

# Kingsburg Tri- County Health Care District Grant Application

Please complete and return documentation and information required under the District Grant Policy, Procedures and Guidelines. **Submit a signed original plus a set of 8 copies using a binder clip.**

Provide the following information for the grant applicant, and well as for all partnering and/or subcontracting entities, if any. **Use a separate page for each item listed on page 2 to fully describe required information.**

Applicant Name Spirithorse Connections

Type of Organization Public and Charitable/501(c)(3)

Legal status of your business (LLP, nonprofit, etc.) Non-Profit

Subject of Request Arena Cover and/or Inclusive Playground

Total Amount Requested \$ 746,309.64 How many People Will Grant Serve? 600 plus per week

Is this intended as a one-time or ongoing project? one-time

Project timeframe 365 days Lump sum or periodic disbursement? Lump Sum

How will grant be recognized by recipient? See Appendix A

Total Years in business 12 # of Employees 8 Federal Tax ID # 46-0628024

Business Licenses, Certifications or Registration # \_\_\_\_\_

## Individual Accountable for Grant Funds:

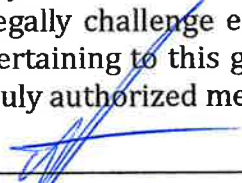
Name Michael Jost Title Treasurer

Address P.O. Box 591

City Kingsburg State CA Zip 93631

E-Mail mike.spirithorse@gmail.com Phone Number 661-426-0409

By signing below, the undersigned hereby certifies under penalty of perjury that: (1) information contained within this application is true and correct to the best of my personal knowledge, information and reasonable belief; (2) the grant applicant has read and is familiar with all of the District's grant policies, procedures and guidelines; (3) the grant applicant hereby waives each and all claims and right(s), if any exist to, in any form, appeal or otherwise legally challenge each and all decisions of the Kingsburg Tri-County Health Care District pertaining to this grant application; and (4) the governing body of the grant applicant has duly authorized me to sign this grant application.

Signature  Date 4/30/2024

Print Name and Title Michael Jost - Treasurer

**The following information is required in relation to the requested grant. Please use separate pages for each numbered item, titling and numbering each page as listed below. We require the following: 1 signed copy of the grant application, with items 1-8 (below) completed and attached, plus 8 additional hardcopies.**

1. **Project Overview:** Include purpose of the grant request. Describe in detail how the funds will promote health and wellness and further the grant goal of fostering quality health services and programs which benefit the residents of the District.
2. **Project Cost:** Itemized budget with explanation of each itemized cost and the need for such, and supporting documentation, such as actual bids or formal estimates, if any.
3. **Partner(s):** List all partners (if any), and their financial contributions for this specific project.
4. **Funding Sources:** List all funding sources for the past 5 years.
5. **Community Need:** Describe specific needs of the District which your project will meet.
6. **Legal Status:** Please provide a copy of your W-9, business licenses and certificates, as well as IRS determination letter if you are a nonprofit.
7. **Contributions:** List previous and ongoing community contributions your organization has made within the past 5 years.
8. **Plans:** Provide drawings or pictures of the proposed project with footnotes for explanations.

## Who We Are

SpiritHorse Connections provides private therapeutic horseback riding services for individuals with various abilities. We are certified through an award-winning program of Equine-Assisted Healthcare developed at SpiritHorse International in Corinth, Texas. Our Mission is to “Assist Individuals with Special Needs in Reaching their Full Potential through Interaction with Horses.”

## Who We Serve

- Individuals with Disabilities (including, but not limited to: Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Sensory Integration Dysfunction, Traumatic Brain Injury, Epilepsy, Multiple Sclerosis, Autism, Muscular Dystrophy, Speech Delay, Vision Impairment, Hearing Impairment, etc.)
- At-Risk Youth (including children who do not typically get out of the house for exercise, that are glued to their screens)
- Horses for Heroes (for veterans in general, including those with mental trauma, as well as wounded at war and PTSD)
- Children who are Victims of Abuse/Violence
- Children Who are Terminally Ill
- Battered Women

Our students work through a 97-step program that is tailored to specific disabilities. Intervention is provided in a one-on-one setting. There is rider participation, no matter how involved the rider's disability may be. We work to develop a GREATER ability in each of our riders. The movement of the horse/pony stimulates the rider's vestibular system as it responds to balance signals, which send signals through the nervous system to the muscles for movement. This system not only controls the muscles for balance but all voluntary and involuntary movements of the body. This includes speech, walking, sitting up, balance recovery, and many other gross and fine motor skills, thus strengthening not only the body but also the mind. ***The movement of the horse cannot be replicated through the traditional physical therapy environment.*** Interaction with our horses not only helps our students with physical conditioning but, according to their families, SpiritHorse assists with the student's mental health. It is not just students who are affected by a visit to our facility; families also report that they, as caregivers, feel more refreshed, less stressed, or anxious after a visit to SpiritHorse.

We also provide a general riding lesson program for students from 5 years of age through adults. Lessons for the general public offer students the same physical and mental benefits as our therapy lessons while creating an environment of inclusion. While general lessons run at the same time as our therapeutic sessions, we are able to provide opportunities for students of all abilities to work together, teaching compassion, empathy, and inclusion. General lessons also include instruction on stable management, during which students learn to properly care for their horses and riding gear.

## 1 - Project Overview

The purpose for requesting funds from your organization is to better serve the people of our community with disabilities by keeping with our organization's mission statement, "Assisting Individuals with Special Needs in Reaching Their Full Potential Through Interaction with Horses." In keeping with that mission, we are working to provide a shade cover for our arena. Our arena is what allows us to provide services to our community. It is uncovered and exposed to the elements.

Our program currently runs from mid-September through mid-May. In short, the length of our program is greatly influenced by the direct sun and lack of shade covering in our arena. Many of our students have heat sensitivities, even at 80-85 degrees. Our special needs families keep track of the heat index and cancel their child's lesson if temperatures reach 80-90 degrees. Preventive measures are in place to protect our heat-sensitive students. We have ice packs that wrap around their necks, we utilize our arena sprinklers to allow our students to get wet with their horses, and we most often have to limit their arena time by riding around the front of our facility under shade trees. Besides restricting the instructor's ability to implement the program fully, our students lose the physical and mental benefits of being in the arena with our general lesson students. We don't want our families to feel the need to cancel, as this is one of the few times for many that they are able to experience the outdoors. We would like to provide another alternative for them. The cover would GREATLY impact the length of our season. We have a very long waitlist due to the heat limitations.

