



*RIDING FOR THE  
DISABLED  
ASSOCIATION  
SINGAPORE*



**ANNUAL REPORT FOR FY 2019 / 2020**





## OUR VISION

*TOGETHER, TOWARDS A MORE  
INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY  
INSPIRING HOPE AND IMPROVING LIVES  
OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES*

## OUR MISSION

*ENABLING AND EMPOWERING  
MINDS, BODIES AND LIVES  
THROUGH WORKING WITH HORSES*

## OUR CORE VALUES

### PASSION

*WE ARE DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE LIVES OF  
EVERY SINGLE PERSON WHO COMES TO RDA  
SINGAPORE FOR OUR PROGRAMMES WITH HORSES*

### PROFESSIONALISM

*WE BELIEVE IN INTEGRITY, TRANSPARENCY AND  
ACCOUNTABILITY IN OUR SERVICE PROVISION*

### PEOPLE

*WE LEAD BY EXAMPLE TO SERVE OUR  
BENEFICIARIES WITH SINCERITY AND CONSISTENCY*

### PARTNERSHIP

*WE ENGAGE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR  
DONORS, SPONSORS, MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS  
TO DILIGENTLY ACHIEVE THE MISSION OF  
OUR ASSOCIATION*

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# HONORARY CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



**SIMON LEONG KAI CHONG**  
**HONORARY CHAIRMAN**  
**RDA SINGAPORE**

The COVID-19 pandemic has put a strain on many organisations, families and individuals - we have been affected too, having to cancel our fund-raising & outreach events originally planned for Q2 2020. While there were some disruptions to our programme and operations during the Circuit Breaker and Phase 1, we have since put in safe management measures to better take care of our beneficiaries, volunteers and staff, and were allowed to restart our volunteers and programme activities in Safe Reopening Phase 2 (July 2020).

Despite the programme disruptions - for reporting period in FY2019/2020, our Therapeutic Horse-Riding and Equine-Assisted Activities Programmes benefitted a total of 524 persons with disabilities, compared to 428 beneficiaries served in the previous FY.

We organised 3 major fund-raising and outreach events during the year: *Unicorn Walk-a-Wheelathon*, *Charity Movie* and *RDA Cup 2020 Charity Luncheon*, which raised a gross total of \$330,301. Including Horses and Riders Sponsorships, direct donations and grants from funders such as Tote Board, our total income in FY 2019/2020 was \$1,394,203 compared to \$1,834,522 in the previous FY. I would like to thank the donors and funders for their generous contributions.

I am happy to share that RDA was once again selected by the Charity Council, as one of 18 medium charities to receive the Charity Transparency Award for exemplary disclosure, transparency practices and compliance with the Code of Governance for Charities and Institutions of a Public Character. This is the third consecutive year that we have won the Award.

In December 2019, RDA Centre passed the annual British Horse Society (BHS) inspection and continues to be accredited as a BHS Approved Centre, meeting the required high standards of safety, horse welfare and tuition - achieving *Highly Recommended* in most areas inspected. We are one of only 3 BHS Approved Centres in Singapore.

I would like to thank the Committee for their support - special mention to Mr James Brownlie and Ms Lin Zhi An who have decided to step down. Last but certainly not least - on behalf of RDA Committee, I would like to express a special note of appreciation to all volunteers who contributed tirelessly to our programmes.

# RDA COMMITTEE & STAFF

## RDA SINGAPORE COMMITTEE [ ELECTED ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2018 FOR A TWO-YEARS TERM ]



Mr Simon Leong Kai Chong \*  
Honorary Chairman [ 3/3 ]



Mr Justin Boyd  
Vice Chairman [ 3/3 ]



Ms Cindy Quek \*  
Honorary Secretary [ 3/3 ]



Mr James Brownlie  
Honorary Treasurer [ 3/3 ]



### COMMITTEE MEMBERS (from left to right)

Ms Daphne Ong [3/3]

Ms Emma Jarman-Jones [3/3]

Ms Jessamine Ihrcke [1/3]

Mrs Julie Ovidi [3/3]

Ms Lin Zhi An [2/3]

Mrs Sian Gillies [1/3]

Mrs Supriya Sen [3/3]

Ms Wanda Wang [2/3]

[ Attendance / No. of Meetings ]

Fewer physical meetings were conducted due to the COVID-19 safe management measures, regular updates and decisions were carried out via e-circulation instead.

