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Hudson Valley New York Chapter

Minis on the Move at Autism Walk

By: Grace Murphy
Mar 29, 2010

A small herd of miniature horses will be back, welcoming supporters at the annual Hudson Valley Autism Walk and Expo at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds on April 25, 2010. The endearing horses - Annie, Penny, and Captain Morgan - are part of the therapeutic team from *A Horse Connection* (AHC), a non-profit Hudson Valley organization that provides equine-assisted therapy programs for those with special needs.

The special bond between horses and those with autism spectrum disorder promotes a unique and effective treatment strategy. Interactions with the minis demonstrate this and petting, grooming, and walking the horses will be encouraged.

Nancy King, MS OTR/L, Executive Director of *A Horse Connection* and AHC volunteers will be available to provide assistance and information about equine assisted therapy. According to Nancy, "*A Horse Connection* understands that there is something very special about horses, and that clients of all ages, with varying life challenges, respond to them in such a way that their therapy program can be fun, motivating, and fulfilling. It also remains challenging, outcome driven, and goal-oriented."

A Horse Connection, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization offering equine-assisted therapy in the Hudson Valley. Staffed by occupational, speech, and physical therapists, *A Horse Connection* provides treatment for a wide range of disorders including autism spectrum disorders, cerebral palsy, traumatic

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brain injury, and ADHD. The AHC mini herd travels to serve special needs groups at nursing homes, schools, special events, and even birthday parties.

The Autism Walk is organized by the Autism Society Hudson Valley subchapter of the national Autism Society of America to raise funds for local programs, raise awareness, and connect families to local services.

Contact: Nancy King (845) 417-4646

email info@ahorseconnection.com

Web <http://www.ahorseconnection.org/>

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Autism Society
4340 East-West Hwy,
Suite 350
Bethesda, Maryland
20814

Find us on:

