



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

**Recipient of the 2013 Equine Industry Vision Award,  
sponsored by Zoetis and presented by American Horse Publications**

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**PATH Intl. Receives \$7,500 Donation From Cavallo Horse and Rider:  
Donation Facilitated by ACTHA Shamrock Riders**

**Denver—**

ACTHA, as agent for its long time sponsor Cavallo Horse and Rider Inc., has delivered a \$7,500 contribution to the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.).

Kay Green, outgoing chief executive officer of PATH Intl., has announced the receipt of the contribution and has extended a warm thank you to Cavallo and the 500 ACTHA riders, who showed support by wearing their Cavallo boots at the events held thus far for the benefit of individual PATH Intl. Centers.

“Cavallo has had a long history of supporting ACTHA’s efforts,” stated Greg Giles of Cavallo Horse and Rider. “When we were informed of the amazing effort ACTHA was about to undertake, driving local awareness in the hundreds of communities served by PATH Intl. accredited centers all across the United States and Canada, we knew we had to get involved.”

Carole Herder, founder and president of Cavallo, continues, “The question was, what could we possibly do that could have an impact on a project of this scale?”

The answer came from Robin Tilghman, ACTHA chief operating officer. “What makes PATH Intl. Centers different is that each center and certified instructor or equine specialist in mental health and learning undergoes rigorous training that must be completed successfully before they can be credentialed by PATH Intl. There are nearly 850 PATH Intl. Centers in existence today. It’s a unique set of skills that are required to assist those in need of special assistance, especially with a horse involved. To do so safely and effectively is part of the reason for PATH Intl.’s nearly 45-year longevity.

“So when Cavallo asked, ‘where can our contribution do the most good?’ it was easy to advise them to direct the funds to that which distinguishes the centers from other centers...accreditation.”

“It was ever so tempting to give the money to the scores of centers relying on local donations and volunteers,” states Carrie Scrima, ACTHA’s founder. “But with 850 centers even the generosity of Cavallo would be blown to the wind. However, in assisting the credentialing body, ACTHA and Cavallo felt the greater good would be best served.”

ACTHA has left the rest to their marketing teams. Many centers have and are currently answering the call and getting the valuable local recognition so necessary in the completion of their wonderful mission.

ACTHA and its sponsors continue in carrying out the quest to assist as many of the 850 PATH Intl. Centers that are open to ACTHA's help. ACTHA does this by training them in holding ACTHA events. These events are wonderful repeatable fund raisers. Even more important, these events get the center's staff and volunteers out into their local communities promoting participation. The natural result is more local community awareness and support. "After all, the local community is where the greatest impact of their wonderful mission is felt," concludes Craig Dodson, director of sponsor services for ACTHA.

Since taking on this project in March of this year, more than 100 events have been held either by PATH Intl. Centers or by other ACTHA ride hosts for the benefit of PATH Intl. or a local PATH Intl. Center. Hundreds more are anticipated. The centers receive up to 75% of the entry fees and 100% of the proceeds of any ancillary events such as dog contests, silent auctions, lunches, etc. ACTHA's sponsors provide many awards and gifts, and local merchants also contribute...it's a community affair.

"PATH Intl. warmly thanks Cavallo Horse and Rider for this contribution and is very pleased to recognize them as a PATH Intl. Gold Sponsor," concludes Kay Green.

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#### **About PATH Intl.**

PATH Intl. was formed in 1969 to promote safety and optimal outcomes in equine-assisted activities and therapies for individuals with special needs. The association certifies professionals and accredits centers that each year help 56,000 children and adults with physical, cognitive and emotional challenges find strength and independence through the power of the horse.

Currently, 850 member centers offer therapeutic riding and other therapeutic horsemanship activities, including hippotherapy, equine-facilitated mental health, carriage driving, interactive vaulting, trail riding, competition, ground work and stable management. Through a wide variety of educational resources, and under the direction of the *PATH Intl. Standards for Certification and Accreditation*, the association helps individuals start and maintain successful programs. There are nearly 52,000 volunteers, 4,232 instructors, 7,503 equines and thousands of contributors from all over the world helping people at PATH Intl. Centers.