While our primary goal for this cover is to serve the students of our community by providing relief from the excessive heat, there is also an added benefit that has an ENORMOUS impact on the core of what makes this program run, our volunteers and staff. This program can not be implemented without them. While each student's session lasts an hour in the elements, our instructors and volunteers are often in the direct sunlight for multiple sessions, 4-5 hours per day. Not all, but most of our program is implemented in the afternoons due to school hours, just when the heat and sun are at the top of their game.

Another project that we are working on is building an all-inclusive playground. We have noticed that many of our students, as well as their siblings and parents come to their therapy sessions early and stay later. It has been shared with us that the calming environment and additional play areas have improved families' overall anxiety and encourages more physical activity. Many state that SpiritHorse provides an all-inclusive environment for all family members. They don't feel they are sitting in a traditional office setting trying to entertain the siblings of our students. We have many students with physical disabilities who are not able to play at typical playgrounds due to the footing or elevated play equipment only accessible by stairs. An accessible playground will allow students of all abilities to play and enjoy a shared

activity together. Through this journey, we have learned that there is a **huge** difference between “accessible” playgrounds and “inclusive” playgrounds. Many playgrounds labeled as accessible simply mean there is usually a path or sidewalk that leads to the playground area, which is usually a pit of wood chips or sand. In other words, they can get to the border of the play equipment but ironically cannot “access” the play equipment. Inclusive playgrounds not only have paths that lead to the play equipment, there is footing that allows the students to **use** the play equipment. Our proposal utilizes a material that allows wheelchairs, walkers, and those with balance issues, as well as able-bodied students, to actually access the play equipment. We all realize how important physical play and exercise are to everyone's health, especially nowadays with the overuse of screen time.

This quote is taken from the MRC/Game Time website, the company we are currently working with to design our inclusive playground: “An inclusive playground is an open and safe space, carefully designed to promote play among children of differing abilities, ages, and communities. It gives children with and without any disability the same platform to play while breaking down barriers, both physically and socially. The inclusion created by these parks and playgrounds encourages children, adults, and families to experience the benefits of playing together.” We feel that parks are essential because they allow children to exercise, which is vital in their development, and create healthy habits. Parks allow for brain development, social skills, and interaction between children of all abilities, builds strength, problem-solving, and imagination, and lowers the risk of obesity. Our goal for this playground is to allow children of all abilities to access every piece of playground equipment and also to allow typical developing children to play alongside each other so that everyone feels included. We want to create community awareness about the inclusion of all children and celebrate each child's uniqueness, bringing children together in an environment of exercise and play.

## 2 - Project Cost:

### A. Arena Cover (estimate attached)

#### One Roof Only Structure

- 100' x 150' (15,000 square feet) - Clear Span 30' bay spacing
- 14' eave height - 1/12 roof slope
- R-Metal Roof Sheeting
- Concrete footings only (2' x 2' x 18")

**Budgetary Price: \$241,567.00**

#### Contingency Allowance 15% of Costs (permitting)

- County of Fresno building permit
- County Determined School Fee Impact
- County Transportation Mitigation Fee

**Contingency Allowance: \$ 36,235.00**

**Total Budgetary Price: \$277,802.00**

### B. All Inclusive Playground and Surfacing

#### Playground - Game Time (estimate attached)

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| ● PowerScrape 5-12 Play Structure  | \$228,426.00 |
| ● Double Bay Swing Shade   | \$ 12,695.00 |
| ● Swing Seats  | \$ 4,916.00  |
| ● 3240 Sensory Ring with Piano Sensor  | \$ 5,054.00  |
| ● Mule Spring Rider  | \$ 1,410.00  |
| ● Dala Horse Inclusive Whirl   | \$ 23,020.00 |
| ● 4' Lexington Bench - quantity of 4   | \$ 6,780.00  |
| ● Installation by Certified Game Time Installer                                  | \$ 51,000.00 |
| ● Site work - Excavate work site, install compassion base, install concrete curb | \$ 29,450.00 |

Sub Total	\$362,751.00
Discount	\$ (47,980.33)
Freight	\$ 23,337.90
Tax	\$ 18,687.07

**Playground Total \$356,795.64**

**Surfacing (estimate attached)**

- Game Time - Supply & Install of 5,520 SF Impax Surface

**Surfacing Total     \$111,712.00**

**All Inclusive Playground Total     \$468,507.64**

**PROJECT TOTAL     \$746,309.64**





**COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT & CONSTRUCTION**  
13837 S. Zediker, Kingsburg, CA 93631, License #766260

**April 30, 2024**

Spirit Horse Connections  
12099 E. Stroud Ave  
Kingsburg, Ca 93631

Dear Mr. Jost,

On behalf of West Star Construction, Inc., I appreciate the opportunity to provide a proposal. I have prepared the following pricing below per the visit of your site and your desired specifications for your review:

- **One (1) Roof Only Structure**
  - 100'x150' (15,000 square feet) – Clear Span 30' bay spacing
  - 14' foot eave height – 1/12 roof slope
  - R-Metal Roof Sheeting
  - Concrete footings only (2'x2'18" assumption)

**Budgetary Price : \$241,567.00**

**Contingency Allowance 15% of Costs (Permitting)**

County of Fresno Building Permit  
County determined School Fee Impact  
County Transportation Mitigation Fee

**Allowance \$ 36,235.00**

**Total Budgetary Price: \$277,802.00**

**Excluded (not limited to):** Building Permit Fees, School Fees, Flood Control Fees, Environmental Fees, Assessment Fees, PG&E fees and any costs for PG&E rule 16 as well as any fees for phone, gas, and any other utilities, site work and any other work not herein mentioned is **NOT** included in the scope.

If acceptable, we would like to begin the process of ordering your building package. A Deposit in the amount of 15% is required at time of contract execution and balance due upon delivery.

Accepted \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**This Good Faith Estimate May Be Withdrawn By West Star if Not Accepted Within Thirty Days.**

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Crinklaw, President  
West Star Construction, Inc.



