

January 19, 2006

Dear DAV Benefactor,

As a veteran and DAV member (Jacksonville Chapter No. 1) I can certainly attest to the pleasures and real benefits of having the chance to ride horses at Quantum Leap Farm—a farm for psychosocially challenged adults.

What I perceived was the intended benefit of riding the horses at the Farm was: To give self-esteem to the veterans who rode the horses and visited the Quantum Leap Farm. For example, I rode on the horse “Rocky” at least (4) different weeks that I attended, and it gave me a big boost each day that I rode. Going to the Farm gave me something to look forward to in my week. Up until those times that I rode Rocky, I had never known how to ride a horse.

First off, it was fun: working with something live, learning new skills, having horse riding contests. Then, it gave me a sense of accomplishment, as I learned how to command, ride and groom horses. Also, my times at the Quantum Leap Farm were a break from the 10 to 2 routine of my treatment program’s day—simply, it was relaxing to be at the Farm to appreciate the animals, the outdoors, and the people there.

The DAV’s financial contributions to Quantum Leap Farm led to facilitating self-confidence in our Social Rehabilitation Program’s veterans by: 1) keeping us positive in our emotional selves and 2) by keeping us hopeful in our various recovery paths. Basically, your organization has directly provided the veterans with yet another activity to augment our lives and our lives’ quality. Your charitable donations to causes make dealing with chronic mental illness more bearable.

In addition to the self-confidence enhancement was the socialization. In the friendly and therapeutic environment of the Farm, no one was saying you have to “measure up.” Simply, it was just “come as you are.”

Finally, groups like the DAV and Quantum Leap Farm add to the mental health community of the Tampa Bay area and provide indispensable resources for veterans like us who are in need of care and are trying to conduct life outside of VA psychiatric wards.

Thank you for your kind consideration and contributions toward needy veterans such as us,

Sincerely yours,

The VA Social Rehabilitation Program
Veterans
And
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