\* 2 out of 12 (16%) Committee Members served on the Committee for 10 or more consecutive years.

### SUB-COMMITTEES MEMBERS

**Governance & Risk Management** Mr Simon Leong Kai Chong # Mr Justin Boyd  
Mrs Supriya Sen

**Fund-raising & Public Relations** Ms Wanda Wang # Mrs Julie Ovidi  
Mrs Supriya Sen

**Horses, Programmes & Instructors** Ms Cindy Quek # Ms Jessamine Ihrcke  
Ms Lin Zhi An Ms Wanda Wang

**Human Resource & Finance** Mr Justin Boyd # Mr James Brownlie  
Ms Emma Jarman-Jones

**Volunteers & Training** Ms Daphne Ong # Ms Emma Jarman-Jones  
Ms Jessamine Ihrcke Mrs Malavika Vaidya  
Mrs Sian Gillies

# Sub-Committee's Head

### RDA SINGAPORE STAFF

**Executive Director**

Mr Choy Weng Leong

**Admin Manager**

Ms Elsie Tan

**Yard Manager**

Ms Kora Bremner

**Instructors**

Mr Hazrin Chong Abdullah

Mr Haifitri Bin Jusri

**Community Partnership Executive** Ms Karen Lim

**Volunteer & Admin Coordinator** Ms Siti Haslina Binte Mohamad Hilmi

**Stable Supervisor** Mr Gunasegaran Rajakumaren

**Stable-hands** Mr Salamat Bin Pardi

Mr Maran Manian @Maran s/o Manian

Mr Yuvaraja Krishnasamy Ms Suganthi d/o Karishnan

Ms Victoria Kalaivani Kalyanaraman Pillai



# OUR PROGRAMMES

## INSPIRING HOPE AND IMPROVING LIVES OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

RDA Singapore is the only registered charity that provides 100% free therapeutic horse-riding and equine assisted activities for the special needs community in Singapore. Children and adults with physical and/or developmental disabilities such as Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, Hearing Impairment, Global Developmental Delay, Muscular Dystrophy and Autistic Spectrum Disorder could benefit from working with horses.

Besides our existing ***Therapeutic Horse-Riding Programme*** for SPED Schools & Social Service Agencies and Individual Riders - during the FY, we piloted a new interactive non-riding based ***Equine Assisted Activities Programme***. Session activities would be performed next to, not on top of, the horse - the new programme could benefit persons with disabilities, especially those currently not served under our existing riding programme (*e.g. beneficiaries above the weight limit or medically not suitable for riding*).

## ENABLING AND EMPOWERING MINDS, BODIES AND LIVES THROUGH WORKING WITH HORSES

We work with virtually all types of disabilities, including physical, developmental, cognitive and learning disabilities, in children and adults. Beneficiaries could gain increased self-confidence, improved circulation, respiration, balance, motor coordination and mobility. For someone who is unable to walk unaided, see or has communication difficulties, riding a horse allows them to experience a new sense of freedom and independence. Friends are made and it's fun!

Horses provide a tool for physical therapy and cognitive improvement, in a unique format that is effective and exhilarating. Besides the physical benefits, the contact with the animal is a powerful experience, the strong bond that is experienced often has a profound uplifting effect, and could have the power to change a person's perspective on life.

*“Activities involving directing the horse, on the ground, beside, or astride the horse, can build empowerment and self-efficacy. Relationship-building activities such as grooming and groundwork activities have been associated with building self-awareness and well-being.”*

### **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AND EQUINE-ASSISTED ACTIVITIES AND THERAPIES**



# OUR PROGRAMMES

## THERAPEUTIC RIDING PROGRAMME (SPED SCHOOLS & SSAs)

Therapeutic riding sessions for children from special education (SPED) schools and adults from social service agencies (SSAs) are conducted on weekday mornings. Each school or SSA are allocated a full term (up to 10-week) programme, this allows the riders to work on the goals and objectives set before the riding starts. All goals and KPIs are set before the riding starts with the therapist and special needs educators of the SPED schools or SSAs.

For the reporting period In FY2019/2020, we worked with 18 SPED schools and SSAs benefitting 193 children and adults with disabilities.

