

"Ensuring excellence and changing lives through equine-assisted activities and therapies"

For more information, contact: Cher Smith, Communications Coordinator (800) 369-7433 x 123 csmith@pathintl.org

## November 2012 PATH Intl. and Colorado Gives Day – Give Where You Live

**Denver-** On December 4, 2012, PATH Intl. is excited to participate in Colorado Gives Day, an event sponsored by FirstBank and the Community First Foundation that encourages philanthropy in the state of Colorado through online giving. Each donation made to PATH Intl. on this day will receive a percentage of the \$300,000 incentive fund provided by FirstBank, so your donation will help PATH Intl. do more in your community.

Don't live in Colorado? Colorado Gives Day is open to everyone, and since PATH Intl. believes that your donation should benefit your community, we encourage residents of all of our 11 regions to donate through Colorado Gives Day. (A region's donations will be determined by the donor's zip code unless a different region is specified by the donor.) As an added incentive, the region with the most money raised and the region with the largest number of unique donations will both receive a free registration to their respective 2013 regional conference. Conferences include lectures from leading industry professionals, hands-on workshops and the best possible networking opportunities for anyone involved in therapeutic horsemanship.

PATH Intl. is committed to providing equine-assisted activities and therapies (EAAT) for individuals with special needs, and your donations help us certify instructors and equine specialists, accredit centers, promote interest in and knowledge of (EAAT) and so much more. Last year our member centers touched over 54,000 individuals with a variety of disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injuries, and down syndrome, as well as serving participants with emotional or learning challenges, such as post-traumatic stress disorder and at-risk youth. We are also proud to be partnered with Wounded Warrior Project through PATH International Equine Services for Heroes, allowing our nation's returning service members access to the highest standard of therapeutic horsemanship.

Visit our <u>website</u> to find out more about PATH Intl., and follow this <u>link</u> to sign up and donate on December 4, 2012, Colorado Gives Day!

-30-

## About PATH Intl.:

Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.), formerly NARHA, was formed in 1969 to promote equine-assisted activities and therapies for individuals with special needs. At more than 800 member centers, more than 54,000 children and adults find a sense of independence through involvement with horses. These member centers range from small, one-person programs to large operations with several certified instructors and licensed therapists. In addition to therapeutic equitation, a center may offer any number of equine-assisted activities including hippotherapy, equine-facilitated mental health, driving, interactive vaulting, trail riding, competition, ground work or stable management. Through a wide variety of educational resources, the association helps individuals start and maintain successful equine-assisted activities and therapies for individuals with special needs. There are more than 45,000 volunteers, *4,300 instructors, 6,300 therapy horses and thousands of contributors from all over the world helping people at PATH Intl. centers.*