

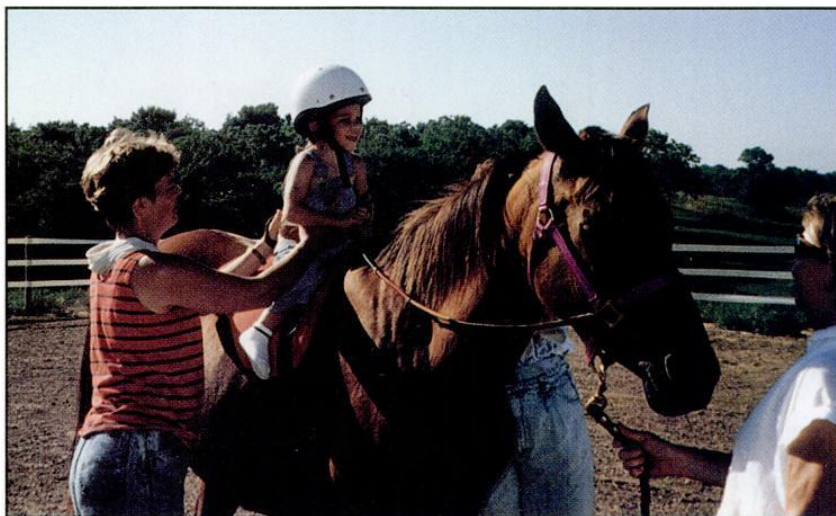
The clubs in action

Horseback riding that heals the mind and body

When children with physical disabilities ride a horse at the Serenata Farms School of Equestrian Arts in Lecompton, Kansas, U.S.A., they not only exercise their limbs but their minds as well. "Exchanging a wheelchair for a saddle gives these children a new perspective on life," says Marti Newell of the Rotary Club of Topeka, Kansas, U.S.A., and creator of Horse Power, a therapeutic-riding program based at Serenata Farms.

Horse Power primarily targets children between the ages of seven and 17 who have physical or mental disabilities. But the program also has helped adults with drug or alcohol dependencies and eating disorders. "It is an unforgettable experience to witness honest, open communication between a troubled individual and a graceful, highly trained horse," Marti says. "This facilitates the therapeutic process between humans."

For children with physical disabilities, riding a horse gives them the opportunity to use the same muscles as they do when walking,



Riding a horse is therapy for children with physical disabilities enrolled in the Horse Power program, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Topeka, Kansas, U.S.A.

since the movements of the horse at a walk closely resemble the human gait, she says. Consequently, the rider gains increased balance, dexterity, posture, and upper-body strength.

Besides learning to ride a horse, participants also acquire insight into building healthy relationships. The second component of the pro-

gram consists of a therapist monitoring an individual's treatment of a horse to learn how that person functions in relationships with people. Later, the therapist works with the person to eliminate negative behavior and enhance positive acts that facilitate healthy relationships. "Children learn respect, patience, and self-restraint, while adults master how to handle fears and feelings of inadequacy," Marti says.

Serenata Farms offers six-week sessions of two classes each week. Classes are limited to four participants and registration costs \$80. The Topeka Rotary club contributes funding to the program for scholarships for children whose parents are unable to afford the fee. The Rotarians also pay for special equipment that is used by individuals with physical disabilities.

Chinese and Filipino clubs fight illiteracy with bricks

In a remote village in Ruyuan County in the People's Republic of China, most of the 200,000 residents are illiterate and live hand to mouth on a modest farming income. Even though the villagers manage to survive, members of the



The Rotary Club of Hong Kong North-East is constructing schools in remote Chinese villages to reduce illiteracy.

Rotary Club of Hong Kong North-East want a better life for people in their community. "Club members believe that for China's people to progress it is most important to increase the literacy rate among children," says Past Governor Moses Cheng of R.I. District 3450 (Hong Kong and Macau).

To help end illiteracy, the Rotarians are building schools in remote villages. The first opened in January 1997 in a village in Ruyuan County. The club also contributes furnishings, books, and other resources to the new school while the local education authority provides maintenance to the facility.

The Rotarians raised U.S. \$50,000 for the project while the local government donated U.S. \$20,000. The club's annual dinner dance generated funds for the project.

• In the coastal town of Villanueva, the Philippines, illiteracy is not as serious a problem as it is in Ruy-

uan. Most of the population has the equivalent of a high school education or more, but local Rotarians are still concerned that illiteracy may increase because of a disturbing trend.

Club of Cagayan de Oro East Urban took action to slow the trend. They began working with local firms and the government to create the town's first public library.

The Rotarians convinced the companies to contribute donations-in-kind and government workers to supply their technical expertise for its construction.

The library opened in mid-1997 and the club is working to acquire books, furniture, and other equipment.

Chicago Rotarians perform a facelift on a housing project

On a September Saturday last year, several members of the Rotary Club of Chicago Southeast, Illinois, U.S.A., managed to beautify the halls of the Dearborn Homes housing project while simultaneously raising money to ship med-

ical supplies to South American villages.

past to paint and clean the housing development. He figured his fellow Rotarians should take a turn. In the weeks leading up to the project's kickoff, club members and other volunteers collected \$16,000 in pledges from the community, promising to reach their goal of scrubbing and painting the walls of at least six buildings in the housing development.

The club plans to use some of the proceeds to establish a dental and medical clinic for Dearborn Homes housing project residents. They also used the remaining funds to ship dental equipment to a village in Nicaragua and \$1 million worth of medical supplies to Kenya, Ecuador, and Colombia.

Anniversary clubs

Belated congratulations to the Rotary Club of Richmond, Missouri, U.S.A., admitted into Rotary International in May 1923, and to the Rotary Club of Harwich-Dennis, Massachusetts, U.S.A., admitted into Rotary in May 1948.

Six clubs were admitted to Rotary International in August 1923. A special salute to these clubs for their 75 years of service.

England