The Exceptional Riders Program is a Therapeutic Horseback riding Program formed in 1983. We are a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to providing horseback riding lessons for individuals with physical, mental, and emotional support needs. The program meets in spring (April and May) and fall (September and October) for eight weeks, one night per week, two classes per night. Students are taught riding skills. The 1-hour lesson consists of mounted exercise, games, and riding instructions. Standards of safety and instruction are top priority to enhance the rider’s physical and mental well-being. Goals are set for each individual according to their needs, experience, and ability level.

Goal Statement: Our purpose is to enhance the lives of individuals who have special needs through equine assisted activities and therapies while teaching the sport of horsemanship. Therapeutic Riding provides healthy exercise while building skills, allowing each individual to be successful by focusing on their accomplishments.

Rising Hope Equestrian Center in Harbor Springs have donated their trusted horses and the use of their riding arena to the Exceptional Riders Program.

The Exceptional Riders Program needs your help to make the surrounding communities aware of our services for the special needs individuals who met our programs’ criteria. The Exceptional Riders Program utilizes volunteers from the community and relies on donations. This is a non-profit entirely volunteer program. Students participate free of charge.

Please release this information to families in need of our services.

Thank you for your time.

Mary Lee, Instructor

Volunteer Coordinator

Exceptional Riders Program

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