A Letter from Our President and Executive Director

In 2016, Little Bit faced challenges that seemed nearly unsurmountable. Our financial situation was dire and drastic changes needed to be made to save the organization. The Board of Directors took thoughtful, but immediate, action to make changes recommended by wise counsel. Those changes included hiring an interim executive director who could assist the staff in tightening belts, seeking areas where savings could be made, and building morale when it was low. Sue Camou did an excellent job in that role, and after stabilizing the organization, worked with the Board to find a permanent executive director.

Last May, the Board hired Paula Del Giudice. Paula brought a tremendous love of people and horses, and a passion for the work to Little Bit. In addition, she brought over 20 years of nonprofit experience having served in a wide array of nonprofit positions, both as a volunteer and paid staff.

Paula and the Board worked to establish goals and objectives that are helping Little Bit start to make the incremental growth that we promised the community when we created the plan for purchasing our current facility. It’s not about growth for growth’s sake. It’s about filling the potential that we have to serve more individuals in the community. Our highest area of demand is for our therapy services and that’s an area we are concentrating on first, to serve more patients.

Because of all of the seeds planted, 2017 was positive and productive. The staff did an amazing job of stewarding the resources allocated to them, and the new programs and new directions are beginning to pay off in terms of additional revenue. Thanks to the direction we are now heading, and the confidence our supporters have in that direction, Little Bit is now on firmer financial ground.

We are not finished yet! The demand for our therapies and services is still high and growing. We must do our best to serve those needs as best we can while being strategic and thrifty. We believe we have the pieces in place to make that happen. We will always need your moral and financial support! Thank you for your confidence in us.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors* 2017

Sally Gregg, President
Pat McCowan, Vice President
Christy Hale, Secretary
Tracey Trewin, Treasurer

Janet M. Brown
Rob Graves
Christine Hawkins
John Plaisted

*In January 2018, the Board of Directors was renamed to Board of Trustees.

Sally Gregg
Chair, Board of Trustees

Paula J. Del Giudice
Executive Director
“My daughter, Carmel, has a severe, one-in-a-million, progressive genetic disorder that causes her to go into recurring episodes of paralysis. Since starting hippotherapy, I have seen her grow in confidence, strength, and coordination. Even on her best days her brain is working so hard to just keep her body upright. Hippotherapy has given her the will to try something new and provides her an anchor of hope for when she is fighting this cruel disorder. We are so grateful for the relationship she has developed with her horse Gigi and her Occupational Therapist Christina, and as a family we are truly grateful for the entire team at Little Bit. I am certain that Carmel will continue doing hippotherapy for a long time.”

- Sophie H., Parent

**Hippotherapy**

Hippotherapy is a physical, occupational, or speech-language therapy treatment strategy that utilizes equine movement combined with standard techniques and strategies as part of an integrated intervention program to achieve functional outcomes. The physical therapist focuses on skill areas related to gross motor ability such as sitting, standing, and walking. The occupational therapist focuses on fine motor control, sensory integration, feeding skills, play skills, attention and self-regulation skills, and functional daily living skills. The speech-language pathologist focuses on respiratory function, breath control, oral-motor function targeting articulation, fluency, auditory processing, expressive language, receptive language, and social pragmatics.

Now in 2018!

Relaunching adult hippotherapy and new children’s literacy therapy

"LEARN MORE AT LITTLEBIT.ORG/Therapy"
Adaptive Riding is recreational horseback riding lessons for individuals with special needs. The goals are riding-skill based, but individuals and parents often report many therapeutic benefits of participation. Adaptive riding lessons are taught by PATH International-certified instructors who create a wide variety of games and exercises designed to meet each student’s needs. Classes include arena riding, trail rides, and group activities.

“Down syndrome creates physical and intellectual challenges for my son Eric who began hippotherapy at Little Bit in 2001. Now 23 years old, Eric rides mostly independently. Thanks to his instructor, his horse Honey Bee, as well as long-term volunteers and classmates, Little Bit helps him maintain and build trust, confidence, physical strength, social skills, and horse care knowledge—all for his long-term growth and enrichment. I’m not sure he realizes how much exercise he’s getting on the horse, and he’s always super excited for his next lesson. Little Bit is a huge piece of Eric’s life.”