C/O MRC  
 PO Box 225250  
 San Francisco, CA 94122  
 Ph: 800-235-2440  
 Em: [MRC@GAMETIME.COM](mailto:MRC@GAMETIME.COM)  
 Web: [www.mrcrec.com](http://www.mrcrec.com)

04/30/2024  
 Quote #  
 113968-01-03

## CA Kingsburg, SpiritHorse Connections - Playground Revised 4/30/24

SpiritHorse Connections  
 Attn: Kari Gierke  
 12099 E Stroud Ave.  
 Kingsburg, CA 93631  
[karigierke@gmail.com](mailto:karigierke@gmail.com)

Ship to Zip 93636

Quantity	Part #	Description	Unit Price	Amount
1	RDU	GameTime - Custom PowerScape 5-12 Barn Themed Play Structure- <i>As shown on top view dated 04.30.24</i>	\$228,426.00	\$228,426.00
1	5192	GT-Shade - Double Bay Swing Shade	\$12,695.00	\$12,695.00
1	RDU	GameTime - Swing Seats - (2) Belt Seats, (1) 5-12 Zero-G Chair, and (1) Expression Swing w/ Adaptive Seat	\$4,916.00	\$4,916.00
1	RDU	GameTime - 3240 Sensory Ring with Piano Sensor	\$5,054.00	\$5,054.00
1	62811	GameTime - Mule Spring Rider	\$1,410.00	\$1,410.00
1	0978LD	GameTime - Dala Horse Inclusive Whirl	\$23,020.00	\$23,020.00
1	14927	GameTime - NDS Play On Sign Package		
1	14928	GameTime - NDS Inclusive Play Sign Package		
4	T954-S4-CL	UltraSite - 4' LEXINGTON BENCH, WITH BACK SLAT - THERMO FRAME BUDDY BENCH	\$1,695.00	\$6,780.00
1	INSTALL	GameTime - Installation by a Certified GameTime Installer- <i>Includes: receiving &amp; storing equipment; temp fencing; and install of new playground equipment</i>	\$51,000.00	\$51,000.00
1	INSTALL	GameTime - Site Work- <i>Includes: Excavate for new area; Install compacted road base for PIP; Install concrete curb around new equipment</i>	\$29,450.00	\$29,450.00
			<b>Sub Total</b>	\$362,751.00
			<b>Discount</b>	(\$47,980.33)
			<b>Freight</b>	\$23,337.90
			<b>Tax</b>	\$18,687.07
			<b>Total</b>	\$356,795.64

**Comments**

Shipping to installer's yard in Madera, CA.

Safety surfacing is not included in this proposal.

**CHOOSE YOUR COLOR SCHEME:** IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU CHOOSE A COLOR SCHEME FOR YOUR MODULAR PLAYGROUND UNIT AT TIME OF ORDER. PLEASE SELECT FROM ONE OF THE MANY "PLAY PALETTES" LISTED IN THE BACK OF THE GAMETIME CATALOG OR ON OUR WEBSITE: [www.gametime.com](http://www.gametime.com). INDICATE YOUR SELECTION BELOW.

**GAMETIME PLAY PALETTE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** COLOR SELECTION FOR ALL OTHER EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE ENTERED IN THE SPACE PROVIDED UNDER THAT SPECIFIC ITEM.



C/O MRC  
 PO Box 225250  
 San Francisco, CA 94122  
 Ph: 800-235-2440  
 Em: [MRC@GAMETIME.COM](mailto:MRC@GAMETIME.COM)  
 Web: [www.mrcrec.com](http://www.mrcrec.com)

04/22/2024  
 Quote #  
 113968-02-02

## CA Kingsburg, SpiritHorse Connections - Surfacing Revised

SpiritHorse Connections  
 Attn: Kari Gierke  
 12099 E Stroud Ave.  
 Kingsburg, CA 93631  
[karigierke@gmail.com](mailto:karigierke@gmail.com)

Ship to Zip 93631

Quantity	Part #	Description
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1	PIP	GT-Impax - Supply & Install 5,520 SF of 50% Color TBD/50% Black Poured In Place with Aromatic Binder-
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- Color Selection: \_\_\_\_\_
- Standard colors include Blue, Green, Red and Beige
- 3.5" system for 8' fall height
- Includes all applicable taxes, licenses, and processing fees
- Prevailing wages are NOT included
- Assumes favorable access with install location within 50 LF of box truck staging area. Assumes any sprinklers or irrigation will be shut off at least 24 hours prior to arrival
- Price does NOT include: Bonds, security fencing, site prep, subbase prep

Total \$111,712.00

### Comments

Shipping to Kingsburg, CA.

**INSTALLATION SCHEDULE TO BE DETERMINED BY WEATHER CONDITIONS ALLOWING FOR PROPER MATERIAL SET UP AND CURING. QUOTE DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY TENTING OR ARTIFICIAL HEATING.**

JP/ja/es

**NOTES: It is the customer's responsibility to verify total square footage of materials.**

- Poured in place must be installed on asphalt, concrete or crushed stone surfacing.
- Grading and base preparation of area is required prior to installation of above surfacing.
- Base must be GTImpax Architectural Specifications.
- All ground preparation is the responsibility of the customer.
- Customer must be on site at time of delivery.
- Customer is responsible for overnight security of the site.
- A large turning area is required for access by tractor/trailer.

This quotation is subject to policies in the current GameTime Park and Playground Catalog and the following terms and conditions. Our quotation is based on shipment of all items at one time to a single destination, unless noted, and changes are subject to price adjustment. Purchases in excess of \$1,000.00 to be supported by your written purchase order made out to **GAMETIME, c/o MRC**. Kindly issue one order for the equipment and a separate order for surfacing and/or equipment installation services. Customer is responsible for any required permits and fees pertaining to such permits.

**PRICING:** f.o.b. factory, firm for 30 days from date of quotation.

**PAYMENT TERMS:** Payment in full, net 30 days subject to approval by GameTime Credit Manager. A 1.5% per month finance charge will be imposed on all past due accounts. Equipment shall be invoiced separately from other services and shall be payable in advance of those services and project completion. Retainage not accepted.

**SHIPMENT:** Order shall ship within 12-16 weeks after GameTime's receipt and acceptance of your purchase order, credit application, color selections, approved submittals, and receipt of deposit, if required. Freight charges: Prepaid and added at time of invoicing.

**TAXES:** State and local taxes, if applicable, will be added at time of invoicing unless a tax exempt certificate is provided at the time of order entry.

