



News Release

Wounded Warriors Get ‘*Back in the Saddle*’ in Seattle Thanks to \$30,000 Contribution for Therapeutic Program Using Horses

Military Veterans Celebrated in Honor of Veterans Day

Tumwater, WA. Nov. 10, 2016 — Today AT&T announced a \$30,000 donation to Heartbeat Serving Wounded Warriors in honor of Veteran’s Day and to help military veterans recover from injuries related to their service.

In support for wounded warriors in Washington State, the donation will specifically support the Back in the Saddle Warriors program which uses horses for therapy. The goal of Back in the Saddle Warriors is to improve neurological functioning in cognition, body movement, organizational and attention skills. Go to <http://heartbeatforwarriors.org/therapeutic-programs/back-in-the-saddle/> to see a video about the program. The donation by AT&T was followed by a live demonstration of a typical therapy session.

“Thanks to AT&T we’re able to provide hope and opportunity to military veterans who have served their country and now need our help,” said Janice Buckley, founder and president of Heartbeat Serving Wounded Warriors. “Every day, we’re focused on the things that will help veterans heal from a variety of injuries. AT&T’s contribution strengthens our work and will change countless lives.”

“Our veterans make countless sacrifices for our country,” said Bob Bass, president of AT&T Washington. “We depend on their service and should always take the time to recognize their dedication and commitment. AT&T is proud to honor Veteran’s Day, and with programs like Back in the Saddle Warriors we can support our local veterans every day of the year.”

Back in the Saddle Warriors is a clinical hippotherapy program. Hippotherapy uses horses and equine movement for occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech-language therapy to help heal a variety of injuries. The program uses a licensed physical or occupational therapist, a certified Instructor with the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship. This evidence based therapy improves spinal cord injuries, speech, PTSD, TBI, as well as other physical injuries.

“The Back in the Saddle therapy has helped relieve the stress and physical pain from my injuries,” said Retired Lt. Colonel Matt France. “It also helped me regain the patience and understanding I’ve always enjoyed in my relationships. My healing is ongoing, but my recovery really began with the Back in the Saddle program.”



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