



BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

KELLER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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2D. Action

TO: BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

DATE: August 9, 2004

ACTION: APPROVAL OF SOLE SOURCE ACCREDITED EQUINE THERAPY CENTER IN TARRANT COUNTY

Rocky Top Therapy Center, founded in 1990, is accredited through the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association (NARHA) and is located on a working ranch in Keller, Texas. It is the only accredited center of its kind in Tarrant County. This therapy center provides a wide variety of therapeutic services involving equine activities for people with disabilities, ages 2 years through adulthood.

This center not only offers therapeutic riding programs which address the physical needs of the clients, but also offers the 'Right TRAIL' program for at risk youth. The 'Right TRAIL' program is the fastest growing service being offered at Rocky Top. Changes in the social structures of society coupled with a lack of cohesive family life can create distressed youth who may turn to unacceptable behaviors, such as drugs and crime, in order to cope. The 'Right TRAIL' program utilizes horses, a low elements challenge course, and other experiential activities along with counseling to help youth improve their lives. Degreed professionals and certified facilitators work closely with school counselors, teachers, probation officers and judges to provide this program to children ages 9-18 years of age.

Rocky Top provides an extremely important and beneficial service to the Keller ISD community by helping to reduce problems for these at risk youth and help to positively turn their lives around.

Durham Transportation has generously agreed to donate driver and bus costs for transporting students to Rocky Top.

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The administration recommends that Rocky Top Therapy Center be approved a sole source accredited equine therapy center in Tarrant County for use by Keller Independent School District as presented.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Kern,
Director of Purchasing