



Professional Association of Therapeutic  
Horsemanship International

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

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**Hill-McQueeney Named PATH Intl. James Brady Professional Achievement Award Recipient**

**Denver** – It takes someone of great dedication, proven leadership, high ethical standards and a demonstrated ability to develop and implement innovative, creative and effective ideas to receive the PATH Intl. James Brady Professional Achievement Award. The recipient must be dedicated to the equine-assisted activities and therapies (EAAT) field and demonstrate that commitment through the delivery of service, educational contributions, support and promotion of the industry at all levels. The annual award, presented in the name of former White House Press Secretary James Brady, recognizes the contributions made to the EAAT and is presented to a professional who has made a contribution to the industry. Contributions have been in, but are not limited to, areas such as research, publication, public relations or program development.

PATH Intl. is proud and honored to name Meggan Hill-McQueeney the 2015 James Brady Professional Achievement Award winner.

Meggan is the President and Chief Operating Officer at BraveHearts Therapeutic Riding and Educational Center, a PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Center in Harvard, IL, but that is only where it begins. Meggan is also a PATH Intl. Certified Master Instructor, Evaluator, Lead Instructor and is on the PATH International Equine Services for Heroes committee, and is a Special Olympics coach.

Meggan believes in working together to achieve goals. She has collaborated with many organizations and groups that serve individuals in need in order to provide more services. Her involvement with PATH Intl., Wounded Warrior Project, Special Olympics and multiple veteran associations are just a few groups she has worked with diligently to develop transformational solutions. Her work has resulted in serving more individuals, helping BraveHearts to achieve and retain the status of having the largest veteran program in the nation serving veterans through equine-assisted activities and therapies.

Meggan is always willing to help centers develop and achieve more recognition and funding in an effort to reach more individuals. Her recent involvement with veterans is one example. She closely worked with PATH Intl. in an effort to reach more veterans by developing a curriculum to educate those individuals in our industry on how to better serve veterans. Working with the Wounded Warrior Project to reach more veterans on a national level, Meggan worked on the development of the first-ever PATH Intl./Wounded Warrior Project four-day workshop for veterans from centers around the country.

Meggan introduced the concept of adopting wild Mustangs from the Bureau of Land Management, and with her expert guidance has introduced this to veterans as a vocational skill, which has been instrumental in increasing their self-confidence, self-esteem, socialization and level of trust. Not

only has this had a significant impact for veterans, but also for the Mustangs that have been rescued from a dismal life spent in holding pens to a useful life in therapeutic horsemanship.

In conjunction with clinical psychologists and social workers, Meggan has developed innovative three-day retreats for female veterans with PTSD due to military sexual trauma; male veterans coping with PTSD and/or traumatic brain injury; returning veterans struggling with reintegration with their spouses and society; and Gold Star parents who have lost a child as a result of military service.

Marny Mansfield, the 2014 PATH Intl. Certified Professional of the Year, said, "Meggan is a true professional in the field who believes in all that our participants CAN do. She is a professional force who will continue to bring services provided in the industry to a whole new level."

Paddy McKeivitt, the Director of Operations at BraveHearts and the 2015 PATH Intl. Certified Professional of the Year, said, "Meggan offers help and guidance to anyone in need and is a true advocate of equine-assisted activities and therapies. In the past few years, Meggan has really focused on advancing our industry as a whole, challenging us to serve more individuals using innovative programming. Meggan has encouraged us to step outside the box and push ourselves to do more. Meggan's contribution to EAAT is still in full swing, and she will continue to do more in order to help more people in need."

Jeanna Sorgani at BraveHearts says, "Meggan inspires everyone whom she encounters and encourages each to attain his or her highest potential. She is a woman of perseverance, diligence and tremendous leadership. For ten years, she has been my friend and my mentor, but, most importantly, Meggan now has become my hero. I cannot wait to see what she achieves next."

Dr. and Mrs. Rolf Gunnar, co-founders of BraveHearts, wrote, "In Meggan Hill-McQueeney we see some of the finest qualities a person can possess—honesty, integrity, loyalty, deep personal faith, unflinching commitment to excellence, and passionate dedication to the EAAT industry she loves. She is most deserving of the James Brady Award."

[Click here to read about all the 2015 award winners.](#)

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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 866 member centers, more than 61,000 children and adults may find improved health, wellness, fun 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 more than 55,000 volunteers, 4,666 instructors, 7,672 equines and thousands of contributors from all over the world helping people at PATH Intl. Member Centers.