

## **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

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## Horses Helping Heroes Project Receives \$6,000 Grant from Coalition to Salute America's Heroes

Donation will fund equine-assisted activities and therapies for wounded veterans

*SMITHFIELD, VA* (March 28, 2013) – The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes (Coalition), a leading not-for-profit organization dedicated to rebuilding the lives of severely <u>wounded veterans</u> of the War on Terror, today awarded a \$6,000 grant to the <u>Horses Helping Heroes Project</u>. The grant will fund no-cost, equine-assisted activities and therapies for wounded veterans in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia.

"The Horses Helping Heroes Project is an award-winning program, and we have heard about and witnessed the outstanding work they do for our wounded veterans," said David Walker, President & CEO of the <u>Coalition to Salute America's Heroes</u>. "We're pleased to award this grant to fund sessions for the veterans we both exist to serve, and we are confident that the activities and therapies provided will enhance their recoveries immeasurably."

The Coalition's \$6,000 grant will help fund introductory and advanced sessions during the Fall of 2013. Participants in these classes will be military veterans with special needs and such disabilities as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, brain injury (both traumatic and anoxic), spinal cord injury, amputations, orthopedic issues and stroke.

"We're proud of the work we do here, and we're proud that a blue-chip organization like the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes has deemed us worthy of their support," said Debi Demick, Program Director with the Horses Helping Heroes Project. "Their contribution will fund more than 200 hours of service to our wounded warriors, and will undoubtedly raise our profile so other organizations and individuals will step up to support our work."

## About the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes

The Coalition to Salute America's Heroes, based in Leesburg, VA, has provided an invaluable lifeline to thousands of America's wounded veterans since its establishment in 2004. The Coalition is distinguished from other veteran-focused organizations by its direct financial assistance to America's wounded heroes. Its Emergency Financial Aid program has stopped foreclosure proceedings on veterans' homes and kept their vehicles from being repossessed. The organization regularly provides gift checks to cover meals, medical and utility bills, clothing, car repairs and even baby diapers.

For more information on the Coalition, and to learn how you can support its mission, visit <u>www.saluteheroes.org</u>.

## **About Horses Helping Heroes**

The Horses Helping Heroes Project, based in Smithfield, VA, uses the centuries-old relationship between man and horse to build a partnership based on need and trust that enriches the lives of both the human and the horse. The Project provides an opportunity for veterans to work one-on-one with horses to build self-esteem and self-confidence, improve mobility and focus and enjoy the company of other veterans and volunteers. HHHP is a member of the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl) and the Therapeutic Riding Association of Virginia (TRAV). In December 2011, the Project was awarded the Commonwealth's FLITE (First Lady's Initiatives Team Effort) Award and was an Opportunity Hall of Fame inductee.

For more information, visit www.HorsesHelpingHeroesProject.com.

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