# American Hippotherapy Association, Inc. (AHA, Inc.)

# 2017 Annual Report





Where you will find our new office

2537 Research Blvd., #203 Fort Collins, CO 80526 The American Hippotherapy Association is a 501C3 non-profit organization, which provides resources and continuing education courses for occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech language pathology professionals who incorporate equines, equine movement and the equine environment in treatment. The AHA Inc. believes that individuals in need of habilitation or rehabilitation are best served by skilled and licensed healthcare professionals. As such, AHA Inc.'s primary focus is on educating licensed therapists about the inclusion of equines in treatment. In addition, we provide horse handling courses, and numerous resources for administrators, therapy professionals, and the public on treatment incorporating equines, including "best Practice Statements" for the therapists who incorporate horses in treatment.

The AHA Inc. that exists today, began in 1987 when a group of dedicated therapists traveled to Germany. Later, the American Hippotherapy Association became a section of the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA). In 2003, American Hippotherapy Association, Inc. separated from NARHA to incorporate as a separate 501C3 organization. Today our membership is just over 1,000 national and international members.

Evidence supporting the use of equine movement in treatment continues to grow, with eight systematic review, 86 peer reviewed articles, and ten peer reviewed case studies that show support for the use of equine movement on the American Hippotherapy Association reference list.

### Mission:

To promote excellence through education in Equine Assisted Therapy.

### Vision:

AHA, Inc. is recognized as part of the international community that provides education, facilitates research and promotes Equine Assisted Therapy as an effective treatment strategy that improves the quality of life for individuals with disabilities.

### Who we are Our Members:

- AHA, Inc. serves members in all 50 states and 12 countries
- 69% of our members are therapists
  - o 57% OT's, 31% PT's, and 12% SLP's
- 25% are facilities and facility staff
- 4% are individual/supporting members
- 2% are students (this is up from previous years)

## **Our Partnerships:**

American Quarter Horse Assn (AQHA) & AQHA Foundation	Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy (APTA)
American Horse Council (AHC)	Certified Horsemanship Association, Inc. (CHA)
Horses and Humans Research Foundation (HHRF)	Horses in Education and Training International (HETI)
PATH International	Temple Grandin Equine Center at Colo State
	University

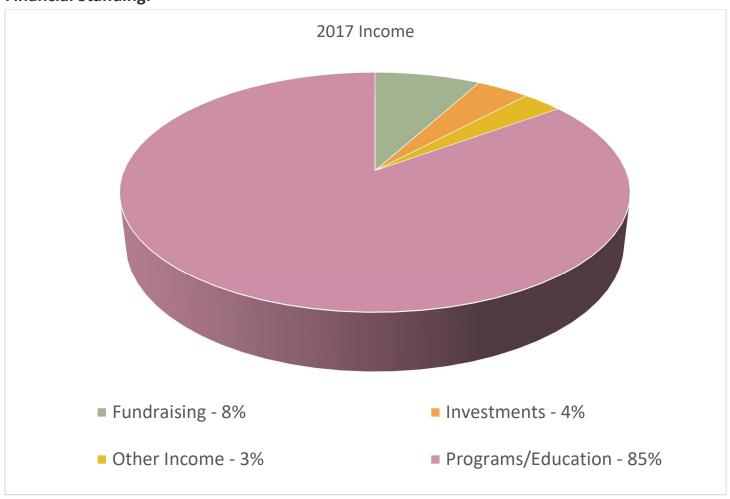
As a membership organization AHA, Inc. offers educational resources to our members and the public. The course offerings are both in-person and on-line training opportunities. Our two foundation courses (Level I and Level II Treatment Principles) focus on the use of hippotherapy as part of a comprehensive plan of care of for patients. AHA, Inc. hosts a Biennial International Conference offering therapists exceptional content, networking opportunities and the latest updates in research and therapy trends.

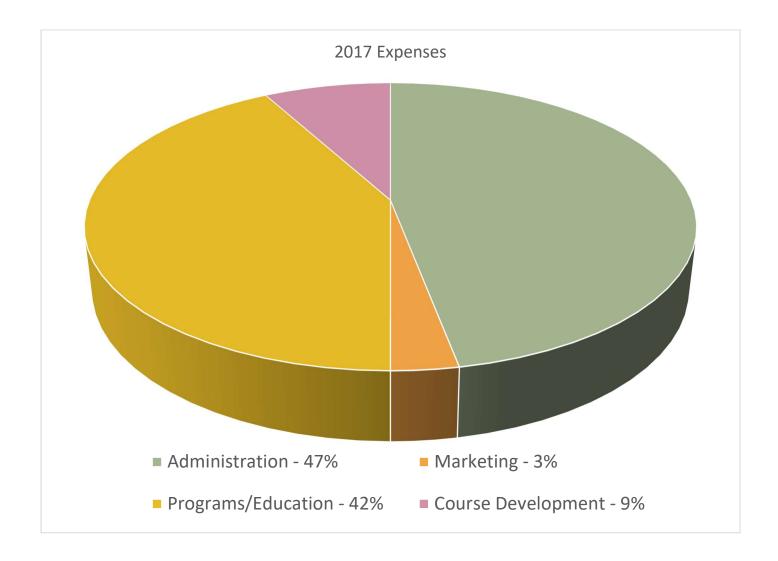
In the fall of 2017, AHA, Inc. began a market research project as the first step in developing our strategic plan for 2018-2021. Our goals are to continue to build our educational offerings, improve long term financial stability, increase our public presence, build and expand membership opportunities to practicing therapists.

### Course stats for 2017:

- 28 in-person courses, serving 203 participants
  - o 155 attended Level I Treatment Principles Course
  - o 56 participated in Level II Treatment Principles Course
  - o 19 attended the Business Course
- 201 individuals took an online course

# **Financial Standing:**





Educational Endowment Funds: The continuing investment of the Cunningham Mountain Valley Education Endowment with the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado. AHA, Inc. (initial investment of \$100,100.00) continues to grow. The organization will realize a 4% disbursement of the investment revenue in July 2018.