

## Harry's Story

Seven-year-old Harry has been riding with RDA for the past four years — and it's become one of the highlights of his week. His favourite horse is Patch, a gentle and patient companion who loves cuddles just as much as Harry does.

What Harry enjoys most about his time at RDA is seeing his friends, riding horses, and spending time with his favourite volunteer, Derek — “because we laugh together,” he says with a big smile.

Harry lives with a neuromuscular condition called Congenital Myasthenia, which means his body doesn't produce enough of a neurotransmitter needed for muscles to work properly. This limits his physical abilities — he can't run freely or play at the park like many other kids his age.

But when Harry is on Patch, everything changes. Riding gives him a sense of freedom and strength that he doesn't experience anywhere else. His family has noticed real improvements in his posture and breathing, and even more importantly, in his confidence and happiness.

“We are so grateful for the physical freedom horse riding gives him, the strength improvements we've seen in his postural and breathing muscles, and the special friendships he's developed with the other kids and the wonderful volunteers,” says Harry's mum.

After every session, Harry can't wait to tell his friends and family all about it: “I rode Patch — it was so much fun!”

Through the power of horses and community, RDA continues to help riders like Harry discover new abilities, friendships, and joy.