SPED SCHOOLS & SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES	NO. OF BENEFICIARIES
AWWA School	19
Blue Cross Thong Kheng Home & ASD Day Activity Centre	12
Dover Court International School	12
Eden School	12
Fei Yue Early Intervention Centre for Children	6
Genesis School for Special Education	12
Lighthouse School	12
Melbourne Specialist International School	6
MINDS Fernvale Gardens School	12
MINDS IDEA Employment Centre	6
MINDS Lee Kong Chian Gardens School	12
MINDS Me Too! Club	12
MINDS Ville@Napiri	6
Rainbow Centre - Rainbow Centre Training & Consultancy	6
Rainbow Centre - Yishun Park School	12
Saint Clare School For Special Education	12
St Gerard's School LLP	12
SUN-DAC	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>193</b>

## RIDERS SPONSORSHIP

Every year, some 20 batches of riders from various SPED schools & SSAs ride with RDA . Each batch consists of 12 riders with special needs who undergo a 10-week therapeutic horse-riding programme. Sponsoring a batch of 12 riders (x 10 sessions) costs \$12,000. The Sponsorship is entitled to 2.5 times tax-deduction. We would like to thank the following sponsors for their very generous sponsorships and kind support:

- **Dilhan Pillay Sandrasegara:** thank your for sponsoring 2019's term 3 (Tuesday) Riders
- **Ho Ching:** thank you for sponsoring 2019's term 4 (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday) 2020's term 1 (Thursday) Riders
- **UOL Group Limited:** thank you for sponsoring 2019's term 3 (Wednesday) Riders



# OUR PROGRAMMES

## THERAPEUTIC RIDING PROGRAMME (INDIVIDUALS)

These sessions are generally meant for children with disabilities studying in mainstream schools and adults with disabilities. Since FY 2014/15, we also opened the Therapeutic Riding Programme (Individuals) to students from SPED schools whom were not selected for under the Therapeutic Riding Programme (SPED School & SSAs) because of lack of space.

The individual programme sessions are conducted on weekday afternoons, evenings and on Saturday mornings and afternoons. For the reporting period In FY2019/2020, 283 riders benefited from this programme.

## EQUINE-ASSISTED ACTIVITIES (EAA) PROGRAMME

During the FY, we piloted a new interactive non-riding based EAA Programme – with Equine-Assisted Activities which would be performed next to, not on top of, the horse. Sessions would include a number of beneficial equine activities such as observing, handling, grooming, groundwork, and structured challenging exercises focused on the beneficiary's needs and goals.

The new EAA Programme would benefit persons with disabilities, especially those currently not served under our existing riding Programme (*e.g. beneficiaries above the weight limit or medically not suitable for riding*).

For the new pilot EAA Programme, we worked with 8 SPED schools and SSAs benefitting 48 persons with disabilities.

SPED SCHOOLS & SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES	NO. OF BENEFICIARIES
Bishan Home for the Intellectually Disabled	6
Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore - Adult Services	6
MINDS Me Too! Club	6
MINDS Eunus Training & Development Centre	6
MINDS Napiri Training & Development Centre	6
MINDS Raintree Special Student Care Centre	6
SUN-DAC	6
THK Home for Disabled Adults @ Chai Chee	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>48</b>

## TOTAL NO. OF BENEFICIARIES SERVED IN FY 2019 / 2020

For reporting period in FY2019/2020, our various Programmes benefitted a total of 524 beneficiaries, compared to 428 beneficiaries served in the previous FY.

# OUR PROGRAMMES

## RDA TRACKER - RESULTS

The Tracker is a simple to use holistic tool, to track and provide evidence of the improvement that are delivered through RDA programmes, showing at a glance where and how much improvement has taken place.

For reporting period in FY2019/2020, our various Programmes benefitted 524 persons with disabilities - the results shown below provide an overview of the percentage of beneficiaries that have demonstrated Improvement in the different categories of assessment using the RDA Tracker:

PERCENTAGE OF BENEFICIARIES THAT IMPROVED		
94%	<b>COMMUNICATION</b>	<i>Assesses means the beneficiary uses to indicate their wants, needs, experience and intentions, including sound, words, touch, eye contact and gesture</i>
94%	<b>CONFIDENCE</b>	<i>Assesses the beneficiary's appetite and capacity for coping with challenges</i>
94%	<b>ENJOYMENT</b>	<i>Assesses for evidence of pleasure associated with riding / equines-assisted activities</i>
91%	<b>HORSEMANSHIP</b>	<i>Assesses not only for acquisition of technical skill related to riding and horse care but also capacity to achieve a cooperative partnership with the horse or pony</i>
91%	<b>PHYSICAL CHANGE</b>	<i>Assesses improvement in physical functioning including balance, flexibility, strength, coordination and stamina</i>
92%	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>	<i>Assesses interest and capacity to relate to others</i>

Working with the Tracker would also encourage our volunteers to be more observant and engage more closely with the beneficiaries, while at the same time enabling the volunteers to feel included and giving them a greater sense of purpose and value.

