



July 28, 2016

Dear Honorable Selectman,

I am writing to you on behalf of Rising Tide Therapeutic Equestrian Center (RTTEC). They are a vital (non-profit) program to our island's physically, mentally, and emotionally disabled residents. With their PATH (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship) certified instructors and community volunteers, they offer a therapeutic interaction with horses that generally improves and enhances many lives.

Rising Tide's current riders consist of adults and children from both the MV Public Schools, MV Charter School, Homeschoolers, Island Community Counseling Center referrals (ICC), Vineyard Independent Partners (VIP), Camp Jabberwocky, along with summer residents who would like to continue with their Equine therapy while away from home. They are excited to start new programming over the next year to incorporate veterans and elderly and an unmounted equine therapy setting. The Rising Tide organization is dependent on the generosity of the island community and are so grateful for all the support they have received in previous years. In order to provide these amazing services, we are having our annual summer fundraiser. Funds from our upcoming summer fundraising event will fund their scholarship program that 90% of their riders use, along with other operational costs. The event will be a 'Craft Beer Bash' that will have local craft beer to sample, live music, raffle and silent auction.

We would greatly appreciate the use of the Chilmark Community Center for this summer's fundraiser. They work a lot with young Chilmark residents in our barn as staff and as riders. Our fundraiser will have many Chilmark families in attendance. Chilmark resident, George Burz will be sponsoring us. We are writing to you today as a request for the space of the Chilmark Community Center at no cost. The money saved on the venue will greatly help our fundraising goals, as every little bit counts!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact RTTEC via phone or email info@risingtidetec.org or myself. Their website can be found at <http://www.risingtidetec.org/>.

Thank you in advance for your consideration, generosity, and support!

Sincerely,

Leah Fraumeni
Event Coordinator on behalf of the
Rising Tide Therapeutic Equestrian Center
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OUR MISSION is to help physically, emotionally, and learning disabled children and adults improve their quality of life through interactions with horses.

What is Therapeutic Horsemanship?

Therapeutic horsemanship encompasses many activities that partner with the horse. Based on input from therapists, teachers, doctors, and parents, the client's individual goals are designed to complement ongoing therapy and education. Benefits of the equine experience are threefold:

1. **Physical** - The motion of the horse stimulates the rider much like the motion of walking. Riding also relaxes and strengthens muscles while improving muscle tone, posture, balance, joint mobility, and coordination.
2. **Emotional** - Interactions with horses provide a noncompetitive setting for learning new abilities, self-discipline, and improved concentration which all help in building self-confidence.
3. **Social** - Horseback riding nurtures a positive self-image. Riders and handlers experience independence plus a sense of being part of a team.

PATH International

Since 1969, PATH Intl. (www.pathintl.org) formerly known as NARHA, has helped therapeutic riding programs flourish throughout the country. PATH Intl. administers a certification program for riding instructors and provides guidelines for selecting riders for whom for therapeutic riding activities are suitable and appropriate.

Rising Tide Therapeutic Equestrian Center Inc. is currently a PATH member with three certified riding instructor.

Who is Served by PATH Intl.'s Members?

Individuals with the following disabilities commonly participate and benefit from equine facilitated therapy and activities:

- Muscular Dystrophy
- Cerebral Palsy
- Visual Impairment
- Deafness
- Learning Disabilities
- Mental Retardation
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Spina Bifida
- Emotional Disabilities
- Attention Deficit Disorder
- Down Syndrome
- Autism
- Spinal Cord Injuries
- Cardiovascular Accident/Stroke
- Brain Injuries
- Amputations

