



One Step Closer™

THE RAPEUTIC RIDING

**Never Forget:
PATH Int'l Center Outreach
to Gold Star Families**

PATH International Region 11 Conference
June 5, 2016

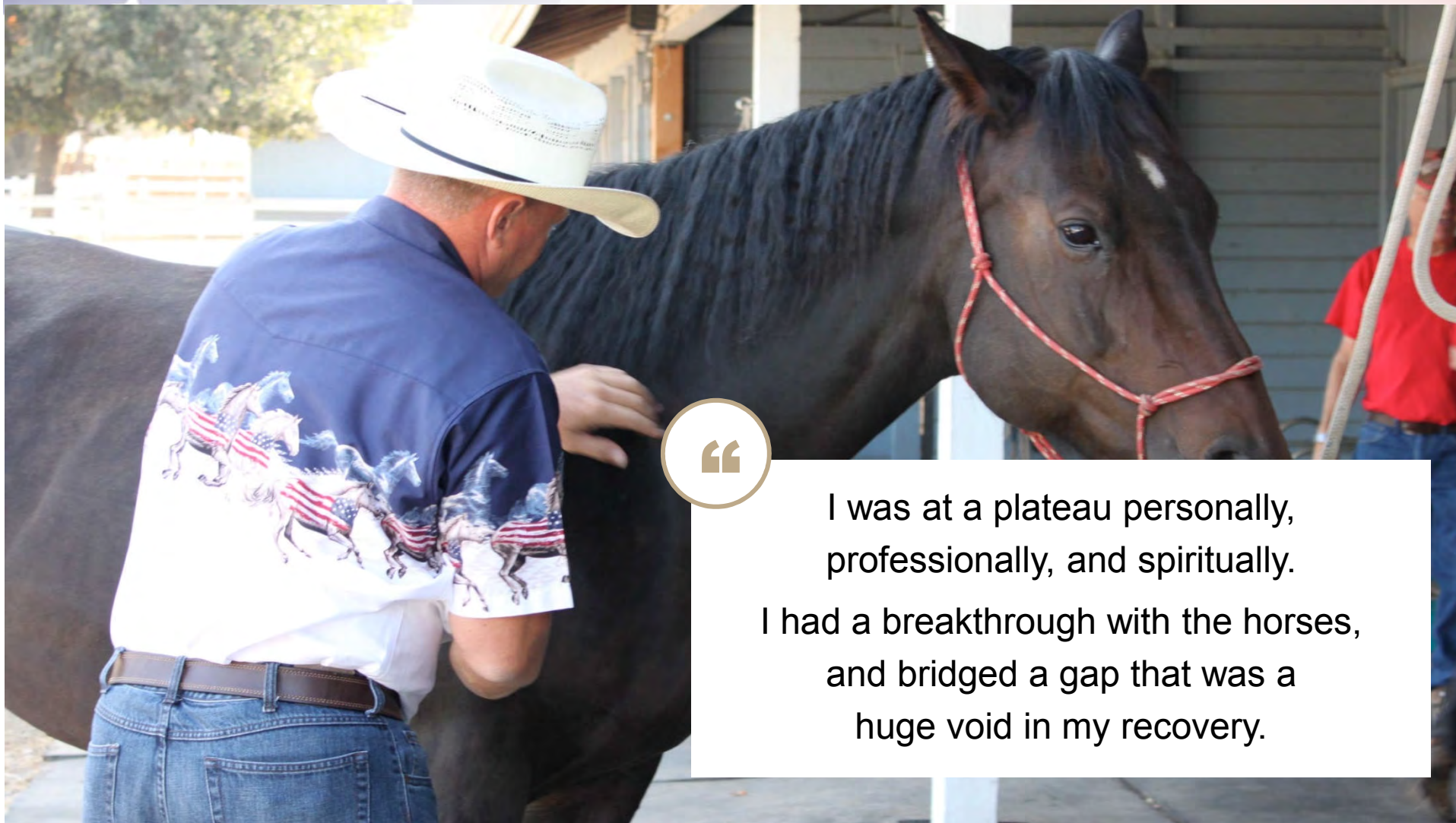
One Step Closer Therapeutic Riding

About OSCTR

- Established Sept 2006
- PATH Int'l Premier Accredited Center.
- Adaptive riding for people with special needs,
- Veterans Program,
- Collaboration with HOPE Services,
- Summer Horse Camp,
- Outreach to Families of Fallen Soldiers,
- In total ~ 2000 seats in the saddle each year.



One Step Closer Therapeutic Riding Veterans Program



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I was at a plateau personally, professionally, and spiritually. I had a breakthrough with the horses, and bridged a gap that was a huge void in my recovery.

