

LOVELANE believes

... in the magic of a child on horseback.
... in every child's ability to be an athlete.

BELIEVE with us.

Lovelane Special Needs Horseback Riding

Lovelane provides therapeutic horseback riding to children with a wide range of special needs. Using the movement of the horse to work the muscles of the rider, Lovelane focuses on occupational, physical and speech therapies with the goal of maximizing the student's independence and enhancing their quality of life. The primary benefits of therapeutic riding include improvements in:

- ♥ *Trunk control, balance, muscle tone & strength*
- ♥ *Range of motion, flexibility & fine motor skills*
- ♥ *Cognitive & language skills*
- ♥ *Sensory integration & spatial awareness*
- ♥ *Confidence, pride & self-esteem*

Lovelane currently teaches more than 4,400 individualized lessons per year to 105 students from 36 Greater Boston communities. Our students range in age from 2 to 22. The program uses 12 specially trained therapy horses and employs 11 licensed therapeutic riding instructors. We also rely on 130 volunteers to assist us with lessons, barn care and fundraising activities.

Therapeutic horseback riding is a proven, yet costly, form of therapy. Lovelane provides one-on-one therapy—we do not teach group lessons. Only 40% of the families who participate in the program can afford the total cost of our intensive, individualized form of therapy. Most receive some level of subsidy in order to ride on a regular basis.

At Lovelane we believe in abilities . . . Believe with us and support Lovelane with your donation.

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Lovelane

We Believe



Meet the heroes of Lovelane



Maeve is 2½ years old. She began riding a year ago to help with her head and neck control. Her mom, Kara, says, “Maeve’s strength and balance have improved tremendously! We are so grateful for all the staff and volunteers that work directly with Maeve. We cannot thank you enough for your amazing support and encouragement! **Lovelane is the reason we have hope.**”



Nate is an 18-year-old senior at Lexington High School. He has so many plans for the future, including heading off to college next year. Like Maeve, he began riding at Lovelane as a toddler. “Riding is not only about being an athlete; it’s about a feeling of power and being in charge. **The horse doesn’t care about my differences.** It only cares how I handle it and the way I ask it to do things. You have to be gentle, firm and clear. Communicating with a horse is about knowing who you are.”



For Heather and Scott, Lovelane is a place where they can watch their sister, Ashley, participate in an extra-curricular activity. Scott’s passion is baseball but he says Ashley “loves to ride horses.” Older sister, Heather knows how rewarding playing a sport can be and is thankful that Lovelane provides Ashley with the opportunity to ride. “**I am always so happy for my sister when I see her ride; she sits so tall and proud and is always smiling.**”



When Sylvie began riding at age 3, her mom, Kathy, saw the benefits immediately, “Riding inspired Sylvie to start talking. It has improved her balance, coordination and social skills.” Now 11, Sylvie still faces many challenges but Kathy believes, “Lovelane has nurtured her self-esteem and helped her to feel happiness and pride. **I can think of no other place where many of the hopes we have for our daughter can be realized.**”



For Teri and Jeff, whose daughter Alexandra rides, Lovelane serves as a wonderful respite. “We love being with the other parents who share the experiences, fears and concerns that come from parenting a child with special needs. No one ever pictures that one of their children will struggle with delays—it’s a tough reality to accept, and sharing it with other parents helps. **Being part of the Lovelane family has shown us that we cannot fix our child but we can help her to become the best person she can be by challenging her to rise to new levels like any other child.**”

... believe with us