RanchHorse RoundUp

**Helping our Warrior Vets**

National Versatility Ranch Horse Association

5925 Omaha Blvd, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80915

RE: NVRHA Ranch Horse Round Up / Helping Our Warrior Vets

Dear_____,

Colorado Springs has long been known for its strong military presence with active duty and retired personnel who call the Front Range, "home." **The needs of our soldiers can include both seen and unseen injuries.** Once home, soldiers and families often experience difficulty regaining their bearings. It is indeed difficult on the entire family. *As one in-service military and her disabled military spouse so aptly put it when thanked for their service, "We point to our children and say, 'It's not us, it's them. They have the toughest job.'"*

Based on these truths and great needs, the National Versatility Ranch Horse Association (**NVRHA**) and Kit Carson Riding Club (**KCRC**) have again joined forces to put on the **2nd Annual Ranch Horse Round Up/Helping Our Warrior Vets** event in 2016.

**What is a "Ranch Horse Round Up?"** This weekend event teaches horse and rider pairs who have a heart for helping veterans and their families the traditions of Ranch Horse Riding (cutting a cow from a herd, penning a cow, riding through and around ranch obstacles, plus reining and riding patterns). Many have said it is the most fun thing they have ever done with their horse. *This important fundraising event takes place the weekend of 7/30/16 at Kit Carson Riding Club in Colorado Springs*. 100% of net proceeds benefit our Warrior Vets and their families.

**NVRHA and KCRC have selected three local nonprofits** with this same focus to receive the net proceeds from the Ranch Horse Round Up event: Warrior Wellness Foundation at the Air Force Academy, the YMCA, and Pikes Peak Therapeutic Riding Center. You will also find a brief description of each recipient organization.

We are reaching out to ask your consideration in providing a child or veteran the opportunity to participate in horse-related therapies and/or programs. Support needs are listed on the next page. *Your donations through this event are tax deductible. NVRHA is a 501(c)(3).* Please contact one of us with any questions or clarification needs.

With gratitude,

Dave Currin (719) 641-9191/ NVRHA

Mickey Althouse (719) 313-0523 / KCRC

Visit the Event Webpage: www.NVRHA.org

Visit us on FB: ranchhorseroundup2016

/RHRUpPersonalSponsorshipLtrMay9

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## Horses Are Important in Helping Military Families Heal

"There's something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man" - Winston Churchill

## What Your Donation Can Provide

Whether you are a veteran or a proud friend or family member of a veteran, we hope you will join us in honoring our Warrior Vets and families by supporting the NVRHA 2nd Annual Ranch Horse Round Up. Each organization selected to benefit from the NVRHA / Ranch Horse Round Up Event has equestrian programs specific to the help and healing of our "Warrior Vets" and their families. *Donations that come to NVRHA through this event can be specified as to which program to earmark your support.* Here are the options:

**YMCA "Camp Corral"** - a 5-day military camp for children of fallen or disabled vets ($750.00 per child).

**Pikes Peak Therapeutic Riding Center (www.pptrc.org)** - Operation Mack - Healing With Horses program is designed specifically for active and inactive military and is designed to address the special rehabilitative needs of military service members and veterans with traumatic brain injuries, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, amputation and other disabilities. Soldiers relax in the presence of the horses, and are able to receive and reflect on feedback from the horse much more easily than other settings. The cost is $1,000 per eight-week session ($125 per lesson).

**Warrior Wellness Foundation/Program - Air Force Academy** - Various programs for Warrior Veterans from all branches of service and their children include: (1) Knights of Heroes Trail Rides (rides for spouses and children of fallen warriors) for $35 one hour and $15 each additional hour, (2) Riding Lessons for warriors and families ($40/lesson), (3) Equestrian Warrior Camps,$60) (4) Wilderness Programs ($1,500), (5) Equine Assisted Learning, (6) Half-Day Summer Horse Camp ($60 per child), and (7) Mentorship Programs.

Warrior Wellness Foundation Mission Statement: "To help the Warrior to once again be physically mobile and mentally strong in order to fulfill their God-given potential to be fathers, mothers, and citizens of this great country."

