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**PONY POWER THERAPIES INTRODUCES INNOVATIVE,
HORSE-ASSISTED CURRICULUM TO HELP NJ SCHOOLS SATISFY
COMMUNITY-BASED INSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS**

*Critical Funding Allows Organization to Purchase All-New, Adaptive
Equipment to Enhance its Classroom Experience*

Mahwah, NJ (May 25, 2016) – Pony Power Therapies has developed an innovative, horse-assisted curriculum for students who can benefit from hands-on, vocational education and reinforcement of key life skills.

The new curriculum was established to support area schools seeking Community-Based Instruction (CBI) opportunities for differently-abled students, now required by the New Jersey Department of Education. By working collaboratively with schools, Pony Power is able to tailor its curriculum to best serve students' individual needs while helping schools satisfy CBI requirements, including vocational and recreational learning. Critical support provided by a local donor enabled Pony Power to offer pilot programming that is geared toward middle and high school students, as well as vocational programs for young adults.

“We’re happy to serve as a community resource and instruction site where students can learn by doing in a fully inclusive environment,” said Dana Spett, Founder and Executive Director, Pony Power Therapies. “Horses provide endless opportunities for learning, and we’ve created a program that will grow with the needs of our participants.”

Using Horses and a Farm, Students Practice Vocational and Life Skills

Created as part of the Pony-Assisted Life Skills (PALS) Program, the new curriculum is experiential in nature; activities are horse centered and hands on. Through sustained and repeated instruction, both inside and outside the ring, participants establish a weekly routine, learn farm and horsemanship skills, and practice life skills like communication, safety and problem solving. The curriculum is modified based on students' abilities, as well as goals set forth by the school, and activities can include grooming, tacking, lead walking, first aid, stall management and gardening.

Pony Power has successfully implemented its new curriculum with several northern New Jersey-based schools, including The Children’s Therapy Center, Springboard Program and Waldwick High School, among others.

“Our partnership with Pony Power has been a great addition to the Springboard Program. Our students have learned a variety of lessons that are not only carried over into the school program, but into their lives as well,” said Robert Mortorano, Principal, Springboard Program. “The staff truly understands the needs of our students, and they’ve helped instill confidence and excitement about the program into all of them. We look forward to a long partnership with Pony Power.”

At the end of his six-week session, a student shared, “I really liked learning how to properly brush horses’ hair, how to feed them, how to lead walk them and how to go around obstacle courses with them. We, most importantly, learned about horse safety and the best way to act around them. Thank you so much for your support and teaching us how to love and take care of horses.”

New Equipment Allows for Fully Inclusive Classroom Experience

In an effort to maintain a fully accessible and inclusive learning environment, a portion of the funding provided by a local donor was allocated for the purchase of adaptive equipment. Now, participants of all ages and abilities can take part in and comfortably enjoy horse-centered classroom activities.

A U-shaped, adjustable table allows an inclusive group setting for tabletop lessons. iPad Air® tablets are equipped with applications that enable non-verbal students to communicate during sessions; schedule applications target sequencing and goal setting. Ball chairs can provide sensory input while stimulating participants’ core muscles. Weighted lap pads provide deep, calming pressure, which can assist with participants’ concentration and engagement. Additional equipment includes traffic signs, slant boards and pen grips.

About Pony Power Therapies

Founded in 2000, Pony Power Therapies gives special needs and at-risk children and adults a unique opportunity to ride, care for and interact with horses. Its riding and non-riding activities enhance individuals’ physical, social and emotional well-being in a safe, nurturing farm environment. Pony Power offers recreational activities that help riders gain greater flexibility, balance and muscle strength, as well as explore and develop unique relationships with the horse, which can lead to increased confidence, patience and self-esteem, and foster feelings of independence and pride. Pony Power instructors are either certified or in training to be certified by Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship (PATH) International. Pony Power Therapies is recognized as a Premier Accredited Center (PAC) through PATH International. For more information, please visit www.ponypowernj.org.

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