



## Giddy-Up and Grow: Little Feet, Big Impact



"Emmett has overcome so many obstacles this past year. When first starting [occupational therapy at] Children's TherAplay he could not sit in a chair without falling over. Now [he is] playing along the side of his peers.

Amongst giving Emmett tools to help in his independence, the therapists have also given our family multiple strategies we can use in his daily life. It has been a beautiful sight to watch him grow with the help of everyone at Children's TherAplay."

— Emmett's mother, Aryel



### Our impact

Since 2001, The Children's TherAplay Foundation has changed the lives of thousands of children—and their families—who have special needs. As one of the few clinics in the country to specialize in the treatment strategy of hippotherapy, we are honored to help these children grow stronger and more independent through physical and occupational therapies on horseback.

The ever-increasing demand for our services, along with the many positive outcomes we facilitate, has led to tremendous growth. In fact, the number of therapy treatments we provide has nearly *doubled* in the past five years, with 7,824 treatments in 2017 alone. That means more staff, more therapy horses, and the need for more space.

### The challenge

Simply put, the converted horse barn we have been operating out of for nearly two decades cannot keep pace with this growth.

But the lack of space is just one problem. Because there is no running water on the north side of the building where the clinic is located, families must walk outside and around the building—in all kinds of weather—to access the restrooms. This can be particularly challenging for children with mobility and special medical needs.

In addition, the current configuration of our existing facility has led to a cramped waiting room and challenges in holding much-needed private conversations between therapists and parents.

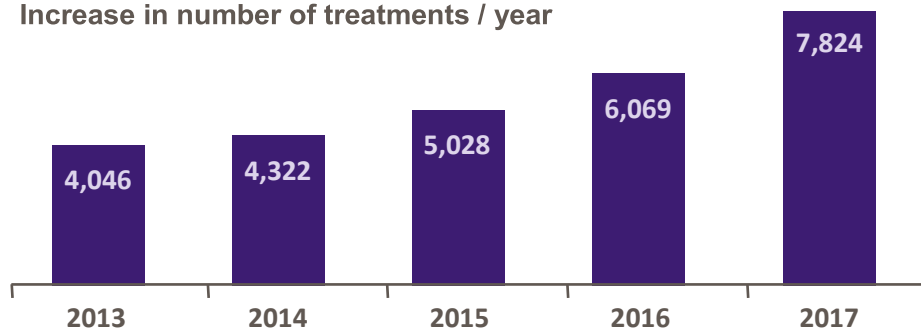
### The solution

It's very clear: If we are to continue providing 750+ high-quality equine-assisted treatments each month, let alone serve the dozens of children who are on the waiting list, the current facility must be expanded and renovated.

## How will the expansion and renovation benefit the children and families we serve?

- More space, including dedicated private evaluation and treatment rooms, and a better-functioning facility mean the high-quality treatment that children already receive at Children's TherAplay will be dialed up another notch.
- Families who've been asking for years will be *thrilled* to learn that the new facility will allow us to expand our services to include speech therapy.
- A dedicated life skills area, equipped with child-sized kitchenette and restroom, will help the children take even greater steps towards independence.
- Centralizing administrative offices will make the entire facility more accessible, improve efficiency, and maximize clinic space.
- Spacious waiting rooms with expanded views of the arena and both family-friendly and quiet areas will be an oasis for parents, who are often here for two hours at a time.
- An all-weather event and meeting space will serve as a venue for fundraising events and will also generate income through rentals. That's another step towards increased sustainability.
- And, by increasing capacity, the new facility will reduce the number of children on our waiting list, bringing hope for families who have, at times, waited upwards of six months for their children to receive treatment at Children's TherAplay.

Increase in number of treatments / year



## How you can help

Your support will change the lives of children with special needs by ensuring that the children we serve now—and the thousands more we will serve in the future!—can continue to grow stronger and more independent through equine-assisted therapies. Please join us as we Giddy-Up and Grow!

**Honorary Chairs:** Wm. Craig and Teneen Dobbs, Founders; Stefan Wilson, Indy 500 driver

**Honorary Kiddo:** Gavin Swearingen **Honorary Therapy Horse:** Gideon, 16 years of service

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For more information, please contact Kathy Pelletier, [kpelletier@childrenstheraplay.org](mailto:kpelletier@childrenstheraplay.org)



### Children's TherAplay by the numbers

# 750+

average number physical  
and occupational therapy  
treatments / month

# 193

children currently  
being served

# 63 miles

furthest distance being  
driven for treatment

# 13

therapy horses

# 12

Indiana counties  
currently served

