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## Founder of Horses and Humans Research Foundation Receives Prestigious Award

(Chagrin Falls, OH) November 8, 2010- Molly Sweeney of Hockley, TX, President and Founder of Horses and Humans Research Foundation (HHRF) has been awarded the prestigious 2010 James Brady Professional Achievement Award. The award was given this past week, during the NARHA National Conference and Annual Banquet held in Denver, Colorado.

The award is presented only once a year, in the name of James Brady by NARHA to a professional who has made a significant contribution to equine assisted activities/therapies (EAA/T). Contributions of the past have included, but are not limited to, areas such as research, publication or program development.

The development of EAA/T continues to grow at dramatic rates. It is the untiring commitment of professionals, such as Molly Sweeney, that has spurred this growth.

Sweeney is a lifelong horse-woman, born into a strongly equine-focused family. She claims that horses simply are in her genes.

One of the endorsements to nominate Sweeney read: "I write at this time to give my strongest possible endorsement and support that Molly Sweeney should be presented with the 2010 James Brady Award. Her efforts on behalf of equine assisted activities, SIRE (Houston's Therapeutic Equestrian Center), NARHA, and the Horses for Humans Research Foundation, are legion, and legend. What is even more outstanding, however, is that she has accomplished all these things with exceptional grace and kindness."

Sweeney recognized early on that all EAA/T progress would hinge on learning the facts, not relying on anecdotal input. The field could not move forward without developing evidence-based practices through the highest levels of published scientific research. She was one of the first to recognize that until rigorous research was established, everything would be held back.

When it did not appear that any existing organization was positioned to put the needed focus and funding into research – she stepped forward and established a team to create a publicly funded foundation to guarantee the needed research would be acknowledged. Her efforts in establishing HHRF have helped spread interest in and commitment to rigorously developed research, creating the momentum needed to carry it into the desperately needed depths of achievement.

At the award presentation it was stated that "Molly Sweeney has a lofty vision of a world where programming is available to all who would benefit from EAA/T, where medical and rehabilitation practitioners readily prescribe EAA/T, where equines are widely appreciated for their unique and remarkable attributes and where equine assisted activity and therapy programs receive third party reimbursement as well as generous sustainable support. What is more she is sincerely committed to turning that vision into reality. In fact, she will not stop until it is so. "

Horses and Humans Research Foundation 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 is a non-endowed foundation which relies solely on donations. To view the findings and reports of previously funded research, additional foundation information or to make a donation visit <a href="www.horsesandhumans.org">www.horsesandhumans.org</a>. For questions contact KC Henry, executive director at (440) 543.8306 or at info@horsesandhumans.org.

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