

## The Organization

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Minis and Friends is the creation of a group of friends and miniature horse owners in the greater Austin area. Their goal to share their love of minis with the community came true after a fundraiser in Houston provided the needed funds for start-up in late 2006.

Our mission is dedicated to bringing our "mini ambassadors" to the community by creating an exceptional equine experience to all kinds of eldercare, schools, medical facilities, special need camps, and community and public events. Our special brand of therapy complements that of many Austin-based nonprofit organizations, and we are continually developing our outreach to include new organizations in our mission daily.

The Minis and Friends community has blossomed since its humble beginnings. New horses have been introduced into the herd, and the family of volunteers is ever-growing. We are excited about your interest in joining our family!

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### Minis and Friends

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[sally@minisandfriends.org](mailto:sally@minisandfriends.org)

Minis and Friends

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# Volunteer Information



Little Horses, Big Hearts

a 501(c)(3) non-profit charity organization

# Volunteering to Make a Difference

## Why are volunteers important?

The work of Minis and Friends is only possible with the help of extraordinary volunteers. Our volunteers not only help us with our mission to provide those in need with equine therapy, they also become our family.



## Who can volunteer?

We welcome anyone who may be interested, old or young, Austinite or traveler, to be a part of our work, to give back to our beautiful community, and to give time to those who deserve some extra tender loving care.

At this time, most mini visits take place on weekends, so students and weekday workers alike can be a part of the mini action!

## What types of jobs do volunteers have?

Minis and Friends needs all types of volunteers! For every event, we strive to commit at least two mini handlers to each horse. One of these handlers is committed to caring for the horse, which includes duties like holding the horse's lead and taking him for a break. The other handler is expected to communicate with the children and adults we visit, which includes getting shy children involved and being able to speak knowledgeably about our organization and mission.

Minis and Friends also needs volunteers to pass out fliers and brochures, to recruit new volunteers, and to give the mini horses some good, old-fashioned exercise. Whatever your capabilities are, we probably have a job made just for you!

## What are the requirements?

All mini volunteers must attend one mini handling training session. This session will help you as a future volunteer learn the basics of working with miniature horses. The lesson will teach you a variety of skills, including the following:

- Important horse-related terms and phrases
- Proper walking techniques, including how to work with a leash
- Ways to “read” a mini horse (like when he needs a break)
- Grooming methods and basic care instructions

You'll also learn how to interact with children and adults who have mental and/or physical handicaps, and how to work with the elderly.

## How do I sign up?

Volunteering is easy! To sign up, send an email here:

[volunteer@minisandfriends.org](mailto:volunteer@minisandfriends.org)

We look forward to talking with you