One Step Closer Therapeutic Riding

Military Outreach

- Formal partnership with Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System to provide equine-assisted-therapy to Veterans.
- Seven V.A. depts participating,
- Currently serving 15-20 Veterans per week, year 'round,
- Respite events for Gold Star Families and children of fallen soldiers,
- Collaboration with U.S. Army Survivor Outreach Services.



Our Fallen Heroes



LCpl Jeramy Ailes



Pfc Michael Balsley



1 Lt Kenneth Ballard

Post 9/11: More soldiers from California killed in action than any other State.

Gold Star Families



- Our outreach is meant to embrace the families and let them know we will not forget them nor their loved one.
- 15-20 families including more than 20 children attend our Annual Fall Pumpkin Fun-Fest.



PATH-I Centers Can Help

- Outdoor activity, ranch atmosphere, with animals – something for *everyone*.
 - “This is the first time I’ve not been alone”
 - Gold Star Mom’s comment to OSC
- Professionalism and Compassion:
Staff and Volunteers trained to provide a *safe* environment.

Fall Pumpkin Fun-Fest

- Formal Honor Flag Line
- Barn tour, meet the horses
- Time with *Mr. Sunshine* the mini
- Games in the corral (horse-shoes, etc...)
- Horse back riding (children get priority)
- Pumpkin Patch
- Face Painting
- Catered BBQ
- Live band
- Photo opps



**One Step Closer Therapeutic Riding
Fall Pumpkin Fun-Fest
exclusively for Gold Star Families**



**Saturday October 18
2-5pm**

**One Step Closer Ranch
15770 Foothill Avenue
Morgan Hill, CA 95037**

**Horseback Riding
Pumpkin Patch
Face Painting
Games
Catered BBQ**

This event is free to Gold Star Families, fully funded by the Farrington Historical Foundation in honor of those that served this nation, and their loving families.



**Please RSVP by calling 408-778-3567
or email to one.step.closer@sbcglobal.net
www.osctr.org**



Volunteer Assignments

- Welcome table – help your guests know what to do, where to go, etc...
- Horse riding
 - Liability release forms, helmets
 - Horse leaders, sidewalkers, PATH instructor
- Face Painting
- Barn supervisor (tours)
- Pumpkin Patch supervisor/host
- Corral Games
- Food service
- Photographer
- Some of our Veterans serve as volunteers for this event

Honor. Always Honor.

- Speak with a GSM as part of the planning process
- Contact the Patriot Guard Riders and Warriors Watch Riders
- U.S. Army Honor Guard
- U.S. Army Survivor Outreach table
- Don't -----
 - No Taps, no Amazing Grace
 - “God needed another angel”, etc...



Gold Star Families



Some GS parents adopt their grandchildren



Honor



Warriors Watch Riders and Patriot Guard Riders arriving



U.S. Army Honor Guard



Honor Flag Line



Formal escort by U.S. Army



Guests of Honor: Each of these parents lost a son in Iraq



Guests of Honor



Guests of Honor



Guests of Honor



Guests of Honor



OSC tradition: National Anthem and Opening Prayer



Children riding with OSC regular volunteers assisting



One of our Veteran Volunteers with equine Chief



GSM gets to ride!



Face Painting



The Pumpkin Patch



The Pumpkin Patch





Mr. Sunshine (mini) visits with all the guests



Live Country Music Band



Former Bears linebacker Tim Ryan greets our guests



Nate Pleasantbey (right), U.S. Army Survivor Outreach Svcs



U.S. Army Survivor Outreach Services: Never Forget



Group Photo Setting



Our Team for the Day



Challenge Coin

The background of the slide features a stylized American flag with a blue field of white stars on the left and red and white stripes on the right. The word "Funding" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font across the center of the flag.

Funding

- Our total cost for the Fall Pumpkin Fun-Fest was ~ \$2500
- Local organizations that focus upon support to Veterans are obviously a good place to start.
- Our support came from a historical foundation that simply wanted to make a difference in the lives of children of fallen soldiers.



Connecting with Gold Star Families

- American Gold Star Mothers

<http://www.goldstarmoms.com/DeptChapters.htm>

- U.S. Army Survivor Outreach Services

- Nathaniel Pleasantbey

- Survivor Outreach Services

- California Senior Lead State Coordinator

- Human Resources Consulting LLC, Contractor

- National Guard Armory, Bldg 960

- 6th Street, Camp Parks RFTA

- Dublin, CA 94568

- E-mail: nathaniel.e.pleasantbey.ctr@mail.mil



Other Gold Star Family Events

- Rented out downtown movie theater to screen the Polar Express at Christmas time.
- Summer Camp for children of fallen soldiers
- Harvest for Heroes Veterans Program Fundraiser



Additional OSC information

- www.osctr.org
- <https://www.facebook.com/OneStepCloserTherapeuticRiding>
- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfkrZExkX6Y8pHaZALHkFcQ>
- 15770 Foothill Avenue, Morgan Hill. Visitation by appointment only