–Beth A., Parent

New in 2018!
Special Olympics Washington’s first equestrian program

91% stated cognitive improvements
91% stated physical improvements
89% stated improvements in social interaction
6,148 rides
199 riders served
79 riders in annual horse shows
35% riders ages 5 to 17
65% riders ages 18 to 68

LEARN MORE AT LITTLEBIT.ORG/ADAPTIVE
“It’s very challenging for a kid on the autism spectrum to consider someone else’s feelings. His work with Skip has taught him skills that he needs for life, like controlling emotions and seeing how actions affect others, and it builds his confidence. He has to be extra observant to understand Skip’s feelings—the lessons are immediate. In EFP, there is less pressure to perform because the emphasis is on the horse’s actions in a beautiful, natural setting. His EFP sessions have helped him function better in the classroom—a challenging environment for anyone with autism. Just as important, he is creating memories that he’ll be able to hold onto and remember when he needs them. My hope is that if he ever feels that he can’t do anything well, he’ll remember that he was able to manage a 1,100 pound animal and try again. I am so thankful that EFP is offered at Little Bit for it was a serendipitous fit for my son.”

—Meg S., Parent

**Annual Horse Shows**

79 PARTICIPANTS

The Pat Flynn Memorial Horse Show, named in honor of Little Bit rider Pat Flynn, is the culmination of a year’s worth of progress in Hippotherapy and Adaptive Riding and a celebration of abilities rather than disabilities.

The Margo O’Callaghan Memorial Dressage Show, named in honor of Little Bit rider Margo O’Callaghan, provides a venue for riders of all skill levels to compete alongside their peers and be judged on their performance alone, regardless of ability or disability.

LEARN MORE AT LITTLEBIT.ORG/EVENTS

**Equine-Facilitated Psychotherapy**

48 INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS WITH CHILDREN

Through Equine-Facilitated Psychotherapy (EFP), the focus is not horsemanship or horseback riding, but rather a safe place for the client and therapist to engage in activities with a horse or horses and use the horse(s) to help process feelings, thoughts, and reactions. Little Bit is partnering with local mental health therapists to provide EFP services at our facility. These therapists will work hand in hand with a PATH-certified Equine Specialist from the Little Bit staff.

LEARN MORE AT LITTLEBIT.ORG/EFP

Little Bit also offers Equine-Facilitated Learning (pictured), Unmounted Horsemanship Classes, and Social Skills Classes.

LEARN MORE AT LITTLEBIT.ORG
Camp Experiences

80 PARTICIPANTS

Camp experiences are open to individuals with or without disabilities and include riding lessons from PATH-certified therapeutic riding instructors, assisting with grooming and tacking horses, unmounted activities with horses, games, and much more.

LEARN MORE AT LITTLEBIT.ORG/CAMPS

“My son is neurologically complex. He can often do something once and never again or be proficient at something professionals say he doesn’t have the skills to do. Speech is something that has always been a struggle. While on the backs of the Little Bit horses his speech started to come. He was motivated to say, ‘walk on!’ and have the horse do just that. Now at almost 10 years of age, Little Bit is one of the few places where he feels comfortable and free to try new things including speaking. He will be returning to Little Bit Summer Camp, this time with his typically developing five-year-old brother. They are both very excited to finally go to camp together! I am grateful to Little Bit for providing a unique experience they can share, despite their age and developmental differences.”

—Sarah G., Parent
Horses

Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center program participants receive the highest quality services available. Our horses are a vital component and are cared for with compassion and a high level of expertise, provided by staff, veterinarians, and trained volunteers. We provide this level of care not only for the benefit of our horses’ health and state of mind, but also with the knowledge that the better we care for our horses, the better they will be able to help fulfill our mission.

“I’ve been volunteering at Little Bit for 12 years. To me, the horses are the reason Little Bit exists—they are the glue that holds Little Bit together, in spirit and in deed. The connection that each horse has with their rider is stronger than we often realize. Many of us were drawn in by the horses, and then we find that over time we start listening to the horses’ language while learning so many things about ourselves. Therapeutic riding horses’ work is very challenging, however the beautiful, individualized care they receive at Little Bit from incredibly knowledgeable staff and veterinarians could not be better.”