### **3 - Partner(s):**

- Funding sources for these projects are in the beginning stages as of this grant application, we are applying for other grants at this time as well
- Implementing social media campaigns
- “Adopt-a-Picket” campaign
- Friends of SpiritHorse
- Families of SpiritHorse

#### **4. Funding Sources:**

The following are how we fund day-to-day operations, past projects as well as the projects we are requesting funding for with this application:

- General Lessons
- Horse Camps
- Farm Days
- Larry L. Hillblom Foundation - Handicap Parking Project
- Sponsor-A-Rider
- Annual Fundraiser - Auction of donated items and event sponsorships
- Pop-up events (spring and fall)
- 12 Days of Christmas Fundraiser
- The Wonderful Company Philanthropy - Annual sponsorships, employee match giving, employee work days for large projects, and hay donations.
- The Well Kingsburg
- Bakersfield Breakfast Lions
- Community Contributions
- Ongoing Personal and Business Sponsorships

## 5. Community Need:

**Arena Cover** - Our therapy and general lesson programs currently have a waitlist of more than 50 students each; at times, those numbers are often higher. Our biggest limitation in reducing the waitlist is securing qualified instructors and sidewalker volunteers that can commit to being in the heat for multiple sessions. Besides the benefit of heat relief for our students, covering the arena would reduce the physical demands on staff and volunteers. We would be able to provide more benefits for the community not only in our fall and spring semesters but especially during our summer horse camps, which is a large source of funding for us to provide our therapeutic services. Our horse camps are an excellent way to keep kids engaged in outside physical activities when school is not in session. Besides the ride time, we offer an educational component to keep minds sharp, craft time for creativity, organized lawn games, and supervised free time for the students to interact socially. An important aspect of our mission is to help our community avoid screen time, eating out of boredom, and reclusiveness.

**All-Inclusive Playground**—Currently, our Tri-County community has to travel to Fresno or Visalia in order to have access to an **all-inclusive** playground. By having this project in Kingsburg it would eliminate the burden of families having to travel in order to play. The reality is that these families would not travel that far for “play” time. These families already have to travel out of our area to secure specialized healthcare, and it would be beneficial to limit traveling out of the area just for the opportunity for their children to play. They would have the opportunity to use this structure on a regular basis, thus promoting and encouraging regular physical activity and community, which is crucial to physical and mental health.

**6. Legal Status:** Please see attached

# Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification

**Give Form to the  
requester. Do not  
send to the IRS.**

▶ Go to [www.irs.gov/FormW9](http://www.irs.gov/FormW9) for instructions and the latest information.

Print or type.  
See Specific Instructions on page 3.

**1** Name (as shown on your income tax return). Name is required on this line; do not leave this line blank.  
**SPIRITHORSE THERAPEUTIC RIDING CENTER**

**2** Business name/disregarded entity name, if different from above  
**SPIRITHORSE CONNECTIONS**

**3** Check appropriate box for federal tax classification of the person whose name is entered on line 1. Check only **one** of the following seven boxes.

Individual/sole proprietor or single-member LLC

Limited liability company. Enter the tax classification (C=C corporation, S=S corporation, P=Partnership) ▶ \_\_\_\_\_

Other (see instructions) ▶ **501(c)(3) Non-Profit**

**4** Exemptions (codes apply only to certain entities, not individuals; see instructions on page 3):  
 Exempt payee code (if any) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exemption from FATCA reporting code (if any) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Applies to accounts maintained outside the U.S.)

**5** Address (number, street, and apt. or suite no.) See instructions.  
**PO BOX 591**

**6** City, state, and ZIP code  
**KINGSBURG, CA 93631**

**7** List account number(s) here (optional)

Requester's name and address (optional)

**Part I Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)**

Enter your TIN in the appropriate box. The TIN provided must match the name given on line 1 to avoid backup withholding. For individuals, this is generally your social security number (SSN). However, for a resident alien, sole proprietor, or disregarded entity, see the instructions for Part I, later. For other entities, it is your employer identification number (EIN). If you do not have a number, see *How to get a TIN*, later.

**Note:** If the account is in more than one name, see the instructions for line 1. Also see *What Name and Number To Give the Requester* for guidelines on whose number to enter.

**Social security number**

				-			-			
--	--	--	--	---	--	--	---	--	--	--

**or**

**Employer identification number**

4	6	-	0	6	2	8	0	2	4
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

**Part II Certification**

Under penalties of perjury, I certify that:

- The number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer identification number (or I am waiting for a number to be issued to me); and
- I am not subject to backup withholding because: (a) I am exempt from backup withholding, or (b) I have not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding; and
- I am a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person (defined below); and
- The FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that I am exempt from FATCA reporting is correct.

**Certification instructions.** You must cross out item 2 above if you have been notified by the IRS that you are currently subject to backup withholding because you have failed to report all interest and dividends on your tax return. For real estate transactions, item 2 does not apply. For mortgage interest paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, contributions to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), and generally, payments other than interest and dividends, you are not required to sign the certification, but you must provide your correct TIN. See the instructions for Part II, later.

**Sign Here**      Signature of U.S. person ▶      Date ▶ **01/26/2024**

**General Instructions**

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

**Future developments.** For the latest information about developments related to Form W-9 and its instructions, such as legislation enacted after they were published, go to [www.irs.gov/FormW9](http://www.irs.gov/FormW9).

**Purpose of Form**

An individual or entity (Form W-9 requester) who is required to file an information return with the IRS must obtain your correct taxpayer identification number (TIN) which may be your social security number (SSN), individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN), adoption taxpayer identification number (ATIN), or employer identification number (EIN), to report on an information return the amount paid to you, or other amount reportable on an information return. Examples of information returns include, but are not limited to, the following.

- Form 1099-DIV (dividends, including those from stocks or mutual funds)
- Form 1099-MISC (various types of income, prizes, awards, or gross proceeds)
- Form 1099-B (stock or mutual fund sales and certain other transactions by brokers)
- Form 1099-S (proceeds from real estate transactions)
- Form 1099-K (merchant card and third party network transactions)
- Form 1098 (home mortgage interest), 1098-E (student loan interest), 1098-T (tuition)
- Form 1099-C (canceled debt)
- Form 1099-A (acquisition or abandonment of secured property)

- Form 1099-DIV (dividends, including those from stocks or mutual funds)
  - Form 1099-MISC (various types of income, prizes, awards, or gross proceeds)
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  - Form 1099-K (merchant card and third party network transactions)
  - Form 1098 (home mortgage interest), 1098-E (student loan interest), 1098-T (tuition)
  - Form 1099-C (canceled debt)
  - Form 1099-A (acquisition or abandonment of secured property)
- Use Form W-9 only if you are a U.S. person (including a resident alien), to provide your correct TIN.

