



## Grace.

I started my daughter Grace with Crossing Bridges with the intention to push her out of her comfort zone. You see, Grace isn't particularly fond of animals in general. They are typically too unpredictable to her. However, I knew that if we could work through some of her fears, the benefits would greatly outweigh her concerns, so we went for it! And I am SO glad we did.

The team at Crossing Bridges works regularly with Grace on trust, verbal communication, core stability, and even something as simple as keeping her eyes open while riding. Well, after much collaboration and consistency, Grace will now smile and giggle during her sessions, she will verbally respond to questions, and needs less prompting and hand over hand assistance.

In fact, recently, we had a major breakthrough with releasing Grace's "death grip" on the saddle horn ... so, we decided to incorporate Grace's love of ballet into her riding sessions. When Grace was asked to show "ballet arms" she barely hesitated!! Her hands came right off and up in the air!! Tears of joy rolled down my face!! Who knew "horse ballet" was a thing?!

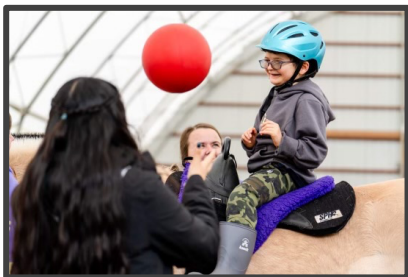
I absolutely cannot thank the team at Crossing Bridges enough!! You have provided Grace a safe and fun space for her to grow strength, stability and confidence. I am so grateful that we went outside her initial comfort zone and set the bar higher for her. We could not have done it with you! Thank you for your knowledge and patience! We look forward to the growth another year will bring!

- Brandi Hamilton

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## Jedidiah.

Our son Jedidiah embarked on his equine therapy journey at Crossing Bridges from a tender age, and we can't express enough gratitude for the positive impact it has had on his life. Over the years, we've witnessed remarkable improvements in his speech, balance, ability to follow directions, as well as his gross and fine motor skills. Being an animal person at heart, the time spent with the horses has proven to be particularly beneficial for him.



The horses all have incredible personalities, and Jedidiah has formed a special bond with each one he has had the privilege to ride. The dedicated staff at Crossing Bridges has an unwavering commitment and patience in assisting him through the challenges he faces. Their expertise not only extends to working with the horses but also in helping Jedidiah enhance his focus and communication skills. We are truly grateful for the exceptional care and support provided by the Crossing Bridges team.

- Alicia Puglisi





## Marley.

Meet Marley! Marley has Prader-Willi Syndrome, a rare genetic disorder. It causes obesity, intellectual disability, medical challenges, low muscle tone, behavioral challenges and sleep disorders. It's very medically complex and life can be very challenging to navigate, especially out in the "real world".

Marley is often misunderstood due to her disability. When we found Crossing Bridges, we had been searching for a place Marley could thrive, enjoy and be accepted for who she is!

Marley loves her therapy sessions! When she arrives, she's all smiles, she's beaming with a beautiful light! Life is so very challenging for her. When she's at Crossing Bridges riding, all the worries melt away and she's at complete peace. I'm so very grateful for the patient staff and the horses. It's taken us a long time to find something for Marley to truly enjoy. She loves the horses; she would be here all day if she could! Thank you so much for supporting this amazing cause!

- Brittney James (Marley's mama)



## Samuel.

Samuel was born with a medical condition that required him to have intense intervention with emergency surgery and hospitalization as an infant. The doctors have been able to help with his medical needs; however, I believe that having had an invasive procedure done at such a young age contributes to his behavioral issues. The Doctors also told us that Samuel would never be "normal," and we were advised to take him to speech therapy before the age of two. Sam would go from one extreme of being in a blind rage and screaming for hours at any trigger, to "shutting down" and blocking anything and anyone out. He would refuse to move or communicate.



Since he started working with Jennifer and the horses, Sam has learned important lessons in how to work and talk through frustrations and fears. Before he was taking lessons, he would not be separated from myself, but he loves "my horses" as he calls them and has been able to walk in alone since he has learned how to have less anxiety about separation. His anger has decreased a great deal since learning techniques on how to communicate effectively and his sweet nature comes through. Sam's favorite horses are Riata and Faith, and he says that riding is his favorite part about his lessons. We are exceedingly grateful for the sponsors, Jennifer, and all the volunteers that have put so much time and energy into helping support Samuel!

- Briannah Dempsey