



RAWHIDE YOUTH SERVICES TO PARTNER WITH MKE URBAN STABLES
Rawhide To Offer Equine-Assisted Therapy Sessions in Milwaukee Starting In May

MILWAUKEE – Rawhide Youth Services and MKE Urban Stables will partner to offer an equine-assisted therapy option three days a week for the Milwaukee community starting in late May.

“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.

MKE Urban Stables is a newly built, 30,000 sq. ft., state-of-the-art facility on a four-acre site at 143 E. Lincoln Ave. through the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee (RACM). The facility features 24 horse stalls, a riding arena, viewing areas, classrooms, therapy rooms and a multi-purpose community room. Twelve of the stables are used for the Milwaukee Police Department’s Mounted Patrol Unit and 12 will be utilized for equine-assisted therapy for veterans and at-risk youth.

MKE Urban Stables’ vision is to combine human services, community engagement and law enforcement opportunities to unite the community, all while leveraging strong connections with horses, who can connect with humans on an emotional level.

“We are excited about the partnership between Rawhide and MKE Urban Stables,” said Kent Lovern, Chief Deputy District Attorney of Milwaukee and Board President of MKE Urban Stables. “This partnership will allow Milwaukee youth to experience the benefits of equine therapy in a beautiful setting without leaving the city.”

The facility provides one counseling office plus a large arena for equine-assisted therapy with two Rawhide licensed therapists. MKE Urban Stables will provide three horses and two equine handlers to assist Rawhide staff. This team is projected to initially provide up to 2,000 sessions per year with capacity to add more services as needed.

Any individual, provider or provider network can contact Rawhide at 1-800-RAWHIDE for more information regarding equine-assisted therapy or to schedule an appointment.

“Youth who benefit from equine-assisted therapy include those who struggle with their mental health through suicidal thoughts, depression, anxiety and have a history of trauma from abuse, neglect or violence,” said Klunk. “These youth often are able to emotionally connect with the horses and open up to tell their story. Establishing trust is critical to their healing.”

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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.

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.

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