—Shannon S., Volunteer

New in 2018!
Pasture space for our herd

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Horses</th>
<th>Retired from the herd</th>
<th>Joined the herd</th>
<th>Maximum number of rides per week per horse</th>
<th>Treatment types received</th>
<th>Average hours of staff and volunteer care per horse per year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9 to 12</td>
<td>40 working weeks</td>
<td>16 average age</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Inspiration and Education**

Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center serves as an inspiration and educational resource to the therapeutic riding profession, both regionally and nationally. We accomplish this by offering clinics, seminars, and training classes throughout the year, offered to both Little Bit staff and volunteers as well as individuals from other therapeutic riding organizations and those wanting to gain qualifications to enter the therapeutic riding profession.

“My plan was always to become a vet. While on a break from college, I accepted a position in the summer camp program at Little Bit. I completely fell in love with the mission, the people, and the horses. While finishing my degree, I spent increasingly more time at Little Bit, and my family noticed how much I was loving it. While attending the PATH Registered Level Instructor Workshop as an intern, an Evaluator said, ‘I think you are perfect for this job.’ That was all the validation I needed to pursue the ‘world’s coolest job.’ After teaching hundreds of lessons since 2015, I still look forward to the clinics and workshops held at Little Bit, which remind me of how fortunate I am and drive me to do more, be more creative, and use more resources alongside learners who are driven to do the same.”

—Devon S., PATH International Certified Instructor

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37 individuals attended PATH International workshops at Little Bit

31 individuals completed PATH International certification tests at Little Bit

16 individuals attended American Hippotherapy Association workshops at Little Bit

53 volunteer training classes

**New in 2018!**

**Special Olympics Washington Equestrian Program training**

—Devin S., PATH International Certified Instructor

**Learn More at littlebit.org/clinics**
Community and Accreditations

Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center is a community where horses transform the bodies, minds, and spirits of people with disabilities. We are tremendously grateful for the support we received from community members in 2017 and the accreditations and awards we earned while pursuing our mission.

“My daughter has ridden at Little Bit for over 15 years. Her father and I consider this to be one of the most important aspects of Hannah’s social life. We want to support her in any way we can. So, after retiring I decided to devote more time to volunteering at the Annual Reins of Life Auction. I wasn’t sure how to do procurement at first, but I learned from others over the past six years and eventually became more confident and proficient. I like and respect the people on the auction committee, and I hope to be part of the team in the years to come.”

—Leah H., Parent and Volunteer

32nd Annual Reins of Life Auction
260 guests
$331,049 gross raised

Making Strides Community Luncheon
190 guests
$86,665 gross raised

Stinky Spoke Mountain Bike Poker Ride
$17,481 gross raised

• Better Business Bureau Accredited Charity
• PATH International Premier Accredited Center
• American Hippotherapy Association, Inc. Facility Member
• PATH International Region 9 Horse of the Year Sherman
• PATH International Region 9 Veterinarian of the Year Dr. Robert Fleck
• PATH International Region 9 Volunteer of the Year Debbie Bacon
2017 Financials
based on audited financial statements

2017 Revenues
- Tuition & Earned Income $766,407
- Contributions $1,240,716
- Community Events & Activities (net) $339,281
- Other Sources $114,992
Total $2,261,396

2017 Expenses
- Programs $1,649,174
- Fundraising (net) $299,832
- Administration $332,799
Total $2,281,805

2017 Cost of Services
- Therapy Program Actual Cost Per Session: $358
- Adaptive Riding Program Actual Cost Per Session: $240

2017 Scholarships
$52,191 to 52 unduplicated participants

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2017 Corporate Strides Award Winners

Each year, Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center recognizes two outstanding companies and their employees for going above and beyond through volunteer service and financial support to Little Bit. We honored these companies’ dedication to exceptional volunteerism, commitment, and ongoing support of the Little Bit mission.

AUE provided pro-bono services that led to the installation of a new mounting platform and ramps in one of three riding arenas, allowing Little Bit to expand class times available to riders with disabilities. In addition, AUE has provided financial support to Little Bit.

Salesforce was the top volunteer group at Little Bit in 2016, contributing 258 hours of volunteer service in addition to financial support. Volunteers laid gravel and dug trenches to ensure paddocks drain properly in the wet winter months, washed fencing for the annual horse shows, installed tractor shed panels, decorated the entire facility for the community holiday party, and more.

