



**Loree K. Sutton, MD**  
**Brigadier General, US Army (Retired)**  
**270 Loma Entrada**  
**Santa Fe, NM 87501**  
**505.983.9407**

**MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT**

**Subject: Equus Medendi Program for Returning Veterans**

**Date: January 25, 2012**

**To Whom It May Concern:**

I am deeply honored for the opportunity to offer my strongest endorsement in support of the Equus Medendi program, located in Redlands, California under the direction of Ms. Angie Sheer. I was introduced to this program in early 2011 through Ms. Elaine Miller-Karas, co-founder of the Trauma Resource Institute (TRI), whose organization is working within San Bernardino County on a large state-funded Community Resiliency project whose scope includes Veterans and Family Members as a key target group.

As a career Army psychiatrist and founding Director of the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury, I am well acquainted with the myriad approaches to building resiliency, promoting recovery and fostering reintegration on behalf of the 2.5 million Veterans who have deployed in harm's way since 9/11. Given that their exposure to trauma during this past decade of continuous war exceeds any other generation in our nation's history, it is imperative that we seek new and effective approaches for addressing the unseen wounds of war -- physical, psychological, spiritual and moral. As important as clinical treatment is, we simply cannot treat or medicate our way through what is an enormous public health challenge whose remedy starts with creating resilient communities and harnessing the emerging neuroscience knowledge with respect to trauma, resiliency, the human brain and nervous system.

To this end, Equus Medendi embodies the best of what is now available to meet the complex reintegration struggles, particularly related to sustaining healthy relationships, for those returning from war as well as their loved ones, whose secondary traumatization is only beginning to receive the necessary

attention and support. During this past year, it has been my privilege to participate directly in the Equus Medendi program and to witness the positive impact upon Veterans and their family members. Angie's extensive background in working around the world with Monty Roberts has uniquely prepared her to adapt the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association (EAGALA) model to fit the individual needs and cultural imperatives of this most deserving population. Additionally, she has completed the Trauma Resiliency Model Level I training (through TRI's San Bernardino County Community Resiliency initiative) and has successfully integrated these peer-to-peer skills within her program. Every Veteran should have access to this program -- it's that good!

In closing, building resilient communities is a most urgent imperative for assuring our continued strength as a nation. This is one of those moments in military medical history in which the lessons learned from meeting the needs of our returning Veterans can again benefit all of us at home and throughout the world. Government cannot do it all, nor can individuals, families, non-profit, philanthropic or corporate organizations. We are all in this together. Veterans, after all, return to communities which, through the power of partnerships -- as currently demonstrated by California state, San Bernardino County, Trauma Resource Institute and Equus Medendi -- combine individual strengths to achieve profound synergy and lasting positive impact.

Please contact me if I may be of further assistance regarding these important issues -- my email address is [lore@sutton@gmail.com](mailto:lore@sutton@gmail.com) and my mobile phone is 254.289.1035. Thank you for your attention and support.

Very Respectfully,

/S/

Loree K. Sutton, MD

Brigadier General (Retired)

US Army