

2002

- Rosie, the miniature horse, is the Indiana Horse Council Therapy Horse of the Year Award Winner.
- Agape is the Indiana State Winner of the SGMA Heroes Award
- Agape is the winner of the Indiana Youth Investment Award

"Rosie"

Indiana Horse Council 2002 THERAPY HORSE AWARD WINNER

the following is the letter written to nominate Rosie for Therapy Horse of the Year:

The Life of an Ambassador

I am writing to nominate Rosie as therapy horse of the year. She has served the Agape program as a lesson horse, director of development, director of programs, welcoming committee, and the best darn public relations manager that we have ever had. She has spent most of her life at the Agape therapeutic riding center. She has also traveled to many rehabilitation centers, schools, TV stations, charity events, and just about anywhere and everywhere you could imagine.

In 1999, Agape was the charity of choice for our professional hockey team, the Indianapolis Ice.. We took Rosie to the first game of the year. Two of our special riders along with Rosie were chosen to throw out the first puck in order to start the game. In order to get to the ice however, we had to ride in an elevator, walk through an inflatable dome, and enter on to a carpet that was laid onto the ice. We were then asked to make a grand entrance through a ring of fire. She acted like it was just another day in her life. We were then presented with a donation for our center. Rosie loved every minute! We can always depend on her to be a great ambassador – no matter what the conditions.

I have also taken her to Life Lines Children's Hospital, a critical long term care facility with twenty beds. Rosie is scrubbed within an inch of her life, wrapped with cotton and kept as clean as a newborn baby. Rosie also has to ride in an elevator to get to all the wards. She walks in the hospital rooms like she owns the place. Machines with tubes, I V stands, and oxygen machines that make lots of strange noises. Rosie doesn't hesitate to march right up to the beds were the children are. It's like she knows her task and can't wait to meet whoever is in the bed.

I was privileged to see her work her magic many times, but one was very special. We were told by the therapist that a particular young lady, Emily, was non responsive and depressed after a train wreck at an amusement park. Her grandmother was left dead, and she was paralyzed. No one at the hospital could get a response from her. In comes Rosie, right up to Emily, seated in her electric wheelchair. Rosie stood there waiting to be adored. Emily did not respond. Rosie then lifted up her head and began to play with the knob on the electric wheelchair, making the wheelchair go back and forth. Emily let out a loud squeal that the nurse's station could hear! Rosie then sniffed Emily up and down and began fiddling with her shoes. Rosie loves to untie shoes! Emily again giggled and laughed out loud. The nurses came running to the room, witnessing a miracle. Rosie helped Emily regain a vital part of her self, her sense of humor.

Rosy also introduced the Black Stallion Literacy Project to seven elementary schools last year. We would take her into the classes and introduce the children to the wonderful world of horses. She would calmly walk by every desk, every child, and thoroughly enjoy all of the petting that she could get. She would stand patiently while we would read a story to the children. Many of the children had special needs and some didn't even speak English. Our mission was to get the children excited about reading. Rosie would then help to distribute the book, "Little Black, A Pony", to all the children. Needless to say, she was very motivating. She did her job well.

Rosie is ever faithful and happily does this every day she comes in contact with our special children. She's extremely curious and yet patient. She's perky and considerate. She is attentive and calm. She is everything you would want in a full size horse, she's that and more, in a pint size portion. You see, Rosie is a miniature horse. She stands a very tall 32 and half inches, on her tippy toes. Rosie knows her job isn't to help people ride, she helps their soul. She is truly an ambassador for the Agape program and deserves the horse of the year award.



Rosie, representing
Agape Therapeutic Center
Cicero, IN