

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - JANUARY 13, 2023

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Local nonprofit Reins of H.O.P.E. in need of help after losing location and equipment in recent flooding

Local nonprofit Reins of H.O.P.E. needs the community's help after flood waters earlier this week destroyed their facility and washed away all supplies, equipment and feed for their therapy horses. "Everything we had now lies under a thick layer of mud and debris so, right now, we can't serve our clients, which is critical to their ongoing therapies," shares Executive Director Kristan Adams. "We need to find five stalls and a private arena as soon as possible so we can work with our clients and ensure their progress continues during this stressful time."

On Monday, staff and volunteers evacuated all horses from the organization's property along the Ventura River near Oak View, but they were not able to save essential supplies such as feed, supplements, or even food bowls and water buckets.

"We saved what was important—the horses and humans—but we will need to purchase all new supplies and equipment," continues Adams. " We have enough funding to care for our horses for the next two months, but we need a lot of help to continue our operations and recover from this devastation. This will eventually include our entire space: panels for stalls, a new arena, sand, feed, administrative area – You name it, we need it!"

Working with licensed psychotherapists, equine specialists and horses as "co-therapists," Reins of H.O.P.E. has helped thousands of clients overcome trauma, build trust, distinguish between healthy and harmful behaviors, develop problem solving skills, learn positive ways to express and assert themselves and create healthy relationships with others. With clients needing reliable, consistent treatment, Reins of H.O.P.E. must find a temporary boarding location to serve our community and continue its mission. They also need to replace props and art supplies that are part of the important therapies they provide.

"We may have lost nearly everything, but we continue to be inspired by the resiliency of our horses, clients, staff, volunteers, and community," says Adams. "We look forward to getting back to being fully operational and ensuring we can continue our mission to serve our community well into the future."

Anyone who knows of a location that would allow their critical work to continue can contact Reins of H.O.P.E. at reinsofh.o.p.e.ojai@gmail.com or (805) 633-9199. Donations to assist with purchasing replacement supplies and equipment can be made via the website at <https://rohvc.org>

ABOUT REINS OF H.O.P.E.

Reins of H.O.P.E. (ROH) has provided Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP) and Equine Assisted Learning (EAL) to the Ventura County community since 2006, serving veterans and active duty personnel and their families, first responders and at-risk youth. ROH provides Equine Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP) that is solution-based and uses the horses' direct and non-judgmental feedback to allow clients to identify unproductive patterns, connect with strengths, and create change in the moment. This experiential work is generally considered a short-term modality due to its intensity and effectiveness. ROH holds an EAGALA (Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association) Distinguished Site Award, representing the top 2% in the world and as one of only 11 designated EAGALA Military Services Providers in the United States.

Website: <https://rohvc.org>

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