

**MEMORANDUM**  
**OFFICE OF THE**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**COUNTY OF PLACER**

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Robert M. Weygandt, Supervisor District 2  
Mike Boyle, Assistant County Executive Officer

**DATE:** June 8, 2010

**SUBJECT: COMMENDATION** – Present a Commendation congratulating “Ride-To-Walk” on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their therapeutic horseback riding program that serves children and young adults with neurological disabilities.

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

Present a Commendation congratulating “Ride-To-Walk” on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their therapeutic horseback riding program that serves children and young adults with neurological disabilities.

**BACKGROUND/COMMUNITY BENEFITS**

Ride-To-Walk is a nonprofit organization that provides equine-assisted therapy to children in our community with neurological disabilities. Ride-To-Walk is about overcoming limitations, strengthening bodies and spirits and empowering children who live with disabilities.

On June 19, 2010, Ride-To-Walk will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the first annual Ally 5K Run. Ally Ellis was a 4-year-old rider at Ride-To-Walk that passed away on December 7, 2009. The proceeds from the event will benefit the Ally Memorial Scholarship Fund to raise funds for children that need Ride-To-Walk services but cannot afford them.

This Commendation is in support of the service provided by Ride-To-Walk and extends congratulations on their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of providing services to neurologically disabled children and young adults in our area.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None

**In the matter of a Commendation congratulating  
"Ride-To-Walk" on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their  
therapeutic horseback riding program that serves  
children and young adults with neurological disabilities.**

**WHEREAS**, Ride-To-Walk is a therapeutic horseback riding program founded in 1985 by Dr. Kristine Corn. The program began with one pony named Freckles and four riders; and

**WHEREAS**, Ride-To-Walk received non-profit status in 1988 and is certified by the North American Handicapped Riding Association (NAHRA); and

**WHEREAS**, their mission statement reads, "Ride-To-Walk offers an innovative therapeutic horseback riding program that is adapted to the individual needs and disabilities of neurologically handicapped children and young adults serving the counties of Placer and Sacramento by providing a positive support system"; and

**WHEREAS**, in June 2010, Ride-To-Walk will celebrate 25 years of service by sponsoring their first annual Ally 5K Run in honor of Allison Ellis, a 4-year-old rider at Ride-To-Walk that passed away December 7, 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, this event is in honor of the hard fought battles, and their victories over them, faced daily by people and families living with neurological disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, Ride-To-Walk serves children and young adults with disabilities such as autism, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, attention deficit disorder, head trauma and sensory processing challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, there are numerous benefits to horseback riding regardless of the disability being addressed through the program; such as, increased confidence, bonding with the horses, patience, increased self esteem, a sense of responsibility and value, increased flexibility, balance and muscle strength for riders with physical disabilities and a sense of accomplishment; and

**WHEREAS**, while there are a variety of programs that put disabled children on horseback for recreational purposes, Ride-To-Walk is currently the only program in this area that focuses on the therapeutic aspects of this activity; and

**WHEREAS**, Ride-To-Walk has earned a reputation as a successful intervention program for children and young adults with neurological disabilities and is recognized for their success by both Alta California Regional Center and the North American Handicapped Riding Association.

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE KNOWN** that the Placer County Board of Supervisors takes great joy in congratulating Ride-To-Walk on their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and wishes them great success in the future as they provide this valuable therapeutic program to children and young adults needing their services.

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Kirk Uhler Supervisor, District 4  
Chairman 2010

F. C. "Rocky" Rockholm  
Supervisor, District 1

Robert M. Weygandt  
Supervisor, District 2

Jim Holmes  
Supervisor, District 3

Jennifer Montgomery  
Supervisor, District 5