



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

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PATH Intl. Announces Purina as Title Sponsor of Conference in Washington

Denver –The Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.), is pleased to announce that Purina has been named the official title sponsor of the 2013 PATH Intl. Conference in Orlando, FL, November 6-9.

Purina has been a good friend and sponsor of PATH Intl. for many years, and this year marks the fourth year in a row that Purina has honored PATH Intl. by becoming the title sponsor of its international conference, the leading event targeted at the growing field of equine-assisted activities and therapies (EAAT). In addition to providing financial support to PATH Intl., Purina is also providing travel scholarships to help the equestrian award winners attend the conference.

According to Kaye Marks, PATH Intl. Director of Marketing and Communications, the PATH Intl. Conference improves the EAAT field each year by bringing together the top certified instructors and accredited center leadership as well as therapists and other professionals for the kind of communication and continuing education that is absolutely necessary for the growth and expansion of the field.

This year, the 2013 PATH Intl. Conference theme is "Destination: Success." Whether it is an instructor or equine specialist studying for certification, a center striving to meet each and every PATH Intl. standard in order to be recognized as a Premier Accredited Center, or a participant setting and meeting goals to overcome challenges, PATH Intl. desires and works toward the success of everyone involved with PATH Intl.

The theme of success is seen every day at Purina, the leader in equine nutrition for over 100 years. Purina and PATH Intl. share a strong sense of responsibility to the animals and people in PATH Intl. programs. That sense of responsibility is reflected in the uncommon quality and performance of Purina's feeds, which are backed by years of extensive equine research and feed development.

"PATH Intl. is thrilled and very grateful for Purina's title role in the conference, in the presentation of the Certified Professional of the Year Award and in the ongoing activities that support excellence in services to people with challenges throughout the year," said Marks. "The financial support and increased awareness Purina brings to PATH Intl. is invaluable.

If you would like information on sponsoring the PATH Intl. conference or wish to be an exhibitor, visit www.pathintl.org and click on "conferences international" or email Megan Ferry at mferry@pathintl.org.

Based in Denver, PATH Intl. was formed in 1969 as the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association to promote equine-assisted activities and therapies for individuals with special needs. The needs of those served include but are not limited to developmental delay, muscular dystrophy, hearing, visual and speech impairments, spina-bifida, cerebral palsy, autism, Down syndrome, and emotional, behavioral and learning challenges. Many PATH Intl. centers offer special programs for at-risk youth as well as wounded service personnel and veterans. At nearly 850 member centers, men, women and children find a sense of independence through involvement with equines in activities such as therapeutic riding, hippotherapy, equine-assisted psychotherapy, driving, interactive vaulting and competition. Of the 54,000 participants helped by PATH Intl., nearly 80 percent are under the age of 18. Today, PATH Intl. has more than 45,000 volunteers, 4,397 instructors, 6,343 therapy horses and thousands of contributors from all over the world. Information about PATH Intl. is available on its website at www.pathintl.org.