

TEAM VELVET, Inc.

A not-for-profit 401(C)(3) Charitable Organization to Help Traumatized Children

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Susan Edwards, Ph.D
Phone: (609) 924-4330
E-Mail: sedwardsnj@earthlink.net

New COLORING BOOK to Help Traumatized Children Experiencing Death of a Loved One

Published by and available from Team Velvet, a non-for-profit charitable organization

RARITAN TWP., N.J. September 19, 2019 — Sales of a new children's coloring book *Santa Claus Visits Heaven*, will benefit Team Velvet Inc., a non-profit organization that helps children overcome trauma through interaction with horses.

The coloring book will help children who have lost a parent. The story is about a young boy whose father dies of cancer. The boy writes a letter to God asking to bring his father back. The letter ends up on Santa's desk instead, and after consulting with Rudolph who was orphaned quite young, Santa decides to visit Heaven to find out how to help the young boy.

The book is written and illustrated by Dr. Susan Edwards, founder of Team Velvet Inc.

The story is based on the experience of her cousin David whose father died of cancer when David was just 5 years old.

"Children are visual thinkers," said Dr. Edwards, "and they need to be able to picture that love never dies. This book presents images to help them understand."

The cost of printing the book was covered by Rick Reilly a.k.a. Santa Rick of Hunterdon.

Santa Claus Visits Heaven is available for a donation of \$15 per copy plus \$2 postage and can be ordered at www.teamvelvet.com or ordered prepaid through the mail to Team Velvet Farm, PO Box 359, Ringoes, N.J., 08551.

The book may also be purchased on Nov. 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Team Velvet Fundraiser horse farm located at 79 Old Clinton Road, Flemington, N.J., when Santa Rick and the horses will also be available for holiday photos. The rain date is Nov. 10.

Families will be have a special opportunity to have a family holiday photo taken with Santa and his Christmas horses for a minimum donation of \$10 per sitting. Lead therapy horse Velvet will be dressed as Santa, Precious the Haflinger mare will be dressed as Mrs. Claus and the miniature horse, Little Annie dressed as Elfkin. Visitors must bring their own camera. Insurance regulations prevent smoking and pets on the farm.

About Team Velvet:

Each day there is a child who experiences the death of a loved one, is a witness to violence, is victimized by crime or intense bullying, is disfigured by an accident, or experiences countless other events — all resulting in severe childhood trauma.

If left unaddressed, in the extreme, child trauma may cause flashbacks, blackouts, and may result in severe damage. Team Velvet, Inc. provides multi-modal horse therapy for traumatized children ages 5 to 12 years with psychologist Dr. Susan Edwards. Therapy horses may be involved in interactive games, kick a soccer ball, dance or be taught liberty performance. Children do not ride the horses; they interact while working toward goals of increased self-esteem and resiliency.

See www.teamvelvet.com or call 609-924-4330 for more information.

About Santa Rick

Santa Rick, of Stockton, N.J. is a kindhearted Santa with a natural beard and a real twinkle in his eyes. He has been spreading Christmas cheer in Hunterdon County, New Jersey and surrounding areas since 2007. Santa Rick can be reached at 908-268-8597.

Photo captions:

Santa Rick Reilly presents a check to Team Velvet to cover the cost of printing a coloring book, *Santa Claus Visits Heaven*. From the left is Team Velvet board member, Dr. Kathy Piparo, with Precious; volunteer Christina Piparo with Little Annie; Santa Rick, and Dr. Susan Edwards with Velvet. (Photo by Lillian Shupe)

Lead therapy horse, Velvet welcomes Santa Rick to Team Velvet.