The Tracker results would also be shared with family, carers, schools, etc. - not only providing the opportunity for the beneficiaries to share their achievements but also for others to build on any therapeutic changes outside RDA sessions.

99%	<i>of the beneficiaries' parents/caregivers found RDA programme useful</i>
98%	<i>of the beneficiaries' teachers/therapists found RDA programme useful</i>





*"Results indicate an improvement in social functioning in the group attending EAT (compared to the control group) ... Improved executive functioning was also observed (i.e. reduced planning time in a problem-solving task) at the end of the EAT program."*

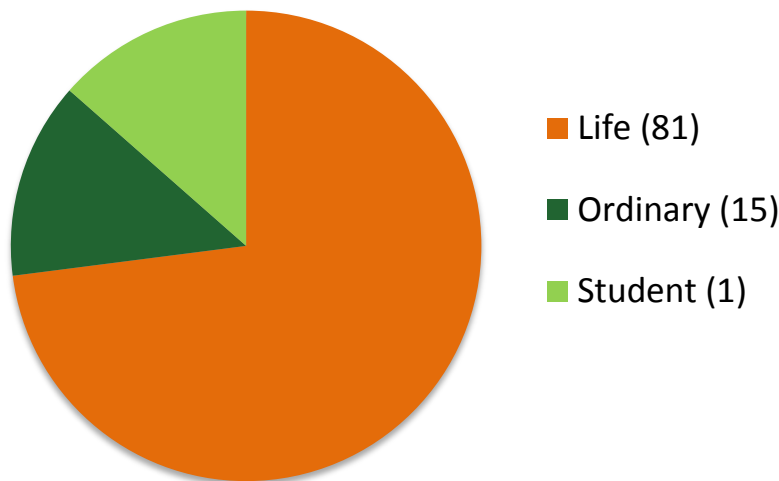
**EFFECTIVENESS OF A STANDARDIZED EQUINE-ASSISTED THERAPY (EAT) PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER**



# OUR MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS

## OUR MEMBERS

RDA Singapore is a registered society with charity and Institution of a Public Character (IPC) status. As at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020, we have a total of 97 members.



## TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

We have 4 types of membership:

Life membership as the name suggests is for life and costs \$500.

Ordinary membership is valid for 1 year and the membership fee is \$45 per annum.

Junior membership is for those below 18 years of age and the fee is \$15 per year.

Corporate membership is valid for a year and costs \$500.

*“From seeing someone who is labelled as “non-verbal” speak for the first time, to a wheelchair user enjoy the feeling of freedom and confidence. I think the experience that RDA offers is like no other and the results are clearly visible.” ~ **BECKY VINDEN, RDA VOLUNTEER***





# OUR MEMBERS & VOLUNTEERS

## OUR VOLUNTEERS

As a member-based organisation, as well as one which is very dependent on a largely volunteer manpower, we are grateful for the help and support of all members and volunteers throughout the years.

Our volunteers come from all walks of life, some are homemakers, retirees, working adults and students. They also come from different cultural background, bringing with them different life experiences. On top of that, we work with horses, inspiring hope and improving lives of persons with disabilities thus making volunteering at RDA Singapore truly an enriching and unique experience!

During a session, each beneficiary will be assigned a horse or pony, and three volunteers. The multi dimensional movement of the horse helps to exercise the beneficiary's muscle groups required to walk, bend and sit up straight, etc. Two side-walkers are required per rider - they walk on either side of the beneficiary offering support (*and to react in case of an emergency*), they engage the beneficiary through exercise, movement and play activities during the session, improving the beneficiary's confidence, social, communication and physical abilities.

The third volunteer - a leader helps to prepare the horse or pony for the session. They groom and tack up the horses, often with specialised equipment, warm up prior to the session, lead and take care of the horses during the session, and after the session - cool down, untack, groom and return the horses to the stable.

Volunteers also serve as coordinators and assistant instructors, and a few who are more experienced, as instructors for the sessions. Together with the staff instructors, these volunteers help the riders achieve maximum benefit from the programmes, working toward goals or milestones. RDA relies extensively on volunteers to help run our free of charge programmes for persons with disabilities, so thank you very much to our hardworking volunteers!

