



Christmas Challenge 2025

Application Form

Charity Details

Account Name:	Ride High
Charity Number:	1138260
Address:	Ride High Equestrian Centre, Milton Keynes, MK5 8EJ, United Kingdom
Phone:	01908 696196
Website:	https://www.ridehigh.org
Total Raised (inc. Gift Aid)	GBP 43,325.25
Registered with fundraising regulator?	No
Giving Is Great URL	https://givingisgreat.org/charitydetail/?regNo=1138260

Campaign Details

Title:	Transforming vulnerable lives through horses
Summary:	We are raising funds to transform the lives of 20 vulnerable and disadvantaged children in the community. Many of them live in circumstances such as poverty, neglect and poor mental health. We use horses to connect with them to help build their confidence, resilience and improve their well-being.
Categories:	Education/Training/Employment; Health/Wellbeing; Mental Health
Beneficiaries:	Children (3-18)

Location:	<p>United Kingdom</p> <p>Buckinghamshire</p> <p>United Kingdom</p> <p>Bedfordshire</p> <p>United Kingdom</p> <p>Northamptonshire</p>
What problem are you solving?	<p>Many children in the community are facing challenges such as poverty, neglect, trauma and poor mental health but mental health support services are under strain. Despite helping 379 children in 2024 our waiting list is still growing with over 100 children needing a place on our programme. Over 30% of our children live in deprived areas and 65% are suffering with mental health challenges. Providing support in a timely manner is essential for our children's long-term mental health and their future</p>

How will your charity solve the problem?	<p>We use horses to connect with the children. Unlike more traditional interventions the children do not have to relive their traumas. Pairing equine-assisted therapy and classroom-based learning engages children with the programme, teaching them new skills and providing something positive to focus on, aiding their recovery. Many children are reserved and show little communication, however the presence of the horses helps them open up and begin to initiate a change within themselves.</p>
What are you aiming to achieve with the funds raised?	<p>To support 20 vulnerable and disadvantaged children (currently on our waiting list) through a 12-week programme at Ride High starting January 2026. To improve overall well-being and instil a sense of increased happiness- the children often feel sad or isolated when first attending Ride High. Time with the horses helps them to feel calm and allows them to have fun and a break from their daily struggles, helping them to feel happier. To instil a sense of self-confidence- many have low self-esteem and confidence when coming to Ride High. As the children learn new skills and engage in activities and push themselves out of their comfort zones their self-confidence grows. To improve communication skills- initially the children are reserved and show little engagement. While at Ride High they quickly open up and start to build relationships with their peers, staff and volunteers. To increase and improve participation at school and society- attending Ride High encourages skills that the children can then use to participate at school and engage</p>

	in activities outside of education. They start to develop aspirations and goals with a positive outlook on the future
What will the impact of your work be?	Providing a safe environment for the children encourages them to grow into happier, more confident individuals. The horses are essential in helping the children to relax and communicate as they learn new skills and to manage their feelings and emotions. In 2024 our data showed over 70% of our children improved in areas such as communication, confidence, relationships and emotional resilience. Similarly 74% of the children attained a positive destination once leaving Ride High.
How will you measure and report your impact?	We use a well-being assessment measure to track children's progress in key areas (such as emotional resilience, relationships, communication, self-esteem). They also work towards a 'Ride High Award' and with feedback from parents/ carers/ guardians we assess progress made by the children. Each year we release our 'Impact Report' to highlight our work from the year and includes data and case studies from the children. We also highlight our work in our newsletters and on social media.

Finances & Targets

What is your annual income as per last filed accounts?	GBP 674,149.00
How much do you hope to raise through the Campaign (including match funds)?	GBP 6,000.00
Pledge Target:	GBP 1,500.00
Champion Target:	GBP 1,500.00
Online Donation Target:	GBP 3,000.00
How will you raise the pledge funds?	We intend to seek pledges from businesses (current and new supporters). This will be our fifth Big Give Christmas Challenge so we are confident we can find support again this year.
How will you raise the online donations?	We will publicise the campaign through marketing channels online, social media, printed and electronic newsletter and email campaigns. Promotional activity will take place before, during and afterwards to highlight the campaign, thank supporters and share how much was raised.

How will you use funds raised?	<p>Fund a 3 month programme (12 sessions) for 20 children at Ride High:6,000.00</p> <p>Total: 6,000 GBP</p>
Let us know if your budget is part of a bigger project or you'd like to give further explanation.	
What happens to funds you raise if you don't meet your campaign target, raise an amount in excess of your campaign target, or the purpose of your campaign becomes invalid for any reason?	If we do not reach our campaign target, the number of children we are able to support will be lower and less children will benefit. We will raise the outstanding funds through other fundraising activities. If we raise more than £6000 we will then be able to support more children from our waiting list.

Additional Information

Does your charity have a safeguarding policy?	Yes
Please provide any further information regarding safeguarding here:	Ride High has written a Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedures for responding to child protection concerns. The policies contain names and contact information for the people with safeguarding responsibilities. This policy is also available on our website.
What is your charity's reserves policy including its target level of reserves?	Our policy is to hold liquid resources equivalent to at least 6 months expenditure, excluding fundraising costs, so that it could continue to provide a service in the event of unexpected financial difficulties.
Are your reserves currently on track?	Yes
How much does your charity currently hold in free reserves?	The company's assets are a combination of restricted funds, tangible fixed assets and amounts designated for essential future spending. The company therefore has no reserves as such.

Which recent sources of funding is your charity most proud of?	<p>Funding Type: Fundraising Campaign Amount: 20,000 Date: June 29, 2025 Description: Ride MK Cycling Festival- New event for 2025</p> <p>Funding Type: Grant Amount: 125,802 Date: March 13, 2023 Description: National Lottery Community Fund for 3 years (annual amount shown)</p> <p>Funding Type: Fundraising Campaign Amount: 16,000 Date: March 5, 2025 Description: Cheltenham Preview Night- a new event for 2025</p>
If you have any high profile supporters who might help you market your charity's involvement in the campaign, please list them here. Please indicate N/A if this does not apply to you.	We have 3 patrons of the charity: Rachel Medill MBE (Founder) Amanda Shirtcliffe (Para-dressage rider) Sue Jameson (British actress and author)
If your charity has any memberships, awards, accreditations or any other information you would like to notify us of with regards to your charity's fundraising experience, please tell us here. Please indicate N/A if this does not apply to you.	2024 Winner of Milton Keynes Inspiration Awards 'Outstanding Local Charity' Member of Human Equine Interaction Register

Links

Safeguarding Policy	https://thebiggive.my.salesforce.com/sfc/p/0O000000YzQm/a/WS000001BA7/TGJOMLHu
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Additional Questions

Does your organisation have a publicly available theory of change? If so, please include the URL in the space below.	not applicable
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Primary Contact

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