

## Questions for Tenants

Hahamongna Watershed Park Annex

Prepared March 30, 2006

City of Pasadena • Department of Public Works • Parks & Natural Resources Division

- **What is your organization's mission? Our mission statement is:**

Move A Child Higher (MACH 1) provides therapeutic horsemanship programs for children with disabilities. We put our children on horses to develop their physical strength, balance and agility; improve their mental abilities and coordination; and to allow them the sense of accomplishment that comes from mastery of the horse. We offer a safe place, a positive horse therapy program, and friendly people. On our horses the child acquires a whole new perspective of their abilities and their place in the world. We really do move a child higher.

- **How long has your organization been in existence and how did your organization come about? How long have you been in existence at this location?**

MACH 1 is celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary with the statement, "10 years of leading to greater abilities".

Our program came about when I discovered the benefits of horseback riding in strengthening my legs and back from polio as a child, and the resulting improvement of balance, that I found in therapeutic riding. Because of this, therapeutic horseback riding - using mounted exercises and OT games to improve the lives of children with disabilities - was started in Pasadena, CA. Move A Child Higher became and still is a 501-c-3 non-profit. MACH 1 is a NARHA (North American Riding for the Handicapped) Premier Center, We have three NARHA instructors that conduct lessons.

We established our presence in the City over 10 years ago. We have been in cooperation with the City since that time. When MACH 1 was invited by the Flintridge Riding Club to begin operations there in 1997 we gratefully accepted. We began with one pony and one child. Because of our growth, 7 years ago we began operations at Rose Bowl Riders as our second site which we used one or two months a year. However NARHA considered the two sites as one, separated by a road.

- **Please describe the public benefits your organization provides and for how long those benefits have been provided.**

Our public benefits are many: Since our inception volunteers remain the heart of MACH 1. Not only do they give their time but school children receive service

hours. Last year and this year students from over 21 grammar and high schools in the San Gabriel and San Fernando Valleys came to volunteer. 21 of our volunteers received the Presidential Award last year giving from 100 to 500 hours and two of our volunteers under fourteen years received the CA Governor's Award for 50 hours of service. Our volunteers gave well over 4000 hours in 2005. We provide volunteer opportunities for the Interscholastic Equestrian League. The League gave two full student scholarships in 2005.

We consider ourselves a teaching center and receive volunteers from various colleges including short term internships. We also have been conducting the USC Occupational Therapy Field Education Level One fieldwork twice a year for 9 years. For three years we conduct on site education for the Masters Physical Therapy students from Western Un. I also have conducted lectures at Western Un. and USC educating OT and PT students on the benefits of therapeutic riding. This year we'll give a lecture to over 80 Japanese students coming from various Universities in Japan.

We have also used the Girl Scouts and Eagle Scouts for various projects.

For three years we were involved in La Canada High School's 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Those funders that donate their funds to a charity also benefit not only in giving to enhance a charitable cause but receiving a tax deduction.

For over 10 years those that are involved in the riding community have benefited from helping our special riders. We receive support from the El Monte Police including the mounted unit, Pasadena Police including the volunteer mounted unit, City of Pasadena in caring for the trails for our annual ride-a-thon, Rose Bowl Riders, Flintridge Riding Club, Interscholastic Equestrian League, and other barns and riders in the area.

We have provided therapy to over 100 children.

- **How many people does your organization serve? What is your service area?**

We provide lessons for 32 children and are about to include 4 more. We have over 60 program active on-site volunteers and receive students and volunteers from all over the San Gabriel and San Fernando Valleys.

- **Are there fees for participation in your organization? Describe.**

Our fees are provided through scholarships, three Regional Centers, and private fees. Three quarters of our students receive 100% funding.

- **How does your organization generate revenue to keep going?**

Our revenue is provided by various means:

Our largest fundraiser is our annual Horse show held at the Flintridge Riding Club in June.

We have an annual fall Ride-a-thon at Rose Bowl Riders supported by the City of Pasadena plus, donations, grants, student fees, and a year end mail campaign.

- **What qualifies people for membership in your organization or to receive the services you provide?**

The City of Pasadena, doctors, therapists, word of mouth, and regional centers will recommend a child for our services. As long as horse back riding is not contraindicated and a doctor's permission is granted we provide a specific lesson plan for each child.

- **What fee do you pay to the City/RBR as part of your (sub)lease?**

We pay Rose Bowl Riders \$85.00 per month per horse, not including feed and cleaning. We have four horses.

- **Do you have other facilities you use and if so, what are they? What is your arrangement there (i.e. land owner, lessee, etc.)?**

We have no other facilities at this time.

- **Can you help give us your assessment of what other similar facilities/organizations exist in our area and how you would say they compare to what your organization provides?**

As far as similar facilities existing we only recommend NARHA centers because of their strong professionalism in providing the best and safest programs in the world. The closest NARHA center is over 45 minutes away. We have the opportunity to be located in a city atmosphere where we are not only privileged to service the children living here but we are also able to educate the public in what we do. Pasadena has over 2,500 disabled children in the school systems.

- **Is your membership growing? Describe Trend.**

In 10 years we have steadily grown from 1 student to 35. One pony to 4 plus a donkey named, Mercy Lavender. If we had the ability we could easily quadruple. Our growth has steadily grown, however, we need to remain manageable in our present circumstance.

- **Where do you see your organization heading in the next 5 to 10 years?**

We're working on our 5 year business plan and should have it completed after our board approval. Our services are in high demand and we're looking to grow in the future.