RESULTS FROM OUR VOLUNTEERS SURVEY	
100%	<i>found their volunteering experience with RDA to be meaningful &amp; rewarding</i>
97%	<i>expressed that they received the necessary information and guidance needed</i>
100%	<i>felt that that they are part of the team helping to fulfil the mission of RDA</i>
100%	<i>expressed that they would like to continue volunteering with RDA</i>
98%	<i>expressed that they would recommend friends &amp; relatives to volunteer with RDA</i>

# OUR HORSES & PONIES

As at the end of FY 2019 / 2020, RDA Singapore has 20 horses and ponies that have been trained to provide therapeutic riding for persons with disabilities.

Our horses and ponies play a huge role in providing the unique Therapeutic Horse-Riding and Equine-Assisted Activities programmes to children & adults with disabilities. Sponsoring a RDA therapy horse costs \$12,000 per year. The Horse Sponsorship is entitled to 2.5 times tax-deduction. We would like to thank the following horse and pony sponsors for their very generous support.



BORN: 2001 · MARE ·  
DARK BAY · 15.2HH

**AMORCITA**

SPONSOR:  
M&L HOSPITALITY TRUST



BORN: 2005 · MARE ·  
DARK BAY · 15.2HH

**ANAY CRUZ**

SPONSOR:  
UOL GROUP LIMITED



BORN: 2000 · MARE ·  
CHESTNUT · 15.1 HH

**BOLILA**

SPONSOR:  
MDM HO CHING



BORN: 2010 · MARE ·  
BAY · 15 HH

**COLIFA**

SPONSOR:  
MDM SIOW WAI YING



BORN: 1999 · MARE ·  
LIVER CHESTNUT · 15HH

**CONEJA**

SPONSOR:  
MISS CHERVELLE SOH



BORN: 2005 · MARE ·  
BAY · 15.1HH

**CONSENTIDA**

SPONSOR:  
POPPINS & UMA



BORN: 2013 · MARE ·  
BLACK · 14.1HH

**FREDA**

SPONSOR:  
HOLYPORT FUND



BORN: 2003 · MARE ·  
GREY · 12HH

**GLOW**

SPONSOR:  
CLARKSONS PLATOU ASIA



BORN: 2000 · MARE ·  
GREY · 15HH

**ISTRIA**

SPONSOR:  
MDM HO CHING



BORN: 2003 · MARE ·  
CHESTNUT ROAN · 13.2HH

**JAY CEE**

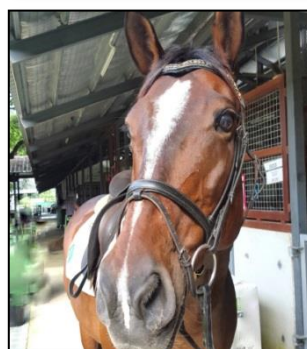
SPONSOR:  
JOSHUA KHOO YAO MING



BORN: 2005 · GELDING ·  
PALOMINO · 12.2 H

**JIMMY**

SPONSOR:  
BERLIN LEE & AMARIS B. CLINIC



BORN: 2001 · MARE ·  
BAY · 15.2HH

**JOTA**

SPONSOR:  
HERMES SINGAPORE (RETAIL)



# OUR HORSES & PONIES



BORN: 2004 · GELDING ·  
DARK BROWN · 13.3HH

**KODIE**

SPONSOR:  
ANZA ACTION



BORN: 2005 · GELDING ·  
BAY · 14.1HH

**LOUIS**

SPONSOR:  
CATELINE KHOO YAO YU



BORN: 1997 · GELDING ·  
LEOPARD · 15.1 HH

**MAOH**

SPONSOR:  
MS JADE RASIF



BORN: 2005 · GELDING ·  
FLEABITTEN GREY · 12.2HH

**MORGAN**

SPONSOR:  
MR EUGENE YONG



BORN: 2009 · MARE ·  
BLACK · 15HH

**PRISCILLA**

SPONSOR:  
HOLYPORT FUND



BORN: 2013 · GELDING ·  
PIEBALD · 14.2HH

**RHINO**

SPONSOR:  
SOLID ROCK FOUNDATION



BORN: 1997 · GELDING ·  
BAY · 14HH

**SHAMUS**

SPONSOR:  
MR C. C.



