

## **PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION - BIG AWARD FOR SMALL HORSE**

Flemington, N.J. – Little Annie is a miniature horse who helps children suffering from trauma. She also stars in *Little Horse Big Medicine*, which won a Winnie Award at the 2018 Equus Film Festival held in Brooklyn, N.Y. from Nov. 29 to Dec. 2. The story is told from Annie’s point of view as she is the film’s narrator.

*Little Horse Big Medicine* won in the Equus Category ‘Horses As Healers’ [mini category] . The short film depicts the experience of Peggy, a young girl faced with traumatic loss after her best friend dies unexpectedly. In the film Peggy receives horse therapy at Team Velvet Inc. with Little Annie and psychologist/program director Dr. Susan Edwards.

“We are thankful to receive this honor from the Equus Film Festival,” commented Dr. Edwards. “As more people learn about the healing combination of horse therapy with pediatric psychology, children’s resiliency over loss can be strengthened.”

Each day there is a child who experiences the death of a loved one, witnesses violence, is victimized by crime or intense bullying, disfigured by an accident or other countless events — all resulting in severe childhood trauma. In the extreme, child trauma may cause flashbacks, blackouts or may make a child want to die. Team Velvet Inc., a nonprofit 501(c)-3 [EIN#26-2167394] organization, provides multimodal horse therapy for traumatized children ages 5-12 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 over trauma.

Team Velvet, Inc. provides multi-modal horse therapy for traumatized children ages 5 to 12 with psychologist Dr. Susan Edwards, who wrote the script as privacy laws protect actual clients. The nonprofit leases a Flemington farm and continues to seek a benefactor to donate a permanent facility-- a legacy farm-- for the work.

Film credits include: Publisher Lillian Shupe [owner/publisher of [tapintohorses.com](http://tapintohorses.com) and a leader of the Centaurs 4-H Club in Hunterdon County] and acting cast Rita Cleary [WDVR disc jockey of the program Country Round-Up] and her two granddaughters Molly and Lucy. Team Velvet Inc. Board Member Kathy Piparo [also a Hunterdon 4-H leader] and daughters Christina and Natalie handled the horses helped behind the scenes.

Shupe’s brother David Ryan of Bordentown, N.J., provided editing services and his wife Deirdre, a professional photographer, and daughter Jayden came to the farm for supplemental filming.

When members of her Hunterdon 4-H Club started volunteering with Team Velvet Inc. in capacities including fundraising, Lillian Shupe suggested making the movie. “I suggested the creation of the Equus Film Festival video to help raise awareness of the special power of nonmounted horse therapy for children and, hopefully, in turn raise funds toward the purchase of the farm.”

To learn more about Team Velvet see [www.teamvelvet.com](http://www.teamvelvet.com).

The annual EQUUS Film Festival was held at the WYTHE Hotel in Brooklyn, N.Y., Nov. 29 to Dec. 2 with three days of equine films, Directors Panels, filmmaker Q&As, social events, WINNIE Awards and more.

The international program included more than 30 feature length films and documentaries along with over 35 equestrian shorts.

To learn more about the Equus Film Festival see [www.equusfilmfestival.net](http://www.equusfilmfestival.net)