



Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team (AMURT) North West



Grassroots Community Development & Disaster Relief

To Whom it May Concern

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Funding application for Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT)

Government data, released by the Ministry of Justice, shows 874 criminal offences were committed by children aged between 10 and 17 in the Liverpool council area in 2017. Crimes committed in Merseyside are on the rise, with 2017 having the highest knife crime conviction rates in six years – an increase of 7% in the last year, according to police. Children living in deprived areas are statistically more at risk of falling into criminality, and are often targeted and lured into criminality through a mistaken belief they are being offered friendship, protection and a better lifestyle (source: Liverpool Echo 16th June 2018 & 4th November 2018).

AMURT North West is a branch of AMURT UK, a charity (registered charity no: 327216), which helps improve the quality of life for the poor and disadvantaged, and those affected by crises and conflict. We will shortly be launching an Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) programme in Liverpool, in partnership with Park Palace Ponies, which will be aimed at disadvantaged children and young people aged 4-12 years in and around the L8 postcode for a 24-week period, initially. We believe this programme will provide these children with the positivity, connection and joy to help curb these trends and the increase in crime within the local community.

The foreseen objectives of this programme will be focused around:

- Interaction with the ponies through grooming sessions
- Indirect pony care such as helping out with mucking out
- Opportunity for the children to experience riding
- Teaching love, patience, empathy and compassion
- Tackling social isolation
- Teaching individuals the importance of responsibility and self-worth through the animal's reliance on them
- Promoting community inclusion by encouraging our clients to become familiar with their local area and residents
- Providing a safe and relaxing environment where individuals can unwind, and stress can be relieved



- Providing the opportunity for integration through incorporation of conversation and communication throughout the programme
- Providing the opportunity for further education in a relaxed environment.

We have student volunteers from The University of Liverpool's horse-riding society committed to run this programme. For many of our volunteer's, passion for the positive impacts of AAT comes from personal experiences of the transformational effects that animals can have on behaviour and socialisation.

Please find below some testimonies:

Caitlin's testimony; "I have personally seen the therapeutic benefits of horses through seeing my friends autistic son speak to me for the first time because he felt relaxed due to the presence of a horse, he began to open up and it was a really special moment for me. Horses can do remarkable things for so many people, not just those with additional needs. They inspire confidence and allow people to trust, they also make superb listeners for people and can give them the opportunity to open up to other humans too".

Rebecca's testimony; "I have seen the benefits that working with horses has on both my own life and those around me. I watched how shy young children could become confident when around horses, it creates a great way for children to make friends and has as much social benefit as it does physical. There was a young teenager with challenging behaviour, he was constantly swearing and refusing to listen to anyone. After a few lessons I saw a total transformation in his behaviour, he became a really caring, well behaved boy who would have a laugh with you, but listen to instructions given".

The cost per session for one child on this programme is £17.75. We are seeking sponsorship (partial or full) and/or partners for this programme, please find attached a sponsorship form.

We would like your kind consideration in this matter, as this programme has the potential to positively impact disadvantaged children in the local community.

Yours faithfully,

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