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Team Velvet

When faced with news stories of horrific events affecting children, I seldom comment as our horse farm may be providing equine mental health therapy for some of the kids involved. School violence, automobile fatalities and most recently, school bus tragedies such as that in Paramus, NJ, all provide a backdrop of the unpredictability of trauma crashing into the lives of children and changing them forever.

As a result of the increasing frequency of these serious needs, Team Velvet Inc. is establishing a Child Trauma Fund to allow us to provide a funding base in order to offer immediate non-mounted horse therapy services for child victims. As we are staffed by volunteers, we are able to adapt our own schedules to meet a child's needs. We are not, however, able to forego our own facility and program costs in order to do so. One of our most recently appointed Board Members, Dr. Kathy Piparo, will be heading the Child Trauma Fund Initiative so we can expand our services when needed. To illustrate the importance of such a program, if we had approximately \$15,000 in such a fund at the present time, we could provide intensive horse therapy scholarships for ten Paramus children from the bus accident on a twice-weekly basis for the next 4 months.

Can you help us? Please contact me [Dr. Susan Edwards, 609-924 4330 or 609-216-1910] or Dr. Kathy Piparo [908 303 3855 or kpiparo64@gmail.com] for further information. Donations may be sent to Team Velvet Farm, PO 359, Ringoes, NJ 08551 or through PayPal at www.teamvelvet.com which is our website. All donations are tax-deductible as Team Velvet Inc. is a 501 c-3 organization and we thank everyone who has offered us encouragement and support in helping us help children of profound loss.

Susan Edwards, PhD