BORN: 2008 · GELDING ·  
BAY · 13.3HH

**TONY**

SPONSOR:  
DOVER COURT INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL & DOVER COURT ASSOCIATION



*It has been observed that clients who engage with horses are positively motivated to participate in therapy and more readily communicate their thoughts and emotions."*

**THE LIFE-CHANGING POWER OF THE HORSE**



# EVENTS & OTHER HIGHLIGHTS



Mr Baey Yam Keng (4<sup>th</sup> from left) interacting with our beneficiary and family at RDA Centre after the Walk

## UNICORN WALK-A-WHEELATHON

Hooray for another successful inclusive walk, as over 700 people came together for the event on 29 Sep 2019, which was flagged off by Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Culture, Community and Youth & Transport, Mr Baey Yam Keng.

The 3.5km route took participants along the unicorn shaped trail, which included the Mount Pleasant heritage road. After the Walk, everyone enjoyed a Charity Carnival with pony and tractor rides, stable tours, activity and food stalls held in conjunction with *World Animal Day*.

The event raised \$46,560!



Simon Leong, RDA Chairman (right) receiving the Award from Dr Ang Hak Seng, Commissioner of Charities

## CHARITY TRANSPARENCY AWARD

This year, about 950 charities had met the criteria and were assessed for the Charity Transparency Awards, we're humbled and honoured to once again receive the Award - we were among 18 *medium charities* recognised for exemplary disclosure, transparency practices and compliance with the Code of Governance for Charities and Institutions of a Public Character (IPCs).

**This was the third consecutive year we were recognised and awarded for exemplary transparency and disclosure practices!**



"Aramayo" (Simon Kok Wei Hoong, red cap) nosed out "Top Knight" (Vlad Duric, blue cap) to win the RDA Cup 2020

## RDA CUP CHARITY LUNCHEON

Some 200 guests attended the annual Race Day Charity Luncheon held on 9 Feb 2020 at Singapore Turf Club.

Besides *RDA Cup 2020*, the other major racing highlight of the day was: Clarkson's Platou Cup – a *special* named race to thank one of our long-time horse sponsors.

The Charity Luncheon raised \$80,118.





*“... the equine-assisted activities programme had, on average, a large positive effect on children's gross motor development in comparison to the conventional physical education in the control group for 3 months.”*

***DO EQUINE-ASSISTED PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES HELP TO DEVELOP GROSS MOTOR SKILLS IN CHILDREN WITH THE DOWN SYNDROME?***

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

RDA Singapore would like to thank all donors for their generous donations during FY2019 /2020. As a charity, we depend largely on the support of the many donors and corporate sponsors. We would like to acknowledge them and thank you for making a difference to the special needs community.

To those whom we might have inadvertently left out, or who have contributed anonymously, we thank you warmly for your generosity and support.

## CORPORATE DONORS & FUNDERS

\$100,000 and above	
Singapore Tote Board	
\$50,000 to \$99,999	
-	
\$10,000 to \$49,999	
The Community Foundation of Singapore	Singapore Polo Club
Deli Hub Catering Pte Ltd	The Australian & New Zealand Association
Dover Court International School Pte Ltd	The Bank of Nova Scotia
ECL (Singapore) Pte Ltd	Woh Hup (Pte) Ltd
M&L Hospitality Real Estate Investment Trust	
\$5,000 to \$9,999	
Amaris B. Pte Ltd	Lee Foundation
Bloomberg Singapore Pte Ltd	Singapore Sports Council
Central Singapore Community Development Council	Steppe Capital Pte Ltd
Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple	Tanglin Corporation Pte Ltd

# ACKNOWLEDGMENT

## CORPORATE DONORS & FUNDERS *(continued)*

\$1,000 to \$4,999	
Allgreen Properties Limited	Singapore Pools (Pte) Ltd
Bionix Products Enterprises, Singapore	Singapore Press Holdings Ltd
Cast Laboratories Pte Ltd	SP Global Foundation
DP Architects Pte Ltd	Spiderlift Asia Pte Ltd
Hiap Tong Crane & Transport Pte Ltd	St David's Society of Singapore
Joo Hong Contractor Pte Ltd	T.M. Transport Contractor Pte Ltd
Makino Asia Pte Ltd	TAK Products & Services Pte Ltd
Mellford Pte Ltd	Tan Chin Tuan Foundation
Mitsubishi Electric Asia Pte Ltd	Tenda Construction Equipment Pte Ltd
Putzmeister South East Asia CT Pte Ltd	The British Club
Richee Engineering Enterprise Pte Ltd	The Singapore Island Country Club
Ricon Pte Ltd	UK Online Giving Foundation
Sin Sin Equipment Services Pte Ltd	UOL Group Limited
Singapore Disability Sports Council	YMCA YFC Project Apollo

*\* We thank all donors for their generosity but due to limited space, regretfully, only corporate donations equivalent to \$1,000 and above will be listed here.*

*\* Due to the Personal Data Protection Act, we are unable to list the personal particulars of individual donors.*



# OUR HISTORY

RDA Singapore was officially founded on 11 October 1982 by Mrs Kaye Clarke. She was the mother of a child with a physical disability and an experienced riding instructress and ex-rider herself.

