

StreetSmart Grant Report

Waverley Emergency Adolescent Care (WEAC): Horses for Hope therapeutic program



Tom's Story

WEAC are fortunate to have received funding from your very caring and generous organisation over a number of years, to assist our traumatised, homeless young people.

The most recent funding received enabled one of our youngest clients to attend the Horses for Hope therapeutic program. Horses for Hope is an equine-facilitated learning and therapy program providing opportunity for people to become actively and consciously engaged in the development of their behavioural and social skills, it can be a life changing program.

Tom is twelve years of age. He had experienced extensive trauma prior to coming into foster care. He was a very sad, angry and abusive young boy. The general theme to Tom's presentation was that he hated everybody and everything. He spoke of death and darkness. Since attending Horses for Hope sessions Tom has appeared to be optimistic about life and more empathetic to other people in general. Once his artwork was littered with death and killing, he is now painting rainbows.

Not only was Tom able to articulate how beneficial this program was for him but also his male carer and biological grandfather both commented on the many advantages of accompanying Tom during his sessions.

As you can appreciate this program was not inexpensive and without your funding Tom would not have been able to attend the program.

On behalf of WEAC and being his allocated placement worker I cannot thank-you enough for your financial generosity, which has had a profound impact on this young person's life.

Kind regards and many thanks,

Manager, Waverley Emergency Adolescent Care (WEAC)

The photo used in this report shows Tom with his horse.

Horses for Hope is a unique, powerful and challenging Equine Facilitated Therapy program delivered by UnitingCare Cutting Edge that has been operating successfully out of Shepparton Victoria since 2006, and Kinglake Victoria since 2009.

Names in this story have been changed to protect identities