

MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Kirk Uhler, Supervisor, District 4.

DATE: September 22, 2009

SUBJECT: REVENUE SHARING – Approve appropriation of \$250 in Revenue Sharing monies to the Ride to Walk *Therapeutic Horseback Riding Program* as requested by Supervisor Uhler (\$250).

ACTION REQUESTED

Approve appropriation of \$250 in Revenue Sharing monies to the Ride to Walk *Therapeutic Horseback Riding Program* as requested by Supervisor Uhler (\$250).

BACKGROUND/COMMUNITY BENEFITS: In approving the following contributions, the Placer County Board of Supervisors finds that each and every approved contribution serves a public purpose by promoting the general welfare of the County and its inhabitants therefore a benefit results to the County.

The Board of Supervisors is being asked once again to approve appropriations to help support the Ride to Walk *Therapeutic Horseback Riding Program*. Ride to Walk is a local therapeutic riding program for children and adults with neurological disabilities such as Autism, Cerebral Palsy and Muscular Dystrophy. The physical and occupational therapists on staff custom design therapy programs for each rider. The funds designated towards this popular program will help to defray operational costs of the organization.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds are available in the Revenue Sharing budget.

Ride To Walk Needs Your Help!

Friends,

Ride To Walk (RTW) is facing a severe financial challenge (see "Director's Message" on page 2). **We have just found out that our funding through Alta is being eliminated.** Alta is one of a network of 21 regional centers in California established by the Lanterman Mental Retardation Services Act of 1969. Alta is a private nonprofit corporation working under contract with the California Department of Developmental Services; however, the California legislature has stated that the funding for such programs as RTW is being eliminated for at least a year because of state budget cuts. This will happen immediately.

Without funding from Alta, RTW will have a very difficult time continuing to serve the children who are currently in our program and will not be able to offer the program to any newcomers.

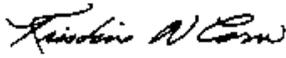
We realize that we are always asking for help in one form or another—either donations or volunteer assistance—but this is an unprecedented serious situation that we are facing for the first time in 26 years. We have had financial difficulties in the past; however, none that are close to this magnitude.

You have witnessed, first hand, the gains that RTW has made with your children and the children of your friends and colleagues. We simply cannot let lack of funding stifle our children's progress.

Please take a moment to think about how you can help. Of course, financial support is of prime importance at this time; however, you can also help by lobbying local businesses that you frequent and asking their support for this community organization. We will do our part as well—we have already retained the services of one of our volunteers to write grant proposals. Large grants from foundations and charity organization are now essential to the continuation of RTW.

Your donations are tax deductible. Please enclose the form below with your check or credit card information, or visit our website at www.ridetowalk.org to donate using our secure online form.

Thank you so much!



Kristine Corn, PT, MSPT, DPT



_____		_____	
First Name		Last Name	

Company			

Address			

City	Zip	Home Phone	Cell Phone

Credit Card Number	Expiration	Security Code	

Amount			

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

316



Director's Message

By Kristine Corn, PT, MSPT, DPT

Will we survive the financial crisis? That is a major question on everyone's mind these days. Difficult financial concerns have touched most of our lives this past year. We still don't know how the economic slump will affect RTW. All of the children in the program are funded by Alta California Regional Center (Alta), which receives its funding from the State—frightening thought seeing how there is still no budget in place. What will happen to many of our riders? For some of the children in the program, this is the only therapy they receive.

Will we just become paralyzed and do nothing or can we mobilize and be proactive for these children? RTW is in its 26th year of serving children with developmental disabilities. For many years, the program existed solely through membership dues, fundraisers, and donations. Then, Alta gave us its blessings and provided not quite one-half of the amount needed for each child to ride once weekly; therefore, the program has been providing a partial scholarship for each child. I believe that all the parents see the value the program provides for their child with a disability. The RTW riding program is a significant therapy service provided for their child at no cost to them. In order to help the staff and voluntary board of directors, and to make ends meet, several of the parents help us with our annual fundraisers; however, this does not adequately cover program costs. Our property manager, Terry Campbell, has developed the boarding program as a creative way to utilize the property and significantly boost the revenue to RTW. Rob and Nikki Pane, parents, have developed and run the Niello VW Ranch Run, helping not only generate funds but recognition and awareness of the program. Rob is also currently bringing other fundraising ideas to the table that could substantially help support our efforts to keep the riding program viable.

I am asking each and every one of our parents, volunteers, and supporters to help us find the necessary funds to keep our children riding should we no longer receive funding from the State through Alta. If you have the means by which to provide funding, connections to individuals or organizations who would be willing to offer support, experience with grant writing and would be willing to assist with grant writing, or anything else that would offer significant support, please step forward and give us a hand.

The Board is also currently working with an estate-planning attorney in an effort to develop a planned giving program that could provide funding in the future. As I have spent the last 26 years of my life voluntarily developing the RTW program, I would like to ensure that it will be in existence many years from now to serve the needs of children and young adults with special needs. The program provides the children with a marvelous means of physical, emotional, social, and cognitive development while they enjoy the companionship of an equine friend and the many volunteers who so willingly give of their time to help them succeed.

If you have ideas or know of ways that you can help support our riders, please step forward and help us out.



Executive Director

Kristine Corn, DPT

Board of Directors

Steve Quintana
President

Mary Taverna
President-Elect

Mary King
Secretary

Joe Canale
Treasurer

Victoria Bottini Curtis
Director

Kenneth Powell
Director

Advisory Council

Tom Cosgrove, Councilmember
City of Lincoln

Gina Garbolino, Mayor
City of Roseville

Jim Gray, Councilmember,
City of Roseville

Tony Monetti, Superintendent,
Roseville Joint Union High
School District

Kitty O'Neal, News Anchor,
KFBK Clear Channel

Richard Pierucci, Superintendent,
Roseville City School District

Robert Weygandt, District 2 Super-
visor, Placer County

Robert S. Taylor, MD, Physician

