



*"Ensuring excellence and changing lives through equine-assisted activities and therapies"*

**For more information, contact:**  
Cher Smith, Communications Coordinator  
(800) 369-7433 x 123  
csmith@pathintl.org

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### **PATH Intl. Scholarships Funded by Build-A-Bear Workshop Foundation for Children in Need**

**Denver**—The Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl., formerly NARHA), with funding from the Build-A-Bear Workshop Foundation, will provide seven scholarships for a total of \$1,800 to allow children in need to participate in a therapeutic horsemanship program. The Riders Assistance Fund will go to fund participants at seven PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Centers.

Originally, the fund was set up to give one \$300 gold-level need-based scholarship. However, thanks to the generosity of the Build-A-Bear Workshop Foundation, PATH Intl. can now give out six additional \$250 silver-level scholarships in 2012 to PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Centers.

The PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Center Program uses accreditation and licensing systems to improve the equine-assisted activities and therapies (EAAT) industry. The program gives centers the chance to demonstrate their excellence in providing quality equine-assisted activities. This voluntary process recognizes PATH Intl. Centers that have met established industry standards. The accreditation process is a peer review system in which trained volunteers visit and review centers in accordance with PATH Intl. standards. A center that meets the accreditation requirements based on the administrative, facility, program and applicable special interest standards becomes a Premier Accredited Center for a period of five years and is a leading representative of the EAAT industry.

The Build-A-Bear Workshop Foundation makes grants to qualified non-profit organizations in support of children's health and wellness, animals and the environment, and literacy and education. We thank them for their support of PATH Intl., whose mission is to change and enrich lives by promoting excellence in equine-assisted activities and therapies.

If you know of a child who would benefit from the Riders Assistance Fund, contact the [PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Center](#) near you. The deadline for scholarship applications is February 15, 2012, and the child must be born after January 1, 1994.

For information on giving to the Riders Assistance Fund, contact Megan Ream at (800) 369-7433, ext. 107, or email her at [mream@pathintl.org](mailto:mream@pathintl.org). For information about PATH Intl. or the Premier Accredited Center Program, visit [www.pathintl.org](http://www.pathintl.org).

About PATH Intl.:

*Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.), formerly NARHA, was formed in 1969 to promote equine-assisted activities and therapies for individuals with special needs. At more than 800 member centers, a total of 42,000 children and adults find a sense of independence through involvement with horses. These member centers range from small, one-person programs to large operations with several certified instructors and licensed therapists. In addition to therapeutic equitation, a center may offer any number of equine-assisted activities including hippotherapy, equine-facilitated mental health, driving, interactive vaulting, trail riding, competition, ground work or stable management. Through a wide variety of educational resources, the association helps individuals start and maintain successful equine-assisted activities and therapies for individuals with special needs. There are more than 24,000 volunteers, 2,000 instructors, 5,700 therapy horses and thousands of contributors from all over the world helping people at PATH Intl. centers.*