*If you do not return Form W-9 to the requester with a TIN, you might be subject to backup withholding. See What is backup withholding, later.*





Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service  
Cincinnati Service Center  
CINCINNATI OH 45999-0038

OMB Clearance No.: 1545-0074

In reply refer to: 0256981226  
Mar. 22, 2024 LTR 4168C 0  
46-0628024 000000 00  
Input Op: 0256981226 00016026  
BODC: TE

SPIRITHORSE THERAPEUTIC RIDING  
CENTER  
SPIRITHORSE CONNECTIONS  
% KASEY THIESEN  
PO BOX 591  
KINGSBURG CA 93631-0591

039423

Employer ID number: 46-0628024  
Form 990 required: Yes

Dear Taxpayer:

We're responding to your request dated Mar. 14, 2024, about your tax-exempt status.

We issued you a determination letter in December 2009, recognizing you as tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3).

We also show you're not a private foundation as defined under IRC Section 509(a) because you're described in IRC Sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

Donors can deduct contributions they make to you as provided in IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts under IRC Sections 2055, 2106, and 2522.

In the heading of this letter, we indicated whether you must file an annual information return. If you're required to file a return, you must file one of the following by the 15th day of the 5th month after the end of your annual accounting period:

- Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax
- Form 990EZ, Short Form Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax
- Form 990-N, Electronic Notice (e-Postcard) for Tax-Exempt Organizations Not Required to File Form 990 or Form 990-EZ
- Form 990-PF, Return of Private Foundation or Section 4947(a)(1) Trust Treated as Private Foundation

According to IRC Section 6033(j), if you don't file a required annual information return or notice for 3 consecutive years, we'll revoke your tax-exempt status on the due date of the 3rd required return or notice.

You can get IRS forms or publications you need from our website at [www.irs.gov/forms-pubs](http://www.irs.gov/forms-pubs) or by calling 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676).

If you have questions, call 877-829-5500 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.,

0256981226  
Mar. 22, 2024 LTR 4168C 0  
46-0628024 000000 00  
Input Op: 0256981226 00016027

SPIRITHORSE THERAPEUTIC RIDING  
CENTER  
SPIRITHORSE CONNECTIONS  
% KASEY THIESEN  
PO BOX 591  
KINGSBURG CA 93631-0591

local time, Monday through Friday (Alaska and Hawaii follow Pacific  
time).

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,



Steve M. Brown, Operations Manager  
Operations 3-CIN





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13 Chadwick Ct  
Palm Coast, Florida 32137  
904-814-3803  
ric1@brighthouse.com

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November 28, 2022

DBA SpiritHorse Connections

RE: SpiritHorse Therapeutic Riding  
DBA SpiritHorse Connections  
Federal ID number 46-0628024  
Group exemption number 5613

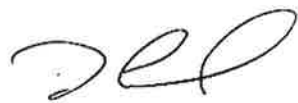
To Whom it May Concern:

SpiritHorse International, is a 501 (c) 3 organization and has included SpiritHorse Therapeutic Riding DBA SpiritHorse Connections under the group exemption number 5613. Our Federal ID number is 04-3609719. SpiritHorse Therapeutic Riding DBA SpiritHorse Connections should continue to be included as a subordinate of our group.

On the following page you will find a list of those centers included under our group exemption.

If we can be of any further service, please contact us.

Thank you,



Ric Lehman  
Executive Director

EIN	contact	address	Zip
460782748	% Cheryl Cleaves	174 MORGAN RD	CT 06019-2034
264026465	% SHELLY THOMAS	2495 MORANS POINT RD	VA 24301-7614
272056976	% ANGELA MENDEL	46875 252ND ST	SD 57003-5821
273135699	% PEGGY BLOCH	1110 TONEY RD	NC 28018-6640
352471213	% TERRI HOUSER	8091 US HIGHWAY 24	IL 62681-4309
460618586	% MICHELLE BRUNETTE	3818 MARY ELIZABETH CHURCH RD	NC 28173-9275
474178520	% Patty Adams	7156 NC HIGHWAY 194 S	NC 28604-9222
841918842	% Jackie Stone	3421 BRONSON LAKE RD	MI 48446-9017
271207484	% SANDY SPIES	PO BOX 1015	TN 37387-1015
272695875	% SPIRITHORSE AT BLACK FOX	1223 TUNNEL HILL RD SW	TN 37311-8342
273117325	% Marge Cheeseman	10175 W FARM ROAD 156	MO 65738-2467
273635168	% HEATHER BEAUCHESNE	8311 SHAW RD	TX 76266-2258
274336483	% JIM NOTHSTEIN	142 GRASSY VALLEY RD	TN 38462-5019
452821437	% BRUCE LANGSTON	839 SHADRACK RD	MO 65624-9606
452967006	% LISA WILHELM GOODE	6882 PROCTOR RD	FL 32309-9012
454382546	% CHARLOTTE DOUGHERTY	1105 TAYLOR AVE	CA 94591-7508
460628024	% KASEY THIESEN	PO BOX 591	CA 93631-0591
462069328	% Carolyn Sautler	PO BOX 159	OK 74930-0159
463171740	% Gayle Thorn	1962 SUNCREST DR	AL 36067-8116
463521353	% Bill Jones	3816 Henderson Rd	MS 39272-1372
471125197	% MARCHIA HOLLAND	8644 W CARPENTER DRIVER	MO 65802-0000
471130414	% Karen Musselman	9040 SE HIGHWAY J	MO 64738-6188
473119788	% Chris Weaver/ Scott (husband)	PO BOX 193	WA 98642-0193
475516878	% Tracy Savedre	2401 SW MADELINE LN	KS 66614-1132
611621740	% DONNA WIEBELHAUS	50 PRIVATE ROAD 138	TX 77575-8943
800873024	% SHANNON FEEHAN	10504 PARK RIDGE GOTHA RD	FL 34786-7915
832693744	% KAREN MUSSELMAN	18905 S HIGHWAY 97	MO 64784-6213
900644385	% DIANA WITTEN	57811 MOCCASIN TRAIL RD	OK 74864-1136
263937412	% Lynn Turner	18897 JOHNSON LN	TX 75442-6124



**Board of Directors:**  
Charles I. Fletcher, Founder/CEO  
Jennifer Rosso  
Margaret McKoin  
Dr. Cole Sciba, DVM  
Kirsti Tulnei

**Medical Advisory Board:**  
Carolyn Garver Ph.D.  
Janet Kern Ph.D.  
John Krusz, Ph.D., M.D.  
Dr. John P. Melhner B.S. D.O.  
Peter I. Walling, M.D.

