



“Ensuring excellence and changing lives through equine-assisted activities and therapies”

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PATH Intl. Announces Partnership With CenturyLink for Autism Scholarship Funds

DENVER – Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship (PATH) Intl.™, a leader in equine-assisted activities and therapies (EAAT), has received a grant from CenturyLink’s employee-run Family and Work Development Fund to provide EAAT for children with autism. The grant will provide 10-20 scholarships of \$250-500 each for families of children with autism at Colorado PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Centers.

The Center for Disease Control now estimates that 1 in 88 children has been identified with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). ASD is also the number one population served by PATH Intl. With the growing number of children with autism needing services, this partnership could not have come at a better time.

About the Scholarships

The scholarships will be awarded based on a family’s financial need as demonstrated to the participating Colorado PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Center. The scholarship will directly fund the cost of a child’s participation in therapeutic riding, hippotherapy, interactive vaulting, equine-facilitated learning or other EAAT programs.

PATH Intl. has contacted the Premier Accredited Centers in Colorado about their ability to accept new participants, and. is working with autism groups near the Premier Accredited Centers to encourage families of children with autism to apply for the scholarships.

The PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Center program is a voluntary, peer-reviewed process by which PATH Intl. centers demonstrate excellence in providing quality EAAT and that they have met established industry standards for the safety of all concerned. By partnering with PATH Intl. PACs, the grant from CenturyLink is assuring that the children with autism and their families are receiving care and instruction from the best that PATH Intl. has to offer.

About PATH Intl.

PATH Intl., formerly NARHA, was formed in 1969 to promote equine-assisted activities and therapies for individuals with special needs. Throughout the world, hundreds of thousands of individuals with and without special needs experience the rewarding benefits of EAAT. A physical, cognitive or emotional special need does not limit a person from interacting with horses. In fact, such interactions can prove highly rewarding. With more than 3,700 certified instructors, 6,000 therapy horses, 43,000 volunteers and 800 member centers around the globe, almost 48,000 children and adults find a sense of strength and independence through involvement with horses.

Evan Dustan, the 2010 PATH Intl. Child Equestrian of the Year award winner, exemplifies what can be accomplished through the power of the horse to change lives. When Evan, who has autism, first came to Midwest Therapeutic Riding Program, a PATH Intl. Center in Union Grove, Wis., he would hide under a blanket if new people were around, and loud noises disrupted him. But when Evan is on a horse, he is a different child. "Perhaps one of the most remarkable things about Evan is that for a child with autism, the one thing he has hung onto is his love for horses and this program," said Evan's instructor Stephanie Kubarth. "Here is a child who went from major sensory issues, shutting down and having meltdowns to a child who asks if he can ride in our fundraisers."

[Click here](#) to learn more about PATH Intl. and how the power of the horse changes lives.

About CenturyLink's Family and Work Development Fund

The Family and Work Development Fund is a partnership between CenturyLink, the Communications Workers of America (CWA) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). The objective of the Family and Work Development Fund is to provide new or expanded initiatives in the areas of child, youth, disabled adult or elder care services.

About CenturyLink

CenturyLink is the third largest telecommunications company in the United States. The company provides broadband, voice, wireless and managed services to consumers and businesses across the country. It also offers advanced entertainment services under the CenturyLink™ Prism™ TV and DIRECTV brands. In addition, the company provides data, voice and managed services to enterprise, government and wholesale customers in local, national and select international markets through its high-quality advanced fiber optic network and multiple data centers. CenturyLink is recognized as a leader in the network services market by key technology industry analyst firms and is a global leader in cloud infrastructure and hosted IT solutions for enterprises through Savvis, a CenturyLink company. CenturyLink's customers range from Fortune 500 companies in some of the country's largest cities to families living in rural America. Headquartered in Monroe, LA, CenturyLink is an S&P 500 company and is included among the Fortune 500 list of America's largest corporations. For more information, visit www.centurylink.com.

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