



*"This place was fun  
and it made me  
happy and I will never  
forget this place."*

- 9 year old | program  
participant

**One life changed can  
change a community!**



## About Us

Started in 2006 and founded in 2010, Equine Assisted Development (EAD) began with a purpose: **to connect people with horses**. EAD is a faith based, non-profit, farm in the city that provides EAGALA certified horse therapy services to those who are hurting. Many of EAD's clients have troubled histories including: abuse, sex trafficking, addiction challenges, low self-worth, mental illness, behavioral, and identity issues.

## Faith Statement

As believers in Jesus Christ, and the Gospel, John 10:10 pushes us to the why of hope and how of science. We believe in objective truth, Scripture and the Holy Spirit. We are the hands and feet of Jesus, wishing to be a light people run to, as we point people to Jesus.



# Who We Serve

- **Diverse Communities**

vulnerable and at-risk youth, teens and adults

- **Trauma Survivors**

trafficked, domestic and other forms of abuse

- **Mental Health**

children, adolescents, adults, and providers

- **Students & Educators**

public/private schools and universities

- **Assisted Living**

Dementia/Alzheimer's patients and respite care

- **Military**

active duty, reserves, veterans, and military families

- **First Responders**

police, fire, EMT, and medical professionals

- **Corporate**

leadership and team building exercises

## 2020 Program Partnerships:

Despite COVID-19 and the economic and social hurdles 2020 has brought, EAD has been blessed to continue running programs with local community partners.

- **Bethany Refugee Program**
- **Community outreach and non-profit invitationals**
- **EAD mentorship program**
- **EAGALA certification training**
- **Equine Assisted Therapy and Learning sessions**
- **COVID-19 essential worker events**
- **International and local consulting for equine therapy**
- **Kentwood summer kids camps**
- **Real Happiness assisted living Mobile Unit**
- **Wedgewood Manassah Project**
- **WINC: For All Women Veterans Group**





## Did You Know?

600+ lives are impacted through free programs each year!

EAD houses 8 therapy horses, some have been rescued!

Unfortunately in 2020, EAD had to turn away more than 14 horses due to space and funding limitations. EAD's dream would be to continue rescuing horses in need of a home in the years to come.

1 therapy horse can work with 128+ people each month!



## Evidence Based Results

As part of 2020 programming, EAD offered several free horse therapy events to essential workers in the community based on profession, free of charge. **Pre and post-test data showed the reduction in the following areas after one, 90 minute equine therapy session:**

- 33% in sadness
- 100% in fear
- 33% in anxiety
- 100% in frustration
- + 20% in happiness
- + 33% in feelings of calm
- + 15% in feelings of hope
- + 66% energy



In addition, 40% of participants planned on using nature, horses or animals in their self-care and mental health routine, and 95% had positive views of horses after just one equine assisted learning (EAL) session.

- MSW Graduate Student & Marketing Intern Collected Data







**“I will never forget this place.”**

*“I was here for six weeks and learned words about myself like calm, brave and smart. This place was fun and it made me happy and I will never forget this place.”*

- 9 year old | program participant



## Stories & Testimonials

### “New possibilities.”

*“Deb at Equine Assisted Development has a unique gift for leading individuals outside of their normal thought processes, breaking through our self imposed limitations to new possibilities for our lives.”* - Mike Crumback | Director of Business Development at VanLaan Concrete Construction



### “It’s amazing!”

*“Nothing at Equine Assisted Development is wasted! Therapy happens for anyone who visits the farm. I think it’s safe to say that for myself and the rest of the dedicated team of volunteers, those couple hours we give are therapeutic. Cleaning stalls, feeding, brushing, exercising, and leading horses to the pasture is great therapy. And add to that the funny goats, the dogs, cats, fresh air, and the people. It’s amazing!”*

- Sharon LaChappelle | horse wrangler volunteer

## Volunteers & Donors

EAD's 27 volunteers donate over 120 hours of horse and barn care every month. Volunteers have a positive impact on local children and their communities, bridging generational gaps and becoming mentors for many program youth.

EAD's volunteers often share about the benefits of therapy received by interacting with the horses and the personal satisfaction they gain through serving the community.

