



Horse Power!

TRAILBLAZERS LUNCHEON



📅 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2026

🕒 11:45AM - 1:00PM

📍 CASCADE HILLS COUNTRY CLUB
3725 CASCADE RD SE, GRAND RAPIDS MI

*Riding a horse has the power to transport individuals living with disabilities into a world that lets them escape their crutches, braces, wheelchairs, and worries. You can do an incredible amount of good by simply sitting down for lunch and learning about Equest Center and the life-changing benefits of our equine-assisted therapy programs. Think of it as the **ULTIMATE POWER LUNCH!***

Match \$ Challenge



www.EquestCenter.org



info@equestcenter.org



616-866-3066

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Trailblazers Luncheon October 13, 2026

Table Host: _____ Guest Information (Table of 10)

This table is dedicated in honor of: _____

(Equest rider, volunteer, supporter - you choose! Please email a photo of your honoree with your completed guest list to saramulder@equestcenter.org)

Guest Name: _____

Company: _____

Circle one: Home or Office Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Guest Name: _____

Company: _____

Circle one: Home or Office Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Welcome, Table Host!

Thank you for agreeing to be a table host at our 18th annual Trailblazers Luncheon on October 13, 2026 from 11:45am – 1:00pm at Cascade Hills Country Club. Your support will help bring awareness to Equest Center for Therapeutic Riding, recruit volunteers, bring in new program participants, and raise funds to help our organization continue to improve the quality of life for individuals living with physical, mental, and social/emotional disabilities through equine-based therapy. Over 200 individuals between the ages of 2 and 100 participate each week at Equest on a year-round basis.

Table hosts are essential in ensuring the success of this event. We're providing this packet to ensure that you have all the information you need to be successful and enjoy yourself at the same time! Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with it.

As a table host, we ask you to fill a table of ten people, including yourself. We recommend that you invite people who you believe would like to learn more about the work we do at Equest Center; parents, potential volunteers, veterans, horse lovers, people lovers, those who want to give back to their community, and businesses with a heart for those in need.

When you are inviting guests to sit at your table, we advise that you ask them in person or via telephone followed by an emailed or texted confirmation. Please also plan to call your guests a week before the event to reconfirm. *You may also consider DEDICATING YOUR TABLE for special recognition to an Equest rider, volunteer, horse, or supporter who has impacted your life. You can specify the dedication name on the attached forms.*

Suggestion for inviting table guests: Also see attached Trailblazers Flyer!

"Hello _____,

I would like to invite you to join me at my table for the Equest Center's Trailblazers Luncheon held at Cascade Hills Country Club on October 13, 2026. The luncheon is completely underwritten and is a free event for people to come and learn more about Equest Center for Therapeutic Riding, what they do, who they serve, and the many ways you can partner with them to make a powerful impact. This event is a fundraiser, so you will be asked to consider making a contribution, but there is no minimum or maximum gift requested! We would love for people to attend and find out about their mission and the impact Equest Center is having on the lives of individuals living with disabilities in West Michigan and beyond. With the help of local people like you, they can continue to provide programs and services for those in need. I would be delighted if you would join!"

Please complete and email your confirmed guest list on the form provided to Kathy Ryan, Executive Director (KathyRyan@equestcenter.org) by September 29, 2026. Please feel free to contact the Equest office at any time should you have any further questions or need additional materials at 616-866-3066, KathyRyan@equestcenter.org or SaraMulder@equestcenter.org (Development Coordinator).

Again, thank you for serving as a table host! Your participation enables us to broaden the knowledge of Equest in the community and broaden Equest's base of support in terms of volunteers, program participants, and financial support.

Table Host Instructions:

- 1. Fill a table of 10 guests, including yourself. Use the attached flyer or written information as a guide.**
- 2. Submit your final guest list to Equest by September 29, 2026.**
- 3. Submit table dedication name (and photo if you have one) for special recognition (if desired) to Equest by September 29, 2026.**
- 4. Send reminder to your guests one week prior to the luncheon.**

Frequently Asked Questions

What do Table Hosts do?

Table hosts are volunteers who help Equest Center for Therapeutic Riding by inviting their family, friends, colleagues, and other interested members of the community to join them in attending and supporting the *Trailblazers Luncheon*.

How do I get started?

Make a list of everyone you know who might be interested in learning more about Equest Center for Therapeutic Riding, what we do, and who we serve! We would love to have you fill a table of ten people, but don't stop there! We can always accommodate additional guests or add a second table, so think big! Consider teaming up with a friend to fill two tables.

What's the best way to recruit guests?

We suggest you contact your list of potential guests in at least two ways. For example, talk to people personally and then send them a follow up email or note. Explain to them how you are involved with Equest Center, WHY you are involved, and invite them to join you at the event.

How much does it cost to attend?

There is no price per seat, but each guest is encouraged to make a donation.

How do I register my guests?

Fill out the attached form and email it to KathyRyan@Equestcenter.org.

When is the registration deadline?

September 29, 2026.

Day of the event timing? Attire?

Cascade Hills Country Club does not allow jeans. On the day of the event, your guests will begin arriving around 11:45am. They will check in at the registration area where they will receive their table seating assignments. Cascade Hills Country Club does not allow jeans.

How do I dedicate my table to an Equest rider, volunteer, mentor, or supporter?

Back by popular demand - A special way to pay tribute! You may consider DEDICATING YOUR TABLE for special recognition to an Equest rider, supporter, horse, or volunteer who has inspired, taught, assisted, or brought you happiness, hope, and joy. You can specify the dedication name on the attached forms. Please include a favorite photo of your honoree (or Equest may have one that can be used too). This photo and name will be present on your table the day of your event. Please send a copy of your photo to KathyRyan@equestcenter.org.

What if I can't fill my table?

Please contact us as soon as you know you will not be able to recruit enough guests to fill your table. Although this event is organized around table hosts inviting guests, there are a number of individual guests who have a partial table filled or attend the event who do not have a table host. We will seat these guests at tables that have not been filled.

What if someone is unable to attend?

If one of your invitees declines your invitation because they are not available that day, be sure to offer the opportunity for them to learn more about Equest at another time or give you their donation to deliver to the event in your reply email or phone message.

Should I send a pre-event reminder?

Absolutely! The most powerful reminder is a quick email or phone call from you a few days before the event. If you would rather these come from Equest's office just let us know!

What happens after the event?

Attendees who made gift will receive a thank you note for their contribution shortly after the event. Equest is a 501 (c) 3 not for profit organization. All donations are tax deductible and greatly appreciated.