**Donation Levels and Donor Benefits are listed on the following page.**

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## Personal Sponsorship (Donor) Levels for NVRHA Ranch Horse Round Up

| | |
|---|---|
| **Platinum**: Donation of $2,000.00 or more | **Gold**: Donation of $1,000.00 or more |
| **Silver**: Donation of $500.00 or more | **Bronze**: Donation of $250.00 or more |
| **Friend of Warrior:** Amounts up to $249.00 | |

**For donations received prior to July 15, 2016**, our **Bronze through Platinum Sponsors Receive** a framed photo from the event and a commemorative poster, as well as the following:

**(1) Recognition at the Event: A)** Your Name and Sponsorship Level displayed on Event Banner posted at Main Gate **B)** Sponsorship List inserted into Participant Packets, **C)** Name announced each day of Event, and **D)** Easel board display of Sponsors in check-in/awards room. **(E)** Opportunity to present an award at close on Sunday, 7/31

**(2) Recognition on Event Facebook Page and,**

**(3) Recognition on Event Website.**

***All Donors will receipt a tax deductible receipt from NVRHA, a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit organization*** *(consult with a tax specialist)*

**Donating? Any amount helps! Please submit the following information and mail to NVRHA office address at top of page.**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Donor's Contact Name(s) and Phone Number(s)** | Name:<br>Phone # ( )-_____ - _____ |
| **Address: (City, State, Zip Code)** | |
| **Email Address** | |
| **Paid by Check**<br>**Check #**<br>**$_____ Amount** | ***Make Check Payable to NVRHA and mail to NVRHA at:***<br>5925 Omaha Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO 80915<br>Attn: Robin Mercier |

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## Testimonial from 2015 Participant

### Molly Flores, Age 13

### Daughter of Army Reservist/Prior Active-Duty/Army National Guard (Mother)

### and 90% Injured Warrior Vet (Father)

When I rode in the NVRHA event to support our Warriors at Kit Carson Riding Club's last year, I had many emotions. I was proud that I could partake in such an event that supported the women and men that served. It helped me grow a bigger ambition and a greater need to do my best. It helped push me to work harder and thrive to help raise money for our veterans. Knowing I was helping people other than myself is what made me just show up.

When I rode in the event clinics, I felt happy I was doing something I love for a cause that I greatly appreciate. I wished more and more that the day wouldn't end. I was helping people and I love the feeling I get of accomplishment. At the end of the day I was overjoyed. I had helped raise money for my country's wounded. By Molly Flores, age 13

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# Horses are Important in Helping Military Families Heal

## How I Live as a Military Child by Molly Flores, Age 13

We all have our ways of coping with things. In the beginning I felt angry. I felt that my country was taking away my parents. I felt the United States Flag stood for death and war. But over the years I have learned a new meaning for the flag. Our flag doesn't stand for death or war, but it stands for remembrance and freedom. It symbolizes the wars we have won and the wars we have lost. It stands for each and every living and not living thing in our country. It's a symbol of what we have achieved. I fought against my anger and found a type of peace. I found a realization of what being a military child stands for. Yes it means that we are proud children who support our parents. Being a military child also means we are mentally strong and that we are able to grow from the experiences we have that other children don't.

We all cope with our feelings differently. To me horseback riding was my escape from reality. When I am on a horse I feel free. I don't have anybody telling me what to do. It's a companionship. I don't worry if I am going to see my parents when I wake up the next day. I don't worry about trying to help raise my brothers if something happens to one of my parents. I'm free. There is nothing holding me down. All my anger resolves and I'm happy. Riding isn't the only thing that helped me. I also found counsel in sports. I released my anger in swimming, splashing the water as if it was my enemy. I played volleyball, the ball was my focus not my parents.

I found now that my parents fight for me. They fight for my siblings, they fight for themselves. They fight so that my generation will be able to continue the legacy. They fight so we can live our lives without worrying about an enemy breaking down our doors and slaughtering us. Being a military child is not easy. But it is an honor. Whenever I see someone in uniform I don't hesitate to thank them for protecting our nation and everything we stand for. Being a military family, we treasure every moment we have together. We never know when a moment will be the last.