



August 16, 2023

To Whom it May Concern:

As the Director of Community Partnerships with Thorne Nature Experience, I am writing to enthusiastically offer my support for Medicine Horse and the important work that they do in our community. Thorne and Medicine Horse have worked together since 2021 on programming for our community, and it is our intent to continue this collaboration for years to come.

Thorne's mission is to build Earth stewardship by providing youth with joyful, hands-on, place-based environmental education experiences that foster an emotional connection to nature. One way that we achieve this mission is through the Nature Kids/Jovenes de la Naturaleza collective impact project, which brings together diverse partners to engage low-income, primarily Latino/a/x families in Lafayette, CO in accessing nature. Each year, NKJN engages over 15,000 underserved youth in meaningful outdoor activities on a continuum from pre-K to High School as well as through career pathways and family-integrated programming.

Medicine Horse is one of the partners doing this important work with us through both one-on-one therapy and group programming. Engaging with horses through Medicine Horse's programs offered families a unique way to connect with the natural world. In addition, many of the families and youth we engage have experienced serious trauma in their lives. Working with Medicine Horse, the whole family is able to gather, connect in nature, and create positive experiences together. In addition, they also provided eight six-week scholarships for individual therapy to further support participants with high need. Programming was bilingual, as many of our families do not speak fluent English and therefore would typically not be able to access valuable opportunities such as these.

Our experience with Medicine Horse for youth programming has been very positive. Families have shared the deep value they have experienced through this program, and we consistently have a waitlist for those who want to participate in these therapeutic opportunities. We urge you to support their proposal to continue to offer services for Boulder County youth; please don't hesitate to reach out directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Rachel Brett".

Rachel Brett  
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