The Association started with just five riders from the Spastic Children's Association. Since then, thousands of children and adults with disabilities have been given the opportunity to ride with RDA Singapore, and the opening of RDA Centre in 1997 on its present site, meant that over 110 riders could benefit from riding each week. With the addition of a roof over the DBS Riding Arena in June 2001, we are now able to run our programmes, rain or shine.

**1982:** RDA Singapore started operations in April with five children from the Spastic Children's Association. Within the first few weeks, the number of riders increased to 12.

**1983:** Therapeutic-riding sessions were conducted on two days a week.

**1986:** The riding programme expanded to five days a week: three days at Bukit Timah Saddle Club (BTSC) and two days at the Singapore Polo Club (SPC).

**1987:** Carriage driving was introduced to benefit those who are unable to ride due to the severity of their disability.

**1988:** There were 14 schools and institutions participating in RDA Singapore's programmes and the number of riders increased steadily as riding and carriage driving became more accepted as a beneficial and therapeutic activity for the disabled community.

**1989:** The Association taught 120 riders and hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> South-East Asian Conference for Riding for the Disabled. Delegates came from Hong Kong, Japan, Thailand, the Philippines and Malaysia.

**1990:** The number of riders grew rapidly, and more than 600 adults and children with disabilities had taken courses of instructions with RDA Singapore since inception.

**1991:** More than 700 riders had benefited from their involvement with the Association since 1982. The idea of a purpose-built RDA Centre was conceptualised to meet the growing needs of people with disabilities.

**1994:** RDA Singapore secured a 4.4-hectare site, leased from the Singapore Land Office, at Jalan Mashhor on 1 April 1994.

**1997:** The purpose-built RDA Centre, including 12 stables, was completed in July. The Centre was officially opened on 30 August 1997.





# OUR HISTORY

**2001:** The DBS Riding Arena was completed, which provided much needed all-weather protection for our riding sessions. An additional four stables were completed between 2001 and 2002 with two outside pens.

**2002:** More than 1,200 adults and children with disabilities had taken a course of therapy. Two advanced riders were sent to Clwyd Riding in North Wales for the first time.

**2005:** The number of riders who had benefited from our riding programmes had surpassed 2,200 and was growing each year.

**2006:** Maximillian Tan competed in the RDA Australia National Championships. Representing RDA Singapore, he clinched 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Class Grade 2.

**2007:** In July, Maximillian Tan and Laurentia Tan took part in the FEI World Para Dressage Championship in Hartpury, UK. Laurentia qualified for the Beijing Paralympics in 2008.

**2008:** Laurentia Tan won 2 Bronze Medals at the 2008 Paralympics in Beijing, becoming Singapore's first Paralympic medallist, as well as Asia's first Paralympic equestrian medallist.

**2009:** In June, RDA Singapore hosted the Equestrian Section of the 7<sup>th</sup> Singapore Special Olympics and the Annual National Disability League. Launch of the new RDA Singapore logo which encapsulated the underpinning values of RDA Singapore – enablement and independence.

**2012:** Laurentia Tan, Maximillian Tan Chern and Gemma Rose Foo competed in the 2012 Paralympic Games in London. Laurentia Tan won 1 silver and 1 bronze medal in equestrian at the London Paralympics.

**2014:** The Night Rider programme was initiated with the hope of increasing the number of therapy slots to more riders and attracting new volunteers to RDA Singapore.

**2015:** Major renovation and improvement works to RDA premises, expanding the stable's capacity from 16 horses to 22.

**2016:** Refurbished and re-surfaced the riding arena so as to enhance the riding experience and safety for the riders and our horses. Stable's capacity increased from 22 horses to 24.

**2017:** Celebrated our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We're honoured and humbled to be one of 41 charities (*selected from more than 2,000 charities in Singapore*) to receive the "Charity Transparency Award (CTA)".

