



Highland Games

Our volunteers are our recipe for magic. And we can only make our magic because hundreds of people throughout this country give their time and resources to breeding, raising and training ponies, to finding just the right match between a pony and a child, and to serving as mentors to families in caring for their ponies.

Sponsored ponies, as well as ponies placed specifically to promote Personal Ponies, also serve the wider community by being taken to visit at convalescent homes, day care centers, therapeutic riding centers, and treatment centers. Our motto is "have pony, will travel" — our ponies go anywhere people will benefit from seeing and interacting with them.

We believe in the magical world of Personal Ponies and hope that you will too.

We Believe in Magic!

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Personal Ponies



Our Program

A unique non-profit organization dedicated to providing children with disabilities with a small Shetland Pony to love and care for -- completely without charge.



Mary Beth and one of her ponies, Irish.

PPL is a non-profit, 501-C-3 organization EIN#16-1485250

PERSONAL PONIES wishes to acknowledge that while "disabled" is the most commonly used word to describe children and adults whose abilities may be different, we believe that it carries a negative tone-implying that our children are NOT-able. We much prefer terms like "DIFFERENTLY-ABLE" "SPECIAL NEEDS," and "HANDI-CAPABLE" because they more accurately reflect the truth; that while the children we serve may have SPECIAL NEEDS, they are ABLE to do many, many things. However, because "disabled" IS the most commonly used term used to search for a site like ours, and because if we did not use the term consistently it is likely that you would not find us, we have reluctantly chosen to conform to common usage. We hope, however, that this note will encourage others to use alternative terms so that one day soon, "DIS-abled" will no longer be the standard descriptor.

10/29/03

At PERSONAL PONIES, we believe that the lives of children with disabilities are immeasurably enriched by having a small pony to care for and enjoy. There is just something special that happens between a pint-size pony and a child — there is a kind of MAGIC in it.

Creating MAGIC in children's lives IS our mission. It's our only mission.

We believe in magic!

Making magic for children with special needs doesn't happen by itself though. In the real world there are no magic wands, no fairy dust to sprinkle. The kind of magic we make takes caring hearts and helping hands. Lots and lots of them.

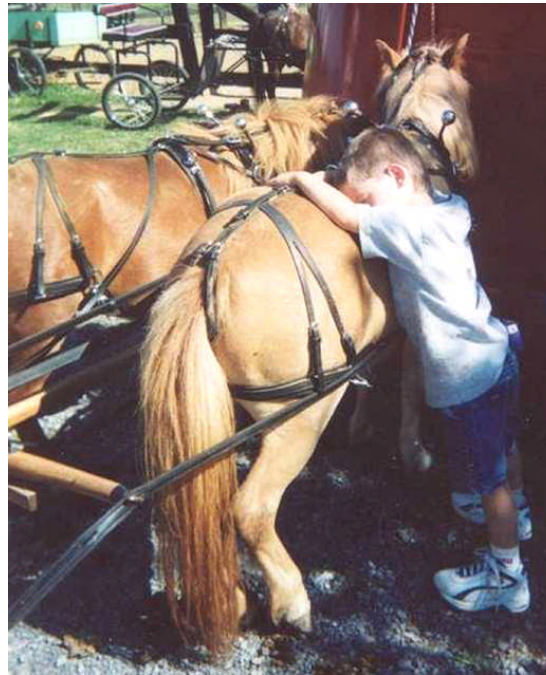


Sarin and her pony, Jessica.

PERSONAL PONIES wants to reach out to any child who may be "differently-able," whether that condition is emotional or physical, whether caused by disease, birth-defect, accident or circumstance. We have provided ponies for children that are confined to wheel chairs, children who are blind, deaf, have cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome, Spina Bifida, cancer, leukemia, and autism. Others have suffered disabling injuries in fires or automobile accidents. Children may have defective hearts or failing organs. Still others have emotional or

behavioral disorders caused by circumstances such as abuse, neglect or abandonment.

We believe this organization is totally unique because despite the national scope of our program and the many hundreds of people who help, NO ONE is paid a single penny for the work they do. And we mean, NO ONE. Not one cent goes to salaries or to care for ponies, because taking full responsibility for the ponies they are assigned, is part of what our "volunteers" do. Therefore, our administrative costs are only a tiny fraction of our annual budget and virtually ALL contributions go to the real work of expanding the program.



Tyler and his boys.

Wouldn't you like to help?

Providing magical pony friends for children with disabilities requires both the helping hands and loving hearts of many. We need people who care ... Wouldn't you like to become part of our PERSONAL PONIES family?

- Would you offer your time as a volunteer?
- Would you like to be involved with the Personal Ponies newsletter? Advertising? Greeting visitors?
- Would you like to be a "holder and hugger" for 16 inch newborn foals?
- Would you enjoy grooming ponies? Hand grazing? Brushing luxuriant pony manes and tails?
- Would you sponsor a pony for a child? Would you be willing to start PERSONAL PONIES in your area?
- Would you like to be part of our breeding program? Maintain a breeding trio and raise foals for waiting children?
- Would you be willing to offer financial assistance? Our program depends on private donations and we do not receive government funded support.
- Would you like more information about PERSONAL PONIES and the work we do?