### Donations in Kind:

Three area businesses paid the post-lease for EAD's tractor.	<i>\$20,000</i>
Rent and utilities for the Kentwood location by Dwight and Karen Strayer.	<i>\$29,000</i>
Full-funded new office above the barn by donation and in kind giving.	<i>\$10,000</i>
Local business provided EAD with a new laptop.	<i>\$800</i>
The Hannah Hill location has been fully funded by Ron and Blossom Vanderpol for two years.	<i>\$5,000</i>
Special thanks to several local foundations, individuals and families who have been helping EAD support the community for several years. For a list of foundations who support EAD, please visit: <b><a href="http://www.EquineAssistedDev.org">www.EquineAssistedDev.org</a></b>	



## 5 Year Expansion Plan



EQUINE ASSISTED  
DEVELOPMENT  
*Trauma Treatment Center*

EAD strives to use therapy horses, resources and the farm's unique location to meet the ongoing needs of local families and individuals. EAD's expanded vision encompasses the following:

**Equine Assisted Development will become a comprehensive trauma treatment center prioritizing horse therapy services, and expand programming to include: art therapy, nature therapy, traditional therapy, EMDR therapy, and coaching.**

**EAD's current goal is to raise \$5 million in five years.**

In January 2021, EAD commences phase #1 by converting the second barn into classrooms and office space, adding additional parking and updating the barns and buildings for year round functionality. Phase #2 will encompass staff budgeting with provisions and plans to hire additional full and part-time staff and phase #3 will focus on programs.

*Lastly, this much needed expansion will allow EAD to invite local schools and education groups to utilize the farm for outdoor education, farm/agriculture, science and math classes. EAD will supplement remote learning with hands-on, experiential opportunities for students affected by recent changes in education.*

# 2021 Funding Needs

**EAD is seeking donors who desire to make a difference and have passion for helping others.** We humbly request donations, endowments, stewardship in estate planning and corporate sponsorships for the expansion project.

## **Phase #1 | Improvements & General Fund (\$350,000)**

EAD will improve the farm grounds for more efficient use. In addition to **renovating the second barn, adding additional parking, re-paving the driveway and making buildings year round friendly**, other enhancements include:

- Creating the Valley of Hope nature trails and overlook deck
- Adding gutters to the barns to redirect rainwater
- Ongoing grounds and maintenance upkeep

## **Phase 2 | Annual Staff Budget (\$275,000)**

EAD's staff budget encompasses hiring full and part-time employees to sustain ongoing growth and continuing education funds. Funding will provide more opportunities for organizations, groups, families, and individuals to benefit from the assistance of licensed therapists and social workers. Potential positions include: Grant Writer, Clinical Specialist, Licensed Therapist, Publicity Specialist, and Fundraising Coordinator.

## **Phase #3 | Programming & Resources (\$375,000)**

EAD's programming and resources needs include expanding and underwriting programming and purchase of needed equipment, such as a truck and horse trailer for EAD's mobile unit and facility needs: equipment maintenance, hay-elevator, utility vehicle and flatbed trailer for community days. Funding will also go towards Adopt-a-Horse sponsorships, covering the cost of yearly care, feed, veterinary and farrier bills, training and more.



## Ways to Give & Help

*Consider becoming a financial partner  
with Equine Assisted Development!*

Your generous support will help raise \$5 million in five years, allowing EAD to continue providing critical services to those who would often be turned away due to funding, staffing, or location limitations.

### Option 1: Written Check

Mail a check with the enclosed form and envelope.  
Please make checks out to: **Equine Assisted Development**  
Mail to: **3224 32nd Street Grand Rapids, Michigan 49512**

### Option 2: Online

Give a one-time, monthly or quarterly gift online via credit or debit card by visiting: **[www.DonorBox.org/EAD](http://www.DonorBox.org/EAD)**

### Option 3: In Kind

For donations in kind, please email Deb VanderBand with donation details at: **[Director@EquineAssistedDev.org](mailto:Director@EquineAssistedDev.org)**

**Tax deductible gifts of any amount are much appreciated!**  
**Visit [www.EquineAssistedDev.org](http://www.EquineAssistedDev.org) for updates.**

**One life changed can change a community!**

*Debra VanderBand, PEC*  
*ES EAGALA Certified*  
Founder & Executive Director



VanderBand lives in Kentwood, MI with her husband and youngest daughter. She has four grown children and ten grandchildren.

In 2000, she fulfilled a childhood dream of not only owning her own horse, but of rescuing horses from compromising situations.

VanderBand became certified as an Equine Specialist in 2006 from the nationally acclaimed EAGALA organization (to learn more visit: [www.EAGALA.org](http://www.EAGALA.org)).

She graduated from a Professional Empowerment Coaching program from Grace Christian University shortly thereafter.

In 2010, VanderBand combined her passion for horses and her love of serving people by founding Equine Assisted Development. In 2017, EAD obtained non-profit status.

With a tenacious spirit and unwavering love, VanderBand works to restore hope in the life of each person that comes to the farm.



EQUINE ASSISTED  
DEVELOPMENT