



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Bay Pines VA Healthcare System
Post Office Box 5005
Bay Pines, Florida 33744

In Reply Refer To: 516/11G/RT

February 11, 2009

Edie Ebbert Dopking, PhD
Quantum Leap Farm, Inc.
10504 Woodstock Road
Odessa, Florida 33556

Dear Dr. Ebbert Dopking:

On behalf of Therapeutic Recreation Services (TRS) and Bay Pines VA veterans, thank you for providing the amazing opportunity to experience the therapeutic and recreational equestrian programs offered at Quantum Leap Farm, Inc.

Bay Pines military veterans from Geriatrics and Extended Care, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Operation Enduring Freedom & Operation Iraqi Freedom and Substance Abuse Treatment programs have benefited from participating in the therapeutic and recreational programs offered by Quantum Leap Farm. The veterans and TRS staff identified that participating in the Farm programs have helped the veterans achieve treatment goals such as increased strength and endurance, improved balance and range of motion, increased self-awareness and self-confidence, decreased feelings of stress, anxiety, and depression, and increased trust in self and others. The therapeutic benefits of the Farm are evident as the veterans enjoy the animals, the surroundings, and the equine therapy interventions. The TRS staff and veterans praise the helpful, accommodating Farm staff and volunteers as well as the peaceful, relaxing, safe environment.

Quantum Leap Farm provides a different and welcome experience from the busy, hurried pace of life in the city. Because the horses seem to sense and know their human counterparts shortly after making their acquaintance, a positive relationship between the horse and the human develops quickly and becomes a key component in aiding the veteran's recovery.

Thank you for providing each participant with a horseshoe to take as a memento of their experience at Quantum Leap Farm. It's heartwarming to watch and listen as veterans hold their horseshoe and recount the awesome experience they had at the Farm!

Thank you for your genuine interest in improving the quality of life of America's Heroes!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara L. Parker".

BARBARA L. PARKER, CTRS
Chief, Therapeutic Recreation Services