**Our Mission:** "To Assist Children with Special Needs in Reaching their Full Potential through Interaction with Horses"

March 7, 2013

This letter is to confirm that SpiritHorse Connections, EIN 46-0628024, is under our Group Exemption #5613. We are SpiritHorse Therapeutic Riding Center, EIN 46-0782748. SpiritHorse Connections has been submitted as a subordinate under our 501c3, yet they will be filing their own 990 annually.

Feel free to call should you have any questions.

Best regards,

**Charles Fletcher**  
President/CEO

1960 Post Oak Drive Corinth, Texas 76210  
spirithorsethera@aol.com

Voice (940) 497-2946 Fax (940) 497-4439  
www.spirithorsetherapy.com

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
P. O. BOX 2508  
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: **APR 16 2010**

SPIRITHORSE THERAPEUTIC RIDING  
CENTER  
1960 POST OAK RD  
CORINTH, TX 76210-3017

Employer Identification Number:  
04-3609719  
DLN:  
17053155310008  
Contact Person:  
MICHELLE A GLUTZ ID# 31213  
Contact Telephone Number:  
(877) 829-5500

Addendum Applies:  
No

Dear Applicant:

We have considered your application for a group exemption letter recognizing your subordinates as exempt from federal income tax under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code as organizations of the type described in section 501(c)(3).

Our records show that you were recognized as exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Code. Your exemption letter remains in effect.

Based on information you supplied, we recognize your subordinates whose names appear on the list you submitted as exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Code.

Additionally, we have classified the organizations that you operate, supervise, or control, and that are covered by your notification to us, as organizations that are not private foundations because they are organizations of the type described in sections 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) of the Code.

Donors may deduct contributions to your subordinates as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to your subordinates or for their use are deductible for federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of section 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.

Your subordinates whose gross receipts each year are normally more than \$25,000 are each required to file Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax, by the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of their annual accounting period. If you prefer, you may file a group return for those subordinates that authorize you in writing to include them in that return. If you are required to file Form 990 for your own activities, you must file a separate return and may not be included on any group return that you file for your subordinates. The law imposes a penalty of \$20 a day when a return is filed late, unless there is reasonable cause for the delay. However, the maximum penalty imposed cannot exceed \$10,000 or 5 percent of gross receipts for the year, whichever is less. For organizations with gross receipts exceeding \$1,000,000 in any year, the penalty is \$100 per day per return,

Letter 2419 (DO/CG)

SPIRITHORSE THERAPEUTIC RIDING

unless there is reasonable cause for the delay. The maximum penalty for an organization with gross receipts exceeding \$1,000,000 shall not exceed \$50,000. This penalty may also be charged if a return is not complete, so your subordinates should make sure their returns are complete before filing them.

Your subordinates are required to make their annual information return, Form 990 or Form 990-EZ, available for public inspection for three years after the later of the due date of the return or the date the return is filed. You and your subordinates are also required to make available for public inspection your group exemption application, any supporting documents and this exemption letter. Copies of these documents are also required to be provided to any individual upon written or in person request without charge other than reasonable fees for copying and postage. You may fulfill this requirement by placing these documents on the Internet. Penalties may be imposed for failure to comply with these requirements. Additional information is available in Publication 557, Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization, or you may call our toll free number shown above.

Your subordinates are not required to file federal income tax returns unless subject to the tax on unrelated business income under section 511 of the Code. Each organization subject to this tax must file Form 990-T, Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return. In this letter we are not determining whether any of your subordinates' present or proposed activities are unrelated trade or business as defined in section 513 of the Code.

As of January 1, 1984, each of your subordinates is liable for social security taxes under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act on remuneration of \$100 or more they pay to each of their employees during a calendar year. Your subordinates are not liable for the tax imposed under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA).

Each year, at least 90 days before the end of your annual accounting period, please send the items listed below to the Internal Revenue Service Center at the address shown below.

1. A statement describing any changes during the year in the purposes, character, or method of operation of your subordinates;

2. A list showing the names, mailing addresses (including Postal ZIP codes), actual addresses if different, and employer identification numbers of subordinates that, since your previous report:

- a. Changed names or address;
- b. Were deleted from your roster; or
- c. Were added to your roster.

3. For subordinates to be added, attach:

- a. A statement that the information on which your present group exemption letter is based applies to the new subordinates;
- b. A statement that each has given you written authorization to add its name to the roster;

SPIRITHORSE THERAPEUTIC RIDING

- c. A list of those to which the Service previously issued exemption rulings or determination letters;
- d. A statement that none of the subordinates is a private foundation as defined in section 509(a) of the Code if the group exemption letter covers organizations described in section 501(c)(3);
- e. The street address of each subordinate whose mailing address is a P.O. Box; and
- f. The information required by Revenue Procedure 75-50, 1975-2 C.B. 587, for each subordinate that is a school claiming exemption under section 501(c)(3). Also include any other information necessary to establish that the school is complying with the requirements of Revenue Ruling 71-447, 1971-2 C.B. 230. This is the same information required by Schedule B, Form 1023, Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

4. If applicable, a statement that your group exemption roster did not change since your previous report.

Please mail the information requested in this letter to the following address:

Internal Revenue Service  
Ogden UT 84201

This determination does not apply to any of your subsidiaries organized and operated in a foreign country.

Your Group Exemption Number is 5613. Your subordinates are required to include this number on each Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax, and Form 990-T, Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return, that they file. Please advise your subordinates of this requirement and provide them with the Group Exemption Number.

Please see enclosed Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, for some helpful information about your responsibilities as an exempt organization.

If the heading of this letter indicates that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

Because this letter could help resolve any questions about the exempt status and foundation status of your subordinates, you should keep it for your records.



