



Why Mane Joy Connection Exists

We believe access to horses should not be limited by background, experience, or circumstance.

For many individuals, opportunities to connect with horses have felt out of reach due to cost, location, and the perception that equestrian spaces are only for certain communities.

MJC strives to remove barriers and create welcoming pathways for individuals from underserved communities.

Creating a Space Where Everyone Belongs

MJC is committed to creating an inclusive, diverse, and welcoming environment where individuals feel seen, valued, respected, and supported.

We recognize each person arrives with unique experiences, strengths, and goals. We meet participants where they are and support growth at their own pace.

Lessons From Horses

Through experiences with horses, participants explore:

- 🐾 Confidence & Communication
 - 🐾 Self-awareness & Leadership
 - 🐾 Patience & Resilience
 - 🐾 Connection & Belonging
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Programs Designed With You, For Your Community

MJC partners with organizations to co-create meaningful equine-assisted learning experiences aligned with their mission.

Together, we consider:

- 🐾 Your organization's goals
 - 🐾 Strengths & interests of participants
 - 🐾 Accessibility needs & barriers
 - 🐾 Program structure & resources
 - 🐾 Opportunities to measure growth
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Strengthening Leadership Through Horses

An experiential learning program designed to strengthen leadership and life skills through intentional interactions with horses.

Participants engage in:

- 🐾 Trust-building & communication
- 🐾 Self-awareness & emotional regulation
- 🐾 Confidence & decision-making
- 🐾 Teamwork & problem-solving
- 🐾 Leadership development

Customized Experiences

- 🐾 Horse safety & communication
- 🐾 Grooming & horse care
- 🐾 Ground-based connection activities
- 🐾 Horsemanship fundamentals
- 🐾 Riding experiences
- 🐾 Reflection & personal growth

Measuring Meaningful Growth

Heart-Centered. Evidence-Informed. Transparent.

MJC utilizes pre- and post-program evaluations to capture growth in:

- 🐾 Confidence & self-belief
 - 🐾 Communication & relationships
 - 🐾 Leadership development
 - 🐾 Emotional awareness
 - 🐾 Resilience & connection
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Our Impact: 2024-2025

40 Total Riders Enrolled since 2024
33 New Riders Welcomed (89% of total)
40 Lessons Completed
17 Youth Served | **17** Scholarship Lessons
3 Riders with Disabilities

75%+ BIPOC community members
75% new to horses | **52%** youth under 18

2026 Milestone

Launched Strengthening Leadership Through Horses Program

2 cohorts completed with Village Exchange Center
18 Youth Natural Leaders engaged
32 people served in all MJC programs
3 Peer Leaders developed
5 scholarships provided
~22 total scholarships since 2024
100% BIPOC community members



Let's Create Together

Together, we can develop an equine-assisted learning experience that supports your mission, honors your community's strengths, and creates meaningful opportunities for growth.



Equine-Assisted Learning Experiences
Rooted in Connection, Growth,
and Well-Being

Our Story. Our Purpose. Our Invitation.

At Mane Joy Connection, we believe every person deserves opportunities to experience belonging, connection, growth, and the joy that can emerge through relationships with horses.

MJC was created from a lifelong connection with horses and a belief that everyone deserves a welcoming space to discover their strengths and possibilities.

As a child, horses provided Carla with confidence, guidance, and belonging. That experience became the foundation for MJC.

Our Mission

We further empower individuals from underserved communities through safe and positive equine-assisted activities to experience the healing effects of horses by enhancing education, community connection, personal growth and well-being.

*"Everyone deserves opportunities
to experience belonging,
connection, and growth."*



*Founded by Carla J. Kaplan-Gomez
Founder, Executive Director &
Certified Riding Instructor*

Community Partnership Guide

Creating Access.
Building Connection.
Expanding Possibility.



SCAN ME

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501(c)(3) public charity
Platinum Seal of Transparency