



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 2, 2018

Contact: Amanda Bocik
Phone: (317) 773-RIDE
Email: amanda@agaperiding.org
Website: www.agaperiding.org

**AGAPE THERAPEUTIC RIDING RESOURCES, INC. LAUNCHES THIRD INDIANA LOCATION
AND EXPANDS SERVICES INTO HANCOCK COUNTY**

***Indiana's premier accredited therapeutic riding center moves into
Edelweiss Equine-Assisted Therapy Center's Greenfield location***

CICERO, Indiana; March 2, 2018 – Pacing well ahead of its goal to spread unbridled hope throughout Central Indiana by expanding into a third location by 2020, Agape Therapeutic Riding Resources, Inc. will begin offering premier horse-facilitated therapies at their new Greenfield location on April 30, 2018. Therapeutic riding is an equine-assisted activity for the purpose of contributing positively to the cognitive, physical, emotional and social well-being of individuals with special needs.

In a strategic and harmonious handing over of the reins, Agape (meaning “unconditional love” in Greek), a PATH International Premier Accredited therapeutic riding center, will move onto the property formerly occupied by Edelweiss Equine-Assisted Therapy Center. According to Amanda Bocik, Executive Director of Agape, “We are grateful and excited for this opportunity to serve Hancock County. This work that we do, the mission we are called to fulfill – to bring hope, strength and joy to individuals of all abilities and experiences through partnering with horses – is important and meaningful. We are honored to continue this mission alongside the Hancock County Community Foundation and upon the strong foundation that Edelweiss has laid.”

Agape East, as it is now known, will provide its full range of services including but not limited to therapeutic riding lessons and *Stirrup Success in the Stable* equine-facilitated learning group programs. Agape brings with it an exceptional staff full of knowledge and expertise to manage all aspects of Agape East including rider management, rider program development, volunteer coordination, facilities oversight, event planning, donor communication, horse care and more. Further bolstering their established vision to provide a facility where lives can experience healing and joy in an environment where unconditional love and the wonderment of a horse connect, Agape is also excited to continue a few specialty programs that were provided by Edelweiss.

Enthusiastically welcoming Agape into the community, Mary Gible, President of the Hancock County Community Foundation shares, "The Hancock County Community Foundation (HCCF) is thrilled that Agape will expand its services to Hancock County and is gratified that the important work of providing therapeutic riding services will continue at our property on 100 South, Greenfield. HCCF celebrates that our new tenant is a proven organization with professional certifications, programming, a talented staff, and a dedicated board of directors. We are committed to supporting Agape's mission and look forward to a long and lasting partnership."

Edelweiss has donated all its horses, equipment and other assets to partner nonprofit Agape. Consequently, Agape East riders, volunteers, donors and visitors can look forward to seeing many of their favorite horses when the newly-expanded services resume after winter break. Since the Greenfield facility does not have a heated indoor arena at this time, lessons will begin April 30th and run through November, weather permitting.

Want to learn more about therapeutic services, volunteering, tax-deductible support or employment opportunities at Agape's Cicero, Martinsville and Greenfield locations? Visit them at www.agaperiding.org and like them on Facebook (Agape Therapeutic Riding Resources, Inc.). For deeper engagement with Agape's newest location, join them at their July 12, 2018 Agape East launch event *Blue Jeans and Dreams* (www.bluejeansanddreams.org) as they share and dream about the future of therapeutic riding in Hancock County with you.