Volunteer Work Groups

Corporate and community work groups help maintain 17 acres of land and several structures and buildings at Dunmire Stables. Work groups offer Little Bit the opportunity to complete larger projects with many hands in one day’s time.

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LEARN MORE AT LITTLEBIT.ORG/VOLUNTEER

“Why spend a day at Little Bit volunteering? This is one day that I look forward to all year long. Liberty Mutual Insurance provides one day a year to give back to our community. I have been coming to Little Bit for five years now and it provides me a way to support the adults and children with mental or physical disabilities as well as their families. It is just a quick five hours individually, but when the 25 of us show up, we make a big difference in the upkeep of this large facility. Many hands do truly make quick work. Thank you to Liberty Mutual Insurance and to Little Bit for this opportunity.”

—Susan P., Liberty Mutual Employee

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Volunteers

Little Bit was founded in 1976 by a small group of volunteers, and volunteers remain at the heart of our operation today. The time, knowledge, and passion of our volunteers allow us to achieve a level of service that would otherwise not be possible.

"It is not an exaggeration to say that magic happens in the interaction between horse and special needs rider. For me, the ability to witness that magic is a gift. I’ve seen first words, first steps, and the biggest smiles ever at Little Bit, and it just keeps me coming back for more."

—Diane J., Volunteer since 2012

New in 2018!
Start a Little Bit volunteer guild for friendship, purpose, and fun!
We recognize all of our volunteers’ dedication, hard work, compassion, and time. Thank you to each and every one of you!
Donors

$100,000+  
Juniper Foundation

$50,000-$99,999  
Chap & Eve Alvord  
Jordan Fund

Microsoft Matching Gifts

$25,000-$49,999  
Anonymous

Elias & Kayly Alvord  
Archbright Health and Wellness Fund

Kari Flyen Estate  
Hot Feet Foundation

The Barbara & William Rosenthal Family Foundation

The May & Stanley Smith Charitable Trust

$10,000-$24,999  
Eric & Lauri Berman

Diane & Catherine Chien

Community Foundation of Snohomish County

$5,000-$9,999  
Anonymous (85 gifts)

William Goe & Kathy Alm

American Quarter Horse Foundation

Widow/Brother Family Foundation

Boeing Employees Benevolent Fund

$2,500-$4,999  
Anonymous (two gifts)

Allied Christian Foundation

$1,000-$2,499  
Anonymous (two gifts)

Alfred Christian Foundation

Armour Unserfer

Engineering

Julee Bennett

Craig & Aissa Bomben

Phil & Caren Brown
Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center ǀ 2017 Annual Report

Geoff & Cindy Swanson
Terri Suzuki
George & Kim Suyama
Kristy Summers
William & Karen Stuht
Sally Stuart
Zee Straight-Weiss
Stacey Stoutt
Ronald Stimbert
Todd Stevenson
Kay Stelter
State of Washington
Angela Stan
Stuart & Carla Squires
Brent & Michelle Spore
STRC Spirit Therapeutic
Harold Speer
Sarah Spearman
Steve Albright & Karol
Kurt & Sharon
$1-$999
Foundation
Stevenson
Employee Giving
Soldenwagner
(cont.)
73x348
Jane Tyrrell
Ryan Tyler
Brian & Melissa Tyler
Charlene Turner
Thomas & Heather Trinidad
Elizabeth Trinidad
Steve Albright
Karol Flynn
Dorothy Allday
74x54
Bill & Sheryll/Winfield
Nahal White
Harry & Marilyn Wilson
Robert & Diana Weede
Michelle Watson
Washington State
Rachel Warner
Pascal Walschots
Mark & Janine Wagar
David & Joyce Anne Wagar
Donna Withers
Maria Winter
Traci COVID-19 Relief Fund
Bill & Laura Withrow
Elizabeth O'Callaghan
Liberty Mutual
Lynn Roberts in honor of
Marilyn Soble
David & Peggy Van
M.E. Conger
Anna Ann Scott
Gemda Bredehoeft
Mary Ann McLean in honor of
Keira Thieme
Megan Hooker in honor of
Susan Sheckett
Paula J. Del Giudice in memory of
Georgia Newton
Anonymous in memory of
Mary Ann McLean
Margaret Roberts
Tim & Barbara Thieme
Mike & Juleen Vache
Carlos Vazquez
Dwight Vickers
Annette Merrill
Ally & Donie Vinson
Robert & Audrey Seale
Gary & Wanda Walsh
Emily Baron
B. Mark & Kelly Beckers
Bill & Nancy Beckers
Brad & Christine Beckers
Philip & Corinne Beckers
Emma Beckers

