



Hope and Healing in Harmony

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For Immediate Release



HARMONY HILL SCHOOL CELEBRATES OPENING OF NEW EAGALA THERAPY PROGRAM ON CAMPUS

Harmony Hill School is proud to announce the addition of an Equine Assisted Psychotherapy Program for youth this spring.

Chepachet, RI, May 3, 2017 — Harmony Hill School (HHS) held a “Meet & Greet” session last Friday with their students, staff, and board members to announce the soft opening of their new EAGALA (Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association) Psychotherapy Program on their school campus in Chepachet at 63 Harmony Hill Road. Harmony Hill School’s Clinical Director, Cheryl Raposa, LICSW and two other staff at Harmony Hill School will be fully certified EAGALA Trainers this May. Until HHS staff is fully trained we will be working closely with Kristy Dudley, Rhode Island Networking Coordinator for EAGALA and owner of Equine Empowerment Solutions, as well as Danielle Gauvin of EnShanting Farms located in Glocester, RI.

Raposa, Dudley, and Gauvin provided a short presentation which showcased Harmony Hill School’s new corral that was completed this spring. Beginning in mid-May, Harmony Hill students will be offered the opportunity to begin work with the EAGALA Model on a weekly basis.

Harmony Hill School is part of The EAGALA Network of more than 4,400 Mental Health Professionals and Equine Specialists in 50 countries. EAGALA professionals are trained and credentialed to offer The EAGALA Model exclusively to their clients. Horses are uniquely sensitive to the feelings of those around them and respond in ways which reflect aspects of ourselves and our relationships. The EAGALA Model is an innovative, ethical set of best practices that builds on the human/horse connection to help people learn more about themselves and to use that learning to change their lives.

Why horses you may ask? Well according to EAGALA, Equine Assisted Psychotherapy and Personal Development Programs are experiencing rapid growth around the globe. Equine assisted work often helps clients change and grow more effectively and quickly than traditional clinical and psycho-educational approaches. Research shows horses add a compelling dimension to the clinical experience. They serve as powerful living metaphors and stand-ins for the challenges and opportunities clients face in their lives. EAGALA also suggests that when the client has the opportunity to practice new coping

skills with a 2,000 pound herd animal whose survival depends on their ability to read and react to the inner turmoil of those around them, experience leads to change because the process is real, practical and sustainable.

The EAGALA Model prides itself on its Team Approach. Under the EAGALA Model, both a licensed, certified Mental Health Professional and a certified Equine Specialist work together collaboratively at all times to assure clients get the therapeutic attention and support they need as they make life changes. The EAGALA Model involves no riding or horsemanship, making it both safe and effective. Clients work directly with horses face-to-face on the same footing in order to better perceive the horses actions and reactions as they work to process and solve their life challenges.

Harmony Hill School Clinical Director, Cheryl Raposa, LISCW explains that, "Harmony Hill School also prides itself on a team approach. Working together as a collaborative and cohesive unit with our youth and their families allows us to provide the stability and support that many of them are searching for when they come to our organization". Raposa adds, "The ability to provide alternative and innovative programming for our youth allows us to reach them in a number of non-traditional ways. As members of the EAGALA Network we are excited to offer a new, exciting, and effective approach for our youth through the use of Equine Assisted Psychotherapy".

There will be an official grand opening and dedication ceremony for the new program later this fall after the start of the new school year. For more information related to the new EAGALA program as well as all of the other programming available at Harmony Hill School, please visit the newly redesigned website at www.hhs.org.

*Please be advised that the children and adolescents here are entitled under Federal and State law to confidentiality as to their identity and treatment here at Harmony Hill School, Inc. Therefore no front facing photos or descriptive or identifiable information of our boys may be disclosed to others.

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Information about Harmony Hill School:

Since 1976, Harmony Hill School, Inc. has been providing high-quality treatment and education to children, adolescents and their families in safe, predictable environments. Continually evolving to follow evidence-based practices and to meet individual and community needs, we remain committed to our mission to serve individuals with social, emotional, behavioral and learning challenges. Professional staff builds on identified strengths, offering individuals and families the opportunity to realize their potential by validating experiences and facilitating healing. For more information about Harmony Hill School please visit www.hhs.org

Information about EAGALA:

EAGALA is a non-profit professional organization with over 4,500 members in 50 countries. EAGALA is committed to setting the standard of professional excellence in how horses and people work together to improve the quality of life and mental health of individuals, families and groups worldwide.
www.eaqala.org

Featured below are Photos that were taken on 4/28/17 at the Soft Opening Presentation of The New Harmony Hill School Corral for the new EAGALA (Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association) Psychotherapy Program:



Pictured Above: Harmony Hill School (HHS) Students enjoy some time in the new HHS Corral with one of the horses brought in by Danielle Gauvin from EnShanting Farms of Glocester, RI during the “Meet & Greet” event held on April 28th with their students, staff, and board members to announce the soft opening of their new EAGALA (Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association) Psychotherapy Program on their school campus in Chepachet.