

For Immediate Release

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Research Showing Impact of Horses Gains Support

(Chagrin Falls, OH) September 4, 2010- Horses and Humans Research Foundation (HHRF) has been awarded two significant grants equaling a total of \$55,000 to further research efforts. The first grant, for \$5,000, was awarded by The EQUUS Foundation in a challenge grant effort. The second grant, for \$50,000 is to be used directly towards research efforts and was awarded by a national foundation which asked to remain anonymous.

The research HHRF funds investigates the impact of the horses on humans in areas such as mental health, emotional and physical rehabilitation, learning and growth. Only minimal scientific research has been completed to this point, but the findings so far are staggering and the potential to learn more is monumental. Molly Sweeney, HHRF Board of Directors' president states, "I have always been amazed at the variety of beneficial effects that horses have on humans. If research continues to show the outstanding results we have seen, the doors it will open are limitless".

The first grant, *The Science and Research Assessment Symposium for Equine Assisted Activities*, is focused on assembling influential professionals from academic, equine, research, EAA/T, medical and business backgrounds to participate in a planning process that will shape and promote horse/human research. The focus will be on the need for high quality research in order to help advance equine appreciation and EAA/T while building a unique collaborative effort that crosses traditional association boundaries. The EQUUS Foundation, is a 501 (c) 3 charity which exists to promote public awareness of the value of the horse in society through education and by awarding grants which supports the horse/human relationship.

The other grant, *Research Initiative to Enhance Equine Assisted Activities and Therapies*, is focused on research that will further improve best practices in equine assisted activities/therapies (EAA/T) programs and/or will confirm the benefits of these programs to health professionals, insurance companies, participants and the general public. "This research is critical to the EAA/T industry's growth and progress", states HHRF Executive Director, KC Henry. "But the influence of this research will go even further, as recognition of the impact of the horse on humans will elevate equine sports and the virtual esteem of equines in our culture."

Horses and Humans Research Foundation (HHRF) was established in 2002 with the mission to facilitate universal understanding and appreciation of the significant influence of horses on humans. HHRF funds and promotes research that will 1)Benefit special program participants by improving equine assisted activity best practices; 2)Educate the public, including professional affiliates, regarding the value and benefits of horses and of equine assisted activities. HHRF to date has awarded three \$50,000 grants and anticipates designating further funding for the 2010 grant cycle.

HHRF grant awards are made possible by generous contributions of foundations, individuals, businesses and therapeutic riding programs. To view findings, awarded projects and learn more about this 501(c)3 organization, including contribution forms, visit www.horsesandhumans.org.

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