**2018:** Second consecutive year to win the CTA for exemplary disclosure and transparency practices. RDA Singapore accredited as a British Horse Society (BHS) Approved Riding Centre for 2018.

**2019:** Adopted the *RDA Tracker* as our new outcomes measurement tool. The Tracker is a simple to use holistic tool, to track and provide evidence of the improvement that are delivered through RDA programmes, showing at a glance where and how much improvement has taken place. Improvement is measured in these six different areas: *Communication, Confidence, Enjoyment, Relationships, Physical Changes and Horsemanship*.

RDA Singapore won the CTA for third consecutive year. We continued to be accredited as a BHS Approved Riding Centre for 2019.

**2020:** Piloted a new interactive non-riding based Equine Assisted Activities Programme. We remained as one of only 3 BHS Approved Riding Centres in Singapore.

# OUR GUIDING POLICIES

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

All Committee Members and staff of the Association are expected to avoid actual and perceived conflict of interest and are required to read and fully understand the Conflict of interest Policy that is in place. Where a Committee Member or a staff has a personal interest in business transactions or contracts that RDA Singapore may enter into, or has a vested interest in other organisations that RDA Singapore has dealings with or is considering entering into joint ventures with, he/she is expected to declare such interest to the Committee as soon as possible and abstain from discussion and decision making on the matter. Where such conflict exists, the Committee will evaluate whether any potential conflict of interest will affect the continuing independence of the Committee Member or staff, and whether it is appropriate for the Committee Member to remain on the Committee, or staff to remain in employment.

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

RDA Singapore has complied fully with the Governance Evaluation Checklist for IPCs. The full checklist is available via the Charity Portal at [www.charities.gov.sg](http://www.charities.gov.sg)

## RESERVES POLICY

The reserves that have been set aside provide financial stability and the means for the development of our principle activity. We intend to maintain our reserves at a level that does not exceed five (5) years of our annual operating expenditure, with the annual operating expenditure being the highest annual expenditure over the last three (3) years. Operating reserves exclude all building/ project funds, endowment and sinking funds. The Committee reviews annually the amount of reserves that are required to ensure that they are adequate to fulfill our continuing obligations.

*“She’s more aware of her surrounding and ready to try doing things on her own. I think it’s the riding that gives her the confidence.” ~ HUI WEN, A RIDER’S PARENT*



# HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

The Audited Financial Statement for the year ended on 30 June 2020 reflected a surplus of \$1,333. This was a decrease of \$329,707 compared to the previous FY's surplus of \$331,040.

The variance was primarily due to the disbursement of the Care & Share fund \$235,741 (*being the final disbursement for the SG50 grant*) as well as additional 20% fund-raising contributions received from Tote Board to commemorate their 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in FY 2018/19.

We organised 3 major fund-raising and outreach events during the year: Unicorn Walk-a-Wheelathon, Charity Movie and RDA Cup 2020 Charity Luncheon,, which raised a gross total of \$300,301. Including Horses and Riders Sponsorships, direct donations and grants from funders such as Tote Board, our total income in FY 2019/20 was \$1,394,203 compared to \$1,834,522 in the previous FY.

Costs associated with fund-raising activities amounted to \$57,638 in FY2019/20, compared to \$78,481 in the previous FY. RDA complied with the 30/70 fund-raising efficiency ratio, commonly known as the "30/70 rule" for charities and institutions of a public character (IPCs).

Our total expenditure in FY2019/20 was \$1,392,870. This was a decrease of \$110,612 compared to the previous FY expenditure of \$1,503,482.

The major expense item was staff costs' amounting to \$618,493 (*previous FY: \$678,486*). The staff costs accounted for 47% of our total expenses.

The other major expense items were maintenance of our 20 horses and ponies \$216,379 (*previous FY: \$219,090*), and building and office maintenance \$96,676 (*previous FY: \$93,626*).

Total non-current assets \$1,719,170 (*previous FY: \$1,807,265*). The Association continued to have a healthy balance sheet with its cash reserves (*excluding Restricted Funds*) amounted to \$4,596,619 in FY2019/20 compared to \$4,466,548 in previous FY.

Our reserves currently stand at 3.30 times operating expenditure, compared to 2.97 in the previous FY. Please refer to our reserves policy, which is in compliance with the Code of Governance requirements.

The audited Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2020 are attached.

**MR JAMES BROWNLIE**  
**HONORARY TREASURER**  
**RDA SINGAPORE**





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