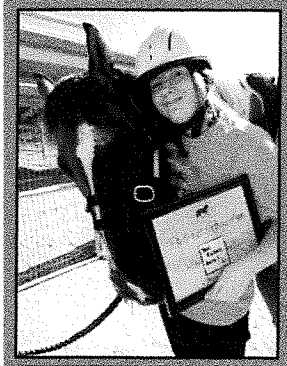
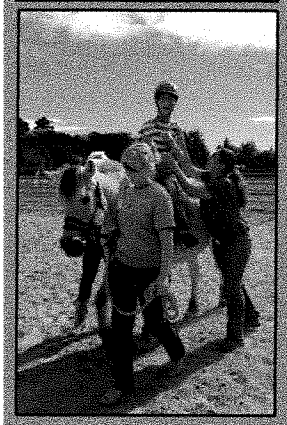
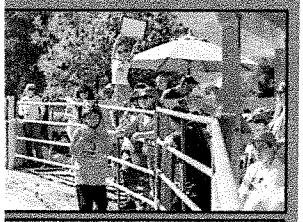
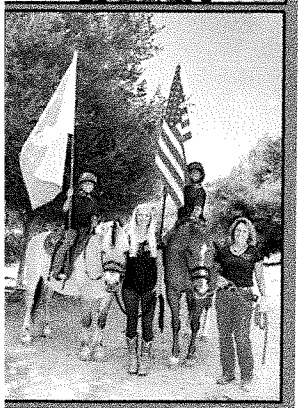
Santa Ynez Valley
WALK TROT HEAL
Therapeutic Riding









May 1, 2016

Ms. Adriana de Bruin
Business Manager, County Executive Office
105 E. Anapamu Street, Room 406
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear County Supervisors and Ms. Adriana de Bruin,

Thank you so much for your past support of our HELP program for the Los Prietos Boys Camp. We are grateful for the opportunity to request a $4,000 program grant. Funds will be used to pay for direct program costs for our Horse Enlightened Learning & Psychotherapy (HELP) program for the Los Prietos Boys Camp. 80 unduplicated boys from the Los Prietos Boys Camp participate in this program annually. It is a free program to Los Prietos and in return, the boys do chores and volunteer during our Therapeutic Riding lessons. The HELP program rotates between group therapy with Dr. Wilkinson and horsemanship. Boys from rival gangs work together with the calming, accepting presence of horses to work on leadership, decision-making and group behavior.

The Santa Ynez Valley Therapeutic Riding Program ("the Program") is a 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1990. The Program is a "Premier Accredited Center" with PATH International, the highest international rating. Our mission is to provide quality equine assisted activities to children and adults with physical, cognitive, social, emotional and or other life challenges, regardless of their ability to pay. 298 unduplicated people were served in 2015. 78% are under 18 years of age and 70% of our students/clients are low-moderate income.

Therapeutic Riding

- Individual and group therapeutic riding lessons to children and adults with special needs
- Patriot Riders (free weekly Veterans' program)
- Solvang School's Special Education Class
- SYV High School's Special Education Class (vocational training)
- United Cerebral Palsy Applied Abilities
- Vandenberg Air Force Base Field Days for special needs children
- Annual Riders Roundup Horse Show and BBQ for all students

HELP (Horse Enlightened Learning & Psychotherapy)

- Los Prietos Boys Camp Program with psychologist, Dr. Wilkinson (weekly)
- School programs with the Lompoc Unified School District

Our website, www.syvtherapeuticriding.org, offers parent comments and student video. We are ratifying our 2016-2018 Strategic Plan this May and have a formal Development Plan. Thank you so much for your consideration and very generous past support.

Sincerely,

Robin Serritslev
Executive Director

County of Santa Barbara

FY 2016-17 Outside Agency Funding Request Form

Deadline for Submission: Monday, May 2, 2016, 5:00 p.m.

The Board of Supervisors *may* consider funding requests from outside agencies during the **FY 2016-17** budget hearings in June 2016, if funding is available. An allocation of funding to outside agencies is not guaranteed.

Please submit the following by **5:00 p.m., Monday, May 2, 2016, NO EXCEPTIONS, via Email or Hardy Copy (postmarks will not be accepted)**:

1. Provide a cover letter explaining your request; and
2. Fill out this application (no more than 2 pages); and
3. Attach the Line Item Budget spreadsheet (no more than 2 pages) for the agency's program request

Hearings are scheduled for June 13, 15, and 17, with Outside Agency Requests considered on one of these days (yet to be determined). The **requesting agency must be represented and present**; please plan accordingly.