SPIRITHORSE THERAPEUTIC RIDING

If you have any questions, please contact the person whose name and telephone number are shown in the heading of this letter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Choi", written in a cursive style.

Robert Choi  
Director, Exempt Organizations  
Rulings and Agreements

Enclosure(s):  
Publication 4221-PC

# SpiritHorse Organizational Chart

## Board of Directors

President  
Brian Okland

Secretary  
Reggie Gerkie

Treasurer  
Mike Jost

## SpiritHorse Staff

Co-Founder/Director  
Kasey Thiesen

Co-Founder/Director  
Kelly Okland

## Instructors

Kasey Thiesen

Kelly Okland

Tiffany Jost

Jackie Fleming

Cristian Campini

**7. Contributions:** We offer therapeutic lessons free of charge to families that cannot afford services; we never turn a rider away for the inability to pay for services. Each semester, we have an average of 25+ students who are unable to pay for services. This works out to an average of 300 lessons per semester, given free of charge. Once a year, we host a "Great Give Back" where we select a member from the special needs community who is in need of medical aid or equipment that insurance will not cover for the family. In our first year, we selected Dylan Gierke, who has cerebral palsy and was in need of a sleep-safe bed; his family was denied coverage by their insurance company but was told to put a mattress on the floor for him. The reason for needing a Sleep-Safe Bed was to ensure his safety and to aid his family and caretakers in lifting him in and out of his bed. This bed will serve these needs well into his adult life. We were able to host a dinner at SpiritHorse in his honor and received the funds needed for his family to purchase the bed. The cost of the Sleep-Safe Bed was \$13,000. The family secured a \$5,000 grant, and SpiritHorse raised an additional \$10,500: \$8,000 went to the family for the Sleep-Safe Bed, and the additional \$2,500 is earmarked for the all-inclusive playground. Our second "Great Give Back" helped Parker Ellis, who has autism. After observing Parker's interaction with the animals, specifically our dogs, the family and staff realized that he would benefit greatly from a service dog. A psychiatric service dog will help Parker regulate his emotions and promote interactions with people. This service is not covered by insurance and costs a minimum of \$10,000 for the service dog as well as training. We were able to raise \$7,500 to go towards the cost of his service dog. We are in the process of choosing our family for the 3rd Annual Great Give Back Event. Any funds raised over the needs of this year's family will go towards the all-inclusive playground project.

SpiritHorse also supported people displaced by the Creek fire. We held a fundraiser to provide necessary items and opened our facility to any animals displaced by the fire.

We recently held a fundraiser for Carla and Vincente Reyes, who lost both their children, our students, and all of their belongings in a fire here in Kingsburg on March 17th, 2024. We were able to provide them with the necessary items to set up their current apartment, in addition to financial help by rallying community support. We were able to raise \$8,715 for the Reyes family to aid in the funeral and burial costs of their children.

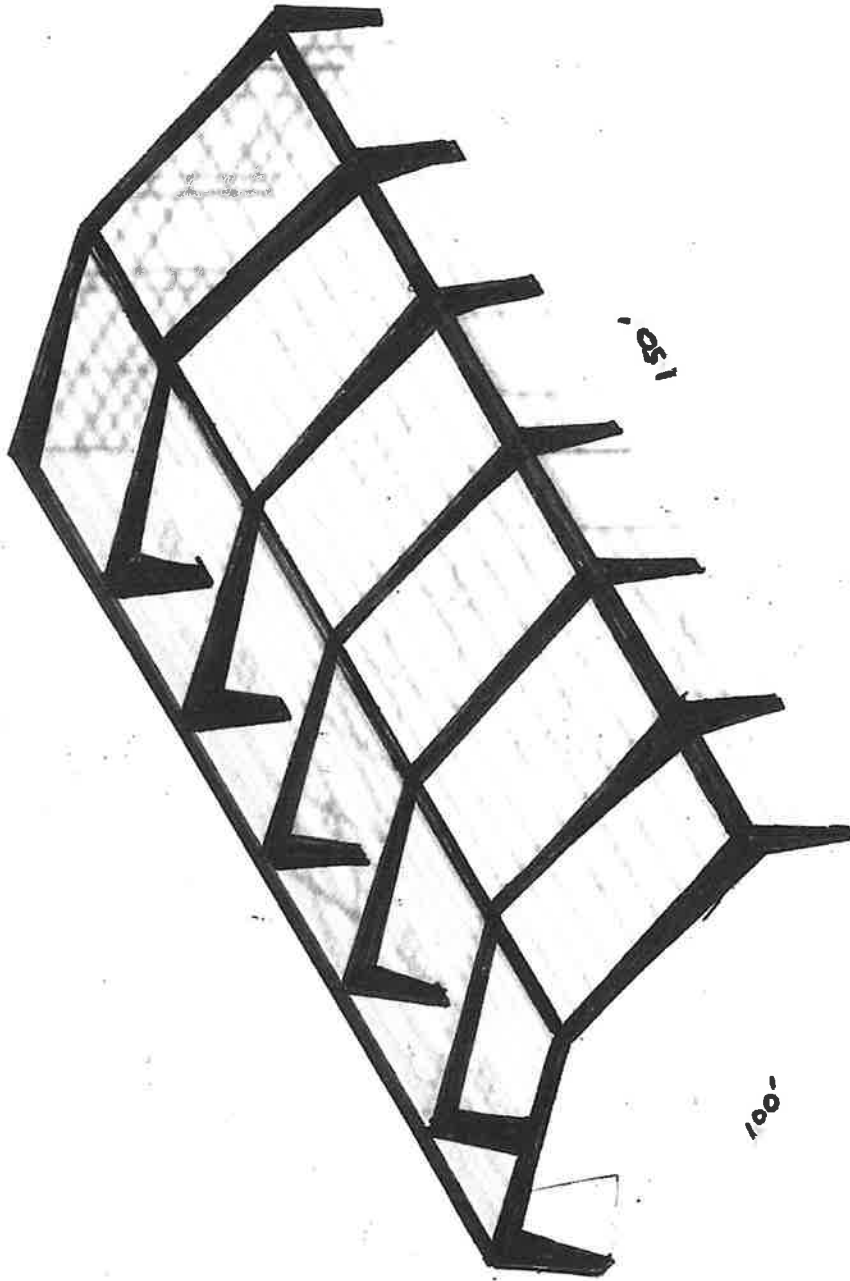
Our facility is available to the Island Community Day program, which allows at-risk students to come out and experience life on a farm, which is an opportunity for them to gain work experience and appreciation for the outdoors. We also host field trips for our local schools and educate them on farm life and inclusion. Our facility is open to adult transition programs to help adults with special needs gain work experience and take pride in a physical job well done. One of our students, Benjamin Coats, benefits greatly from his work experience. Ben is an adult with Down Syndrome, and he has aged out of the adult transition programs; his parents expressed the need for him to have a job and have something to be proud of. They dislike the lack of opportunities for him and find he plays video games most days while his mother works

