



Imagine hearing this – “*I’m sorry. Your child has Autism. There is no cure and there is no hope. Find a good program or institution.*” These are words from 50 years ago. Words that unfortunately are still used today. It does **not** have to be that way. Would you believe that only \$500 can bring hope to a child with Autism for 10 weeks? It can.

Thanks to donors like you there is hope. Hope to overcome challenges and obstacles. Hope to become an integrated member of the community. Hope to overcome one of the biggest childhood afflictions of our times - Autism. How? Through the power of a therapy horse, supported by donors like *you*.

Take Rhiannon. A beautiful, inquisitive, loving, bright child who began losing her words around 16 months of age. Then, she lost her smile. She crawled into a darkness that was her own. A darkness called Autism. It had taken her away from her family. But she was instinctively drawn to something that would become her hope - horses. And, she knew it.

Every day when traveling past the horses near her home, the car had to stop. The windows were rolled down - even in the dead of winter. Then, the silent communication between Rhiannon and the horses began. The car could not move until Rhiannon approved without a meltdown occurring. No one thought twice about her attraction to the horses. Rhiannon’s mother and grandmother loved horses and both rode. Her great-grandfather owned horses. It was a family thing, or so they thought.

Then there was a pony ride. A simple, basic pony ride going clockwise in a circle at a farm fair on a tired pony. Smiling, laughing, and listening with no coaxing, no effort, no meltdown. Holy cow! What the heck just happened?! Was there something more to this horse thing? The road that would bring Rhiannon to Partners For Progress had begun. But her parents were unsure they could afford the therapy they just knew could change her life. They knew horse related activities were *very* expensive. They did not realize they would have help and hope. Help from donors like *you* making a program like this affordable through a donation of \$1,000 for a 20 week session.

Rhiannon came to PFP at the age of 6 and had many of the challenges that make up Autism. Challenges like low muscle tone, audio processing difficulties, motor planning deficits. Challenges like communication and speech barriers that bring on meltdowns. Challenges like lack of social skills and self injury due to lack of spatial awareness.....and on and on and on. Can you *imagine* losing your world to live like this? Can you imagine *your child* living out their life in this world? Partners For Progress cannot because we **know** there is hope - hope through the therapy horse and the support of incredible, *compassionate* donors like *you*.

Today, Rhiannon is 12. It has been a long road for her, and there is still more road to travel. But she has accomplished so much through therapy.....her only therapy.....therapy with a horse. First, Rhiannon got her words back and the hope grew larger. Her hypotonia, eye contact, patience, motor skills, task to task transitioning skills, social skills, ability to listen and take direction, and language skills have improved beyond imagination. **Beyond** what her parents had been told was possible. Most people are *amazed* when they learn about where she started out so long ago.



Rhiannon has spent the past two summers volunteering at the barn learning life skills, job skills, and barn skills in addition to her weekly therapy. She has gone from our Power Hour program to now riding in the Interactive Vaulting program. This year, she completed her fourth year as a member of the PFP Special Olympics Team, winning two gold medals. She has begun initiating relationships, helping others, and sharing what she knows with them.

Rhiannon is becoming what we all desire for our children - an able, integrated member of her community. It has taken a team effort to get Rhiannon here. **You** have been a very integral part of that team. You, and your support of PFP, have made this possible for Rhiannon and all of the riders at PFP.

Your support of Partners For Progress brings hope to families like Rhiannon's. How? It makes therapy with a horse obtainable. **Your** support helps create our healthy, sound horse therapists. It helps provide them with the proper feed, veterinarian care, and training that is needed. Your support allows them to perform as a top level athlete and therapist. They can then lovingly give this complex, integrated therapy to riders like Rhiannon. A therapy which no man made machine can give.

This therapy with the horse integrates *every* part of the brain and body. It is a therapy that helps those bodies to work the way they were meant to. A therapy that gives a child self-confidence and trust in their abilities. It creates an unexplainable, magical bond between the horse and its rider. It is a therapy that *changes lives forever*.

Lives like Rhiannon's, and lives like *yours*. Your support shows your community that *there is hope* for those with Autism, and other special needs. Hope through therapy with a horse.

A child's future deserves to be full of hope. For children like Rhiannon, that future is in *your* hands. **Your support** of PFP *makes it possible* for them to have this hope. Your support makes it possible for them to afford this life changing therapy. Compassionate donors like you help them achieve the lives they dream of. Productive, integrated lives giving back to their communities.

At this incredible time of year when all children are filled with hope and dreams, won't you please help give hope for a child like Rhiannon? There are many different ways in which your help gives hope. Every donation, even the smallest of donations, **MAKES A DIFFERENCE**. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Diane Helgeland

Diane Helgeland, Executive Director



Rhiannon & her teammate

P.S. Your donation today *means everything* to the future of our participants. **Please help** them achieve their dreams *by giving them hope*. **Thank you!**



How YOUR Donation Brings HOPE To The Participants At Partners For Progress

Full veterinarian care, feed, tack, and training for a therapy horse for one year is \$10,000.
A full year of therapy sessions and hope for a child like Rhiannon with special needs is \$3,000.

Basic veterinarian care and shoeing for a therapy horse for one year is \$1,500.

A half year of therapy sessions and hope for a child with special needs is \$1,500.

10 weeks of therapy sessions and hope for a child at Partners For Progress is \$500.

10 weeks of therapy sessions for a veteran filled with hope at Partners For Progress is \$500.

One week of grain for our therapy horses is \$500.

One week of shavings for our therapy horses is \$500.

Spring/fall shots and deworming for a therapy horse for one year is \$300.

Dental work for a therapy horse for one year is \$100.

Remember – EVERY donation, even the smallest of donations, **MAKES A DIFFERENCE.**

Thank you!

**I am pleased to donate \$ _____,
giving hope to those like Rhiannon at Partners For Progress.**



Rhiannon in the beginning.....a year ago.....and today.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Cell Telephone: _____

Check #: _____ Amount _____

Credit Card #: _____ MC _____ VISA _____

Expiration Date: _____ Sec. Code: _____

Amount: _____

Signature: _____

Donate online at www.partnersforprogressnfp.org and click on the **DONATE** button. Thank you!