IN MEMORY OF
Anonymous in memory of
Mrs. Ronald Dorr
Duane Reed
Mary Jane Halvorson
Samuel Lawrence
Mary Errington
Laura Hope
Warren Heath
Madison Dilley

IN HONOR/MEMORY OF
Annette Merrill in memory of
Elise Chapman
Joel Wolfe
Sean Woerman
Scott Woerman
Mark & Dolly Woerman
Donna Withers
Maria Winter
Traci COVID-19 Relief Fund
Bill & Laura Withrow
Elizabeth O'Callaghan
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Robert & Audrey Seale
Gary & Wanda Walsh
Emily Baron
B. Mark & Kelly Beckers
Bill & Nancy Beckers
Brad & Christine Beckers
Philip & Corinne Beckers
Emma Beckers

IN HONOR OF
Gary & Leslie Adlitz in honor of
Sara Ottman
Helen Kander in honor of
Rob & Emma Graves
Anonymous in honor of
Our Friends at Phoenix Farms
Jermaine & William Otton
Laura & Dan Otton
Anonymous in honor of
Karol Flynn
Nacho & Angelica Mora in honor of
Laura Hope

IN HONOR/MEMORY OF
Kay DuBrock in memory of
Ronald Dorr
Paul Beckers in memory of
Ronald Dorr

IN MEMORIAL
Anne Ann Scott
Gemda Bredehoeft
Mary Ann McLean in honor of
Keira Thieme
Megan Hooker in honor of
Susan Sheckett
Paula J. Del Giudice in memory of
Georgia Newton
Anonymous in memory of
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Bill & Nancy Beckers
Brad & Christine Beckers
Philip & Corinne Beckers
Emma Beckers

IN MEMORY OF
Anonymous in memory of
Don Lord
G. Sue Lamove in memory of
Mary Hitchenson
Liberty Mutual
Marianne Zakich
Bill & Nancy Beckers
Brad & Christine Beckers
Philip & Corinne Beckers
Emma Beckers

IN HONOR/MEMORY OF
Two Horse Foundation
LITTLEBIT.ORG/
LITTLEBIT.ORG/
Hearts and Hooves
Legacy Giving Society

A sentence or two in your will or living trust can help Little Bit achieve its mission for years to come.

We thank the following individuals who have remembered Little Bit in their estate plans.

Tucker Burback
Karol Bean
Jerry & Sally Gregg
Martha Hanscom

Please visit littlebit.org/donate to learn more about legacy giving, or to discuss legacy giving opportunities contact Director of Development Sharon Soldenwagner at 425-882-1554.
Little Bit is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, making every donation tax deductible as permitted by law.

☐ I will donate online at littlebit.org/donate, or call 425-882-1554.

☐ My check is enclosed.

Please recognize my donation as follows:

☐ Anonymous ☐ In honor of ☐ In memory of

Please include contact information for honoree/family to receive notice of your gift.

☐ Please call me to discuss my gift. ☐ Please send me information about including Little Bit in my/our estate plans.

☐ I have already included Little Bit in my/our estate plans.
Connect With Us
LITTLE BIT THERAPEUTIC RIDING CENTER
DUNMIRE STABLES
18675 NE 106th St
Redmond, WA 98052
Phone: 425-882-1554
www.facebook.com/LittleBitTherapeuticRidingCenter

GET INVOLVED
Visit www.littlebit.org and click on “Get Involved” in the menu or contact us at 425-882-1554.

PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS
Terry Alverson Photography: page 18
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Candi Kintzley Photography & Marketing: page 4
Kimberly Lind Photography: page 6, 16, 28, 38
Win Maynard: page 2
Nitish Meena: page 22
Sugar Sand Photography: page 8
Unknown: page 10, 14, 20
Kara Wallace Photography: page 12

Little Bit has made every effort to accurately reflect all financial contributions received by the organization in 2017. If we have made an error, please accept our sincere apology and contact us so that we can make any necessary corrections. If your address has changed or you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please contact Kristin at 425-882-1554 or kristin@littlebit.org.