



*“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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Pictures available on request

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**PATH Intl. Grants Scholarship to Young Participant Through Riders Assistance Fund**

Denver—PATH Intl. is pleased to announce that the recipient of the 2015 Riders Assistance Scholarship is Daniel Hughes, a participant at Chastain Horse Park, a PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Center in Atlanta, GA. The purpose of the PATH Intl. Riders Assistance Fund is to assist a child who would not otherwise be financially able to participate in equine-assisted activities and therapies at a PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Center. Thanks to the generosity of its donors, in 2015 PATH Intl. was able to fund one \$300 needs-based scholarship.

Daniel, who is almost five, has the rarest of Leukodystrophy, called Alexander's Disease, and he will eventually lose his ability to walk, talk, eat or swallow. “Daniel loves riding!” said Sara Tradewell, PATH Intl. Certified Registered Instructor at Chastain Horse Park. “He gets so excited to see the horses, and he calls all horses ‘Cotton’ because that is who he usually rides. This boy is four years old, almost five, and statistically unlikely to live past age 10. He will experience a gradual neurological decline until he is no longer able to move. It’s important that he maintains and improves his strength and coordination, via activities such as therapeutic riding, for as long as possible.”

Deborah Hughes, Daniel's mother and a U.S. Army Veteran, said, “I was so excited and honored to hear of this awesome news! I cannot put together the words of thanks and appreciation for this honor. As a mother I am so humbled by this and will never be able to fully express my sincere appreciation, not only for this, but for everything Chastain does for these children (and adults).”

There were 29 applications for the scholarship, each one worthy of the scholarship to help cover the cost of lessons. Tradewell noted, “Daniel and his mom have been very dedicated to therapeutic riding since they started riding this past summer, always coming to sessions except when he has been hospitalized for various health concerns. His mother wants to fill his life with experiences that will be memorable for both of them.”

Thanks to PATH Intl. donors, Daniel and his mom will have many more memorable experiences.

If you would like to contribute to PATH Intl., visit [www.pathintl.org](http://www.pathintl.org) and click Donate Now.

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About PATH Intl.:

The Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International® (PATH Intl.®) was formed in 1969 to promote safety and optimal outcomes in equine-assisted activities and therapies (EAAT) for individuals with

special needs. At 852 member centers, more than 58,000 children and adults may find improved health, wellness and a sense of pride and independence through involvement with horses. Therapeutic horsemanship at member centers may include hippotherapy, equine-facilitated mental health, driving, interactive vaulting, trail riding, competition, ground work and stable management. Through a wide variety of educational resources, the association helps individuals start and maintain successful EAAT programs. There are nearly 53,000 volunteers, 4,544 instructors, 7,733 equines and thousands of contributors from all over the world helping people at PATH Intl. Member Centers.