Total Request: $ 4,000
Name of Organization: Santa Ynez Valley Therapeutic Riding Program
Title of Program: HELP (Horse Enlightened Learning & Psychotherapy) New or ongoing program? Ongoing
Location(s) of services delivered: 195 N Refugio Road, Santa Ynez, CA 93460
Name of Agency Executive Director: Robin Serritslev
Phone #: 805-325-1544 Email: robinserritslev@hotmail.com Website: www.syvtherapeuticriding.org

1. Briefly summarize the purpose of the program, why the funds are needed, and the benefit to the community:

The Horse Enlightened Learning & Psychotherapy (HELP) program is an adjunct form of effective group therapy. The HELP program has served 594 unduplicated people since its inception and focuses on the Los Prietos Boys Camp and special education classes (where students have mental health diagnoses). This program serves youth from throughout the County. We are seeking funding for the HELP program for the Los Prietos Boys Camp. We will provide mental health and horsemanship sessions for 80 boys annually in this program. The focus of this program is empathy, leadership, decision-making and anger management. The Los Prietos Boys Camp does an excellent job of rehabilitating youth offenders. The HELP program serves as an effective form of therapy in a positive, outdoor setting where the boys both earn the right to come and work for their services. Funds are needed for the direct costs of this program and the County has generously funded this program from 2012-2015.

2. Briefly summarize the service to be provided and how many people will be served:

The HELP program involves eight adolescents per session from the Los Prietos Boys Camp focusing on issues of self-esteem, anger management, self-confidence, empathy, anxiety, depression, communication and social skills. The boys earn skill cards each week. The weekly class has a specific curriculum facilitated by a licensed psychologist, working with a certified horse professional. The mental health program utilizes a herd of horses in the arena where students are asked to do various exercises with the horses, sometimes without the use of halters or ropes, using only body language. The clients then process their experience with the psychologist in order to understand their own behavior and feelings. Staff at the Camp have been impressed by the way that boys from rival gangs work together and are at ease with themselves at our program. The boys do chores and help in our therapeutic riding lessons in exchange for the sessions. Attendance to our program is earned at Camp. The classes rotate weekly between horsemanship and mental health.

3. Detail the timeline for providing the service:

This is an ongoing program offered every Thursday afternoon from 2:00-4:00 year round. Boys earn the right to attend based on their behavior at Camp. Eight boys attend each week. Average attendance is five times.

4. Describe key outcomes to be achieved with the funding and how they will be measured:

The HELP program is confidential, but the boys earn the right to attend the program. The Los Prietos Boys Camp provides a guard and transportation. The Los Prietos Boys Camp feels that the boys are gaining meaningful experiences and send them to our program. Evaluation has been difficult to track in this program, but we are willing to implement a new evaluation program.

5. Describe if this is a one-time or ongoing request, and if funded in prior years and amounts:

This is an ongoing request. The County generously funded this program in 2012-2015 in the amount of 4,415 per year. The HELP program began in November of 2009.

Thank you so much for your support and for your consideration.

6. Describe the agency's expertise and capacity to deliver services including fiscal stability:

The Santa Ynez Valley Therapeutic Riding Program is a PATH International (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship) Premier Accredited Center. Instructors are certified. Volunteer therapist, Margaret Wilkinson, Ph.D. is a licensed and insured psychologist with extensive experience in coaching for Fortune 500 Companies. We are ratifying our 2016-2018 Strategic Plan this month (after three board retreats) and have a 3-month cash reserve.

7. Agency staff responsible for application: Robin Serritslev

County Staff Comments Only:

Address submittals to:
Adriana de Bruin
Business Manager, County Executive Office
105 E. Anapamu Street, Room 406
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Requests can be emailed to: *outsideagency@countyofsb.org*

Questions: Please contact Adriana de Bruin, Business Manager, County Executive Office, at 568-3400.

FY 2016-17 Line Item Budget
For Program

Agency: Santa Ynez Valley Therapeutic Riding Program
Program Name: HELP program
Amount $$ Requested: $4,000

Program Budget	**FY 2016-17**	
Funding Sources/Revenues	**Committed**	**Uncommitted**
County of Santa Barbara		4000
Herbert & Gertrude Latkin Foundation	2000	
Los Olivos Rotary		1000
Total	**2000**	**5000**

Funding Uses/Expenses	**Budget**
Psychologist (volunteer)	0
Certified PATH Instructor Wages (100 hours)	2800
Horse Care Expenses	2500
Facility Expenses	1300
Workers Comp Insurance	400
Total	**7000**