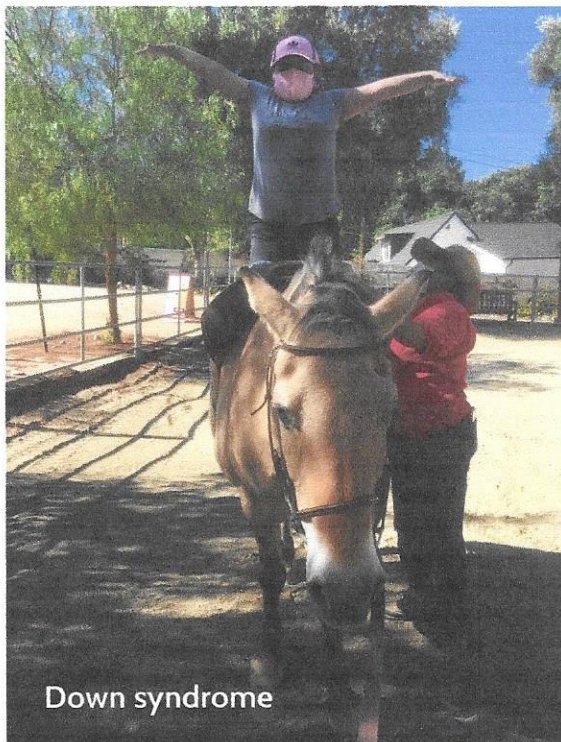
Autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, developmental delays, chromosome disorders, Prader-Willi Syndrome, Spina Bifida, seizure disorders, hypotonia, quadriplegia, paraplegia, blind, deaf, ADHD, and many more!



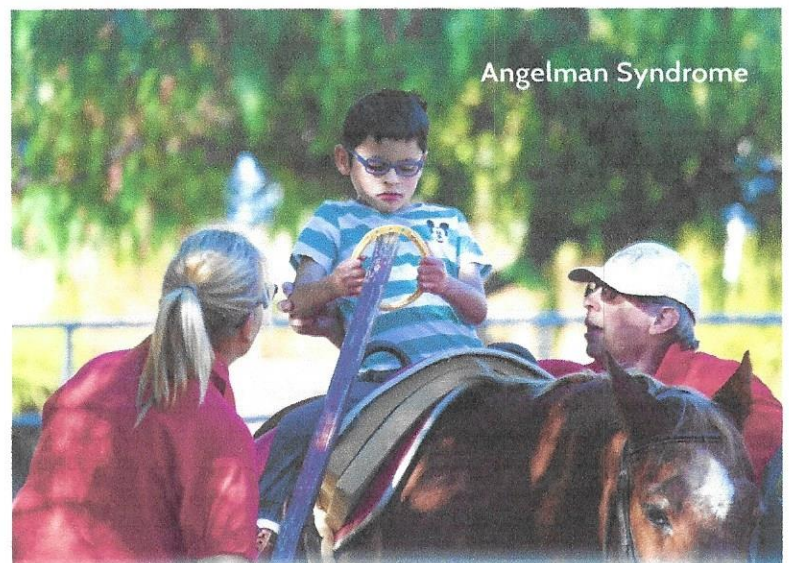
Cerebral Palsy



Autism



Down syndrome



Angelman Syndrome

PARENT TESTIMONIAL

We would like to start off with how much we appreciate your allowing our son, Oliver, be a part of your hippotherapy program. It has been a delight for us to be waking up every Saturday morning and driving up to stables where we've not only noticed marked improvements in our son's demeanor, when he sees and rides the horses, but also physically during and after sessions.

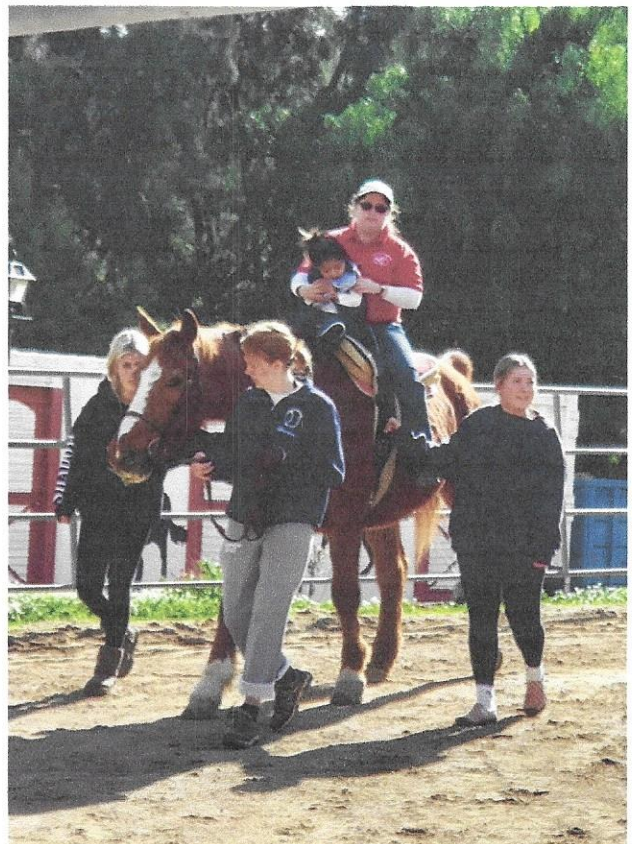
Though our son may be non-verbal and non-communicative, but the subtle signs that he shows, such as relaxed breathing and non-tensing of muscles, tells us that the therapy sessions has been doing him well since we started back in January of this year. The biggest improvement we've seen to date is the ability of Ollie to be able to spread his legs at an angle further than he's ever been since he was diagnosed with bilateral hip dysplasia last year. Nowadays, it's been much easier to perform certain daily activities with Oliver, such as changing his diapers or perineal care or simply getting him into his car seat, wherein before it would be such a task for us as Oliver tenses his legs and closes them up in anticipation of the activity.

If allowed, we would love to continue being part of the program. The instructors and staff at AHEAD with Horses are very knowledgeable and friendly. We look forward to being part of the program long-term.

Thank you,



Jess and Mariceli Tio



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Without you... We would not be

William Shatner & The Hollywood Charity Horse Show

Nicholas & Margaret Carlozzi Charitable Trust * AHEAD With Horses Foothill Auxiliary * Supervisor Kathryn Barger* LA84 Foundation * Share, Inc. * LADWP Employees Assn. Inc * Jean Kerkorian * All Nations Church The Albert Parvin Foundation * Pacific Union Community Giving Fund * State Compensation Insurance Fund * Sullivan Canyon Preservation Assoc. * Kellwood Foundation * Employees Community Fund of Boeing Looking Above and Beyond, Inc * Barnes Family Foundation * Modern Woodmen of America * Brotman Foundation * Grace Helen Spearman Foundation * Community Foundation of the Verdugos * Sempra Employee Giving Network* William and Fran Reichenbach * Walmart * Annette Wren * Schwab Charitable * Steele Family Foundation * Lillian Masters * Joyce Davison * Lucille Ellis Simon Foundation* Richard and Kevan Husky * Bank of America Charitable Foundation * Timi Brown * Wendy Andre * National Charity League, Burbank Chapter * Katherine Hickman * The Winnick Family Foundation * The Greenlight Foundation * Robert & Lynne Barker * The Madison Foundation for Families, Inc. * Theresa Rioux * Kathleen Amezcua * Edwina Greenspan * Eric Silverman *

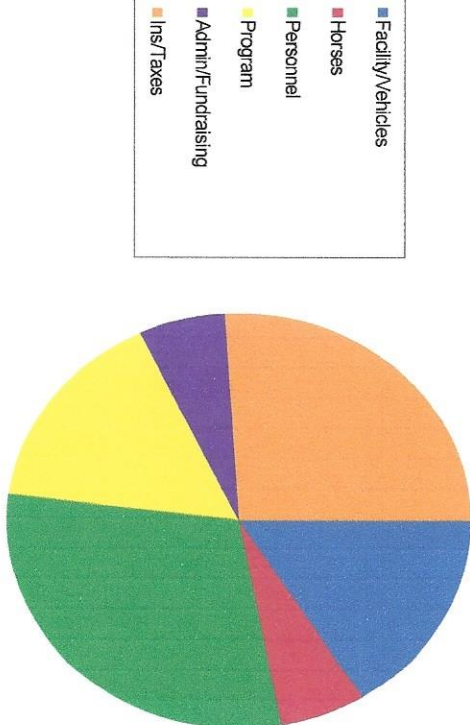
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		Network For Good	Caroline Janke	Ebrahimi Family
		Sheri Newland	Joshua Preven	Brewer Family
		Michelle DiPietro	Alexis Barragan	
			Jessica Fone	
			Judy & Kirk Satterlee	

To all of those whose names do not appear...

We apologize and Thank You. Your names are engraved in our hearts.

Where the Money Goes



EVERY DOLLAR LIFTS A CHILD UP!!!

For information about this appeal, call (818) 767-6373

- THIS IS NOT AN ENDORSEMENT - FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION ONLY -
INFORMATION CARD NO. E0405

Issued Pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code, Chapter IV, Article 4, Philanthropy

AHEAD WITH HORSES INC.

10157 Johanna Avenue, Shadow Hills, CA 91040

Person in charge of appeal: **Michelle Newman**

Telephone number: **(818) 767-6373**

Activity: Annual Appeal for Donations through June 30, 2021

Solicitation Dates: July 20, 2020 to June 30, 2021

Purpose: Net proceeds to support Ahead with Horses Inc's operating expenses and developmental horse therapy for disabled, disadvantaged, and special needs children.

Previous Activity: 2019 activity collected a total of \$338,331, of which \$2,962 (0.9%) was applied to expenses and \$335,369 was donated to charity.

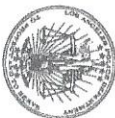
DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITATION RESTRICTED TO THE HOURS OF 8 A.M. - 8 P.M.

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Date issued: 7/20/20

ERNEST D. CALDERA
 Commanding Officer
 Commission Investigation Division



GKM
 GOLDMAN KURLAND MIRAGLIA

Independent Auditors' Report

To the Board of Directors
 Ahead with Horses, Inc.
 Shadow Hills, CA 91040

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Ahead with Horses, Inc. (a nonprofit corporation), which comprise the statements of financial position as of June 30, 2020 and 2019, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Ahead with Horses, Inc. as of June 30, 2020 and 2019, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Report on Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The schedule of functional expenses on page 9 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the books, records, and accounts and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Goldman Kurland & Miraglia, LLP

Goldman Kurland & Miraglia, LLP
 Encho, California

November 23, 2020