



## **RAWHIDE YOUTH SERVICES OPENS 3 EQUINE THERAPY FACILITIES IN JUNE**

*Rawhide To Offer Equine-Assisted Therapy Sessions in Fond du Lac, Milwaukee, Neenah*

FOND DU LAC, MILWAUKEE, NEENAH – Rawhide Youth Services, the largest equine-assisted therapy provider in the state, has expanded equine therapy services to three facilities, expanding the much-needed mental health services to more of Wisconsin’s at-risk youth.

The newly built Fond du Lac Counseling Center will offer 6 therapy rooms, 12 horse stalls, 5 Rawhide licensed therapists and two equine arenas.

“Our goal with the new facility is to fully embed ourselves into the community and become a steady rock for the youth and families of Fond du Lac that are struggling,” said Heather Stern, chief development officer. “Rawhide sees Fond du Lac as a big part of our growth plan. Not only because of the need but, just as important to us, is the support of the community.”

Rawhide has partnered with MKE Urban Stables to offer equine-assisted therapy three days a week for the Milwaukee community with 12 horse stalls, an equine arena and a therapy room. MKE Urban Stables currently houses the Milwaukee Police Department’s mounted patrol horses and also offers equine-assisted therapy to the community.

“Rawhide seized the opportunity to partner with MKE Urban Stables to expand our presence in Milwaukee and serve more at-risk youth through equine-assisted therapy,” said Tim Klunk, Rawhide’s chief program officer.

Rawhide has also partnered with BEAMING, Inc., a nonprofit that offers equine-assisted therapeutic riding to individuals with special needs, to offer equine-assisted therapy for at-risk youth and families in the Neenah, Oshkosh and Appleton communities. Rawhide will leverage BEAMING’s therapy horses and handlers, who will work with Rawhide licensed therapists.

“This is a significant opportunity to help kids dealing with suicide ideation, anxiety, depression and trauma through this modality in a new market,” said Danny Stone, Rawhide’s director of community services.

The goal for each of these locations is to provide more equine-therapy services to a wider geographic area and share resources. These therapy sessions include games and activities for the youth and horse to perform together, allowing youth to feel more comfortable opening up about their trauma and abuse in a safe, judge-free environment.

“The need for equine therapy is greater than ever,” said Alan Loux, president and CEO of Rawhide. “And we are expanding to be able to serve more youth across Wisconsin.

# # #

[Rawhide, Inc.](#) is a faith-based 501(c)(3) recognized charity that offers Wisconsin's at-risk youth and families a full array of residential and community-based services to equip them with tools to build healthy relationships and behaviors that will help them overcome life's challenges.

[BEAMING, Inc.](#) is a nonprofit organization in Neenah, Wisconsin, that offers equine-assisted therapeutic riding to individuals with special needs. BEAMING is a member of the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship (PATH) International.

[MKE Urban Stables](#) is the first facility in the nation to combine mounted patrol, equine-assisted therapy and community engagement programs. The 30,000-square-foot facility houses up to 24 horses, half of which will be from the Milwaukee Police Department's Mounted Patrol and the rest will be part of the equine-assisted therapy program.

**Media Contact:**

Kristine Livdane

Marketing Manager

920.531.2603

klivdane@rawhide.org