Never Forget:
PATH Int’l Center Outreach
to Gold Star Families

PATH International Region 11 Conference
June 5, 2016
About OSCTR

- Established Sept 2006
- PATH Int’l Premier Accredited Center.
- Adaptive riding for people with special needs,
- Veterans Program,
- Collaboration with HOPE Services,
- Summer Horse Camp,
- Outreach to Families of Fallen Soldiers,
- In total ~ 2000 seats in the saddle each year.
I was at a plateau personally, professionally, and spiritually. I had a breakthrough with the horses, and bridged a gap that was a huge void in my recovery.
One Step Closer Therapeutic Riding

Military Outreach

- Formal partnership with Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System to provide equine-assisted-therapy to Veterans.
- Seven V.A. depts participating,
- Currently serving 15-20 Veterans per week, year ‘round,
- Respite events for Gold Star Families and children of fallen soldiers,
- Collaboration with U.S. Army Survivor Outreach Services.
Our Fallen Heroes

Post 9/11: More soldiers from California killed in action than any other State.
Gold Star Families

- Our outreach is meant to embrace the families and let them know we will not forget them nor their loved one.
- 15-20 families including more than 20 children attend our Annual Fall Pumpkin Fun-Fest.
PATH-I Centers Can Help

- Outdoor activity, ranch atmosphere, with animals – something for everyone.
  “This is the first time I’ve not been alone”
  - Gold Star Mom’s comment to OSC

- Professionalism and Compassion: Staff and Volunteers trained to provide a safe environment.
Fall Pumpkin Fun-Fest

- Formal Honor Flag Line
- Barn tour, meet the horses
- Time with Mr. Sunshine the mini
- Games in the corral (horse-shoes, etc…)
- Horse back riding (children get priority)
- Pumpkin Patch
- Face Painting
- Catered BBQ
- Live band
- Photo opps
One Step Closer Therapeutic Riding
Fall Pumpkin Fun-Fest
exclusively for Gold Star Families

Saturday October 18
2-5pm

One Step Closer Ranch
15770 Foothill Avenue
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Horseback Riding
Pumpkin Patch
Face Painting
Games
Catered BBQ

This event is free to Gold Star Families, fully funded by the
Farrington Historical Foundation in honor of those
that served this nation, and
their loving families.

Please RSVP by calling 408-778-3567
or email to one.step.closer@sbcglobal.net
www.osctr.org
Welcome table – help your guests know what to do, where to go, etc…
Horse riding
  – Liability release forms, helmets
  – Horse leaders, sidewalkers, PATH instructor
Face Painting
Barn supervisor (tours)
Pumpkin Patch supervisor/host
Corral Games
Food service
Photographer
Some of our Veterans serve as volunteers for this event
Honor. Always Honor.

- Speak with a GSM as part of the planning process
- Contact the Patriot Guard Riders and Warriors Watch Riders
- U.S. Army Honor Guard
- U.S. Army Survivor Outreach table

- Don’t ------
  - No Taps, no Amazing Grace
  - “God needed another angel”, etc…
Gold Star Families

Some GS parents adopt their grandchildren
Honor
Warriors Watch Riders and Patriot Guard Riders arriving
U.S. Army Honor Guard
Honor Flag Line
Formal escort by U.S. Army
Guests of Honor: Each of these parents lost a son in Iraq
Guests of Honor
Guests of Honor
Guests of Honor
Guests of Honor
OSC tradition: National Anthem and Opening Prayer
Children riding with OSC regular volunteers assisting
One of our Veteran Volunteers with equine Chief
GSM gets to ride!
Face Painting
The Pumpkin Patch
The Pumpkin Patch
Mr. Sunshine (mini) visits with all the guests
Live Country Music Band
Former Bears linebacker Tim Ryan greets our guests
Nate Pleasantbey (right), U.S. Army Survivor Outreach Svcs
U.S. Army Survivor Outreach Services: Never Forget
Group Photo Setting
Our Team for the Day
Challenge Coin
• Our total cost for the Fall Pumpkin Fun-Fest was ~ $2500

• Local organizations that focus upon support to Veterans are obviously a good place to start.

• Our support came from a historical foundation that simply wanted to make a difference in the lives of children of fallen soldiers.
Connecting with Gold Star Families

- **American Gold Star Star Mothers**
  

- **U.S. Army Survivor Outreach Services**
  
  - Nathaniel Pleasantbey
    Survivor Outreach Services
    California Senior Lead State Coordinator
    Human Resources Consulting LLC, Contractor
    National Guard Armory, Bldg 960
    6th Street, Camp Parks RFTA
    Dublin, CA 94568
    E-mail: [nathaniel.e.pleasantbey.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:nathaniel.e.pleasantbey.ctr@mail.mil)
Other Gold Star Family Events

• Rented out downtown movie theater to screen the Polar Express at Christmas time.

• Summer Camp for children of fallen soldiers

• Harvest for Heroes Veterans Program Fundraiser
Additional OSC information

- [www.osctr.org](http://www.osctr.org)
- [https://www.facebook.com/OneStepCloserTherapeuticRiding](https://www.facebook.com/OneStepCloserTherapeuticRiding)
- [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfkrZExkX6Y8pHaZALHkFcQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfkrZExkX6Y8pHaZALHkFcQ)
- 15770 Foothill Avenue, Morgan Hill. Visitation by appointment only