



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

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PATH Intl. Announces 2012 Award Winners

Denver – Each year the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.) celebrates its especially outstanding equestrians, equines, instructors, volunteers and volunteer veterinarians, and this year's PATH Intl. region recognition award winners have been posted on the [PATH Intl. Conference web site](#) along with the 2012 national adult equestrian, adult independent equestrian, child equestrian, youth equestrian, Sis Gould and PATH Intl. Equine Services for Heroes recognition award winners.

All region award winners will be recognized, and the 2012 national equine, instructor, volunteer veterinarian and volunteer of the year and the James Brady award recipient will be announced at the 2012 PATH Intl. Conference and Annual Meeting Awards Banquet in Bellevue, WA, Friday, November 2.

(PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Centers are shown in red.)

2012 PATH Intl. Winners

Adult Equestrian of the Year: Katie Parry, Region 2, **Maryland Therapeutic Riding**, Crownville, MD

Independent Adult Equestrian of the Year: Cliff Uber, Region 10, **Hearts & Horses Inc.**, Loveland, CO

Equine Services for Heroes of the Year: Cathy Davis, Region 2, **Maryland Therapeutic Riding**, Crownsville, MD (award sponsored by Bimeda/Equimax)

Youth Equestrian of the Year: Robert Wells, Region 5, **Saddle Up!**, Franklin, TN

Child Equestrian of the Year: Isaac Raske, Region 7, **Friends for Therapeutic Equine Activities**, Warrenville, IL

Sis Gould Driving Award: Orphy Beattie, Region 6, River Valley Riders, Bayport, MN

2011 PATH Intl. Regional Winners

Equine, Instructor, Volunteer Veterinarian and Volunteer of the Year

Region 1

Equine of the Year: Kennebago's Knight, **Carlisle Academy**, Lyman, ME

Instructor of the Year: Kristen McGraw, **UpReach Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc.**, Goffstown, NH

Volunteer Veterinarian of the Year: NA

Volunteer of the Year: Meryl Friets, **High Horses Therapeutic Riding Program**, Norwich, VT

Region 1 includes the following states: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont and the Canadian provinces: New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Quebec

Region 2

Equine of the Year: The One and Only, **HorseAbility**, Old Westbury, NY

Instructor of the Year: Megan Tritsch, **Maryland Therapeutic Riding**, Crownsville, MD

Volunteer Veterinarian of the Year: Heather Beaudry-St. Germain, **EquiCenter, Inc.**, Honeoye Falls, NY

Volunteer of the Year: Karen Martin, Celtic Charms Therapeutic Horsemanship, Howell, NJ

Region 2 includes the following states: Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, DC; and Scandinavia, Europe, Middle East

Region 3

Equine of the Year: Blaze the Wonder Pony, On Eagles' Wings, Fairmont, WV

Instructor of the Year: NA

Volunteer Veterinarian of the Year: Salley Banner, DVM, **Charleston Area Therapeutic Riding Inc.**, Johns Island, SC

Volunteer of the Year: Lawana Harper, **Loudoun Therapeutic Riding, Inc.**, Leesburg, VA

Region 3 includes North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia

Region 4

Equine of the Year: Presley, **Reins of Life, Inc.**, South Bend, IN

Instructor of the Year: Claire List, **Achievement Centers for Children—Camp Cheerful**, Strongsville, OH

Volunteer Veterinarian of the Year: Dr. Ron Genovese, **Fieldstone Farm Therapeutic Riding Center**, Chagrin Falls, OH

Volunteer of the Year: Diane Sennett, **Reins of Life, Inc.**, South Bend, IN

Region 4 includes the following states: Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio; and the Canadian Province of Ontario

Region 5

Equine of the Year: Chester, **Bakas Equestrian Center**, Tampa, FL

Instructor of the Year: Alice Duva, **Saddle Up!**, Franklin, TN

Volunteer Veterinarian of the Year: Dr. Todd Cooley, **Hands and Hearts for Horses**, Thomasville, GA

Volunteer of the Year: Heather Hipp, The Reece Center for Handicapped Horsemanship, Sharpsburg, GA

Region 5 includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee and Puerto Rico

Region 6

Equine of the Year: JMCJackiesGotAClue, **Equul Access, Inc.**, Hutchinson, MN

Instructor of the Year: Laurie Olson, **S.M.I.L.E.S. Inc.**, Darien, WI

Volunteer Veterinarian of the Year: Kevin Nelson, Midwest Therapeutic Riding Program, Racine, WI

Volunteer of the Year: Sandee Gould, **Freedom Farm**, Waverly, MN

Region 6 includes the following states: Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin; and the Canadian Provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan

Region 7

Equine of the Year: Champagne, **Therapeutic Horsemanship**, Wentzville, MO

Instructor of the Year: Carrie Bunge, **Friends for Therapeutic Equine Activities**, Warrenville, IL

Volunteer Veterinarian of the Year: James McCaslin, **Friends for Therapeutic Equine Activities**, Warrenville, IL

Volunteer of the Year: Madeline Jarosik, **Heartland Equine Therapeutic Riding Academy (HETRA)**, Valley, NE

Region 7 includes Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska

Region 8

Equine of the Year: Blaze Shamrock, Healing with Horses Ranch, Manor, TX

Instructor of the Year: Amy Causey, **Equest**, Wylie, TX

Volunteer Veterinarian of the Year: NA

Volunteer of the Year: Dee Miller, Turning Point Ranch Foundation, Stillwater, OK

Region 8 includes the following states: Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas; and Mexico, Central America and South America

Region 9

Equine of the Year: Dutch Treat, NorthWest Therapeutic Riding Center, Bellingham, WA

Instructor of the Year: NA

Volunteer Veterinarian of the Year: NA

Volunteer of the Year: Shannon Shields, **Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center**, Woodinville, WA

Region 9 includes the following states: Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington State; and the Canadian provinces of Alberta and British Columbia

Region 10

Equine of the Year: Sir Rocko, **Hearts & Horses Inc.**, Loveland, CO

Instructor of the Year: Beth Allman, **Front Range Exceptional Equestrians**, Fort Collins, CO

Volunteer Veterinarian of the Year: Mark Fitch, **Colorado Therapeutic Riding Center**, Longmont, CO

Volunteer of the Year: Karl Phaler, **Canter (Cochise Area Network of Therapeutic Equestrian Resources)**, Sierra Vista, AZ

Region 10 includes Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming

Region 11

Equine of the Year: Foolie, REINS-CA, Bonsall, CA

Instructor of the Year: Joan Summers, Ivey Ranch Park Association, Oceanside, CA

Volunteer Veterinarian of the Year: Richard Markell, DVM, **J.F. Shea Therapeutic Riding Center**, San Juan Capistrano, CA

Volunteer of the Year: Shane Clarke, Partners Therapeutic Horsemanship, Lakeside, CA

Region 11 includes the following states: California, Hawaii and Nevada; and Asia and Pacific

Early registration is currently offered online on the [conference page at www.pathintl.org](http://www.pathintl.org), as well as more information about conference sessions, the conference hotel, the conference travel deals and fun things to do in Bellevue.

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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, nearly 48,000 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 43,000 volunteers, 3,700 instructors, 6,000 therapy horses and thousands of contributors from all over the world helping people at PATH Intl. centers.