

**Gina Trujillo, Principal**  
**Erin Brueggeman, Dean of Students**

820 Main Street • Longmont, Colorado 80501 • (303) 678-5662 • Fax: (720) 652-8006

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To Whom It May Concern:

August 21, 2023

I'm writing in support of Medicine Horse Equine Therapy and their amazing work with our students from the Main Street School in St. Vrain Valley Schools.

In the Spring of 2023 my team at Main Street School, a public school for students with Special Education Individualized Education Plans, brought 10 students to Medicine Horse for 6 sessions of equine therapy. Our students are among the most heavily impacted socially and emotionally within SVVSD, often coming from traumatized backgrounds, so this was not your typical group of young people, nor is Medicine Horse a typical intervention.

The highly structured, well-crafted, and professional therapeutic experience the staff at Medicine Horse brought to our students has been *nothing short of life changing*. Session by session, our students challenged themselves; gaining confidence, being still and present with the horses, and also becoming present and willing to engage with the therapists and volunteers. Week by week, our students looked forward to their trips to the ranch; it became a theme in which they engaged deeper in their school and academic lives, their home lives, and has led to exceptional growth in their overall emotional functioning. Knowing the myriad of services our students engage with and have received throughout much of their lives, I can confidently say that Medicine Horse is among the most positively impactful.

If you are able to support Medicine Horse in their work with young people, it will be funding well allocated. As a public educator for 27-years working with struggling populations, it's a special moment when I feel like we're winning. With Medicine Horse, we have found a new community connection that we plan on returning to again and again. They're helping our kids pull off a huge win for themselves. Please feel free to reach out for a follow up conversation, as needed.

Kind Regards,



David Cavanaugh-Keyek  
School Counselor  
Main Street School  
St. Vrain Valley Schools

303-702-7635  
cavanaughkeyek\_david@svvsd.org