from home. Ben now joins us weekly to clean out the chicken coop and takes great pride in his job. He is our “chicken coop maintenance guru,” and he fondly refers to the chickens as “his ladies.” Our goal is also for SpiritHorse to be a sanctuary for anyone who needs a refuge, to allow them a safe space to mentally recharge from whatever is going on in their lives. Countless people tell us every week how much being at SpiritHorse does for their physical and mental state. Oftentimes, the families of our therapy students are exhausted and emotionally drained from caregiving, and while their child is having their lesson, they are able to sit back and relax and take that time to recharge. Another common comment we receive from volunteers is about how they come to SpiritHorse to help us when, in turn, they don’t realize how much of a positive physical and mental impact SpiritHorse has had on them.

**8. Plans:** Please see attached



67



135'

100'

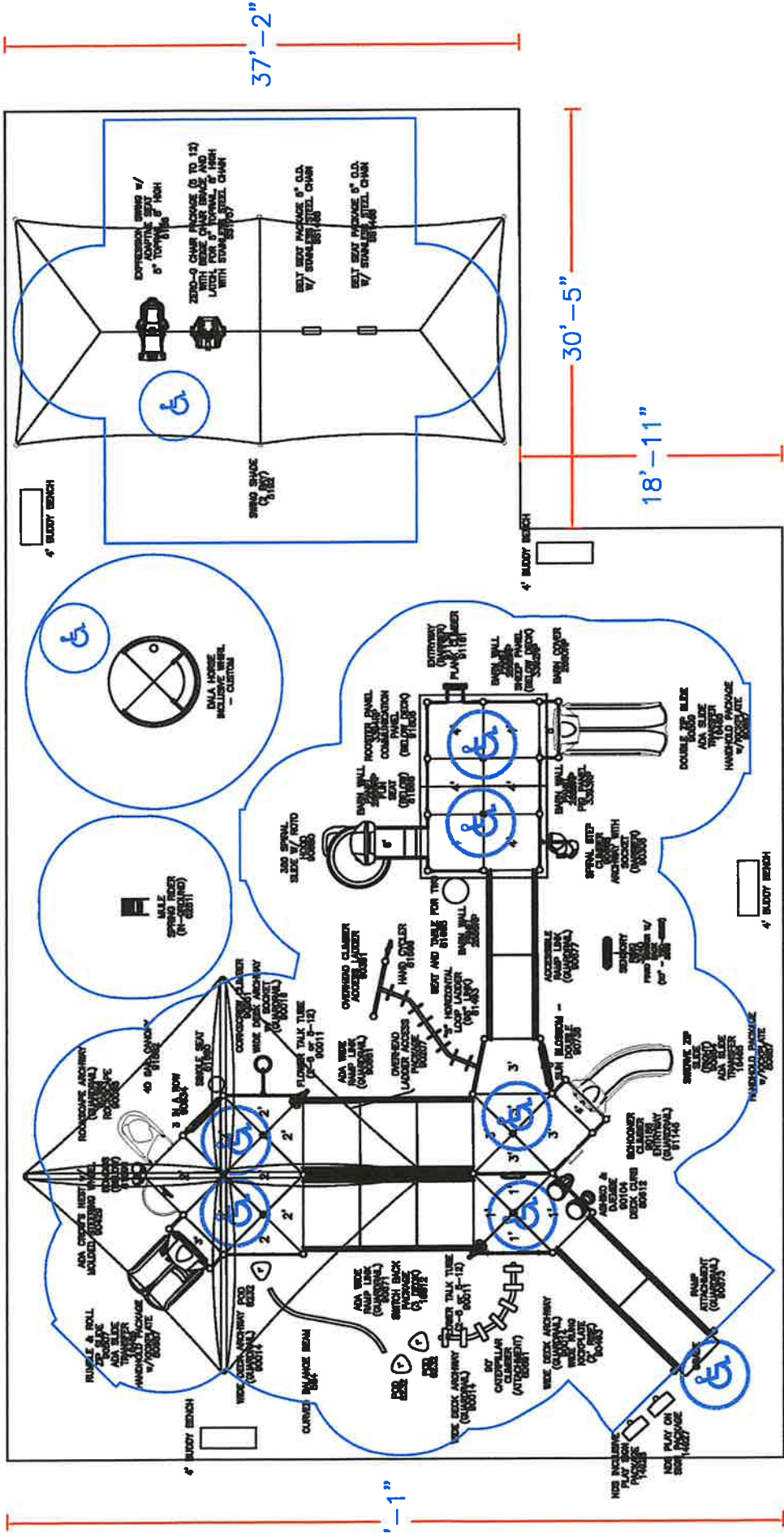
14'







98'-0"



-1-



150 PlayCore Drive SE  
 Fort Payne, AL 35967  
 www.gametime.com

SPIRITHORSE CONNECTIONS  
 KINGSBURG, CA  
 Representative  
 MRC

This play equipment is recommended for children ages 5 - 12

Minimum Area Required:  
 This drawing can be scaled only when in an 18" x 24" format.

IMPORTANT: Soft restraint surfaces should be placed in the use zones of all equipment, as specified for each type of equipment, and at heights to meet the critical fall heights as specified by the U.S. consumer Product Safety Commission. AS 751 Standard EN13813-2:14  
 Standing CHAISE-2:14

Drawn By:  
 JP/JA/DH/eg  
 Date:  
 04.30.24  
 Drawing Name:  
 SpiritHorse\_043024

## **Appendix A**

The grantor will be recognized by recipient in the following ways:

- Two large signs at the location of each entrance of the covered arena
- One large sign at the entrance of the inclusive playground
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Recognition
- Permanent recognition on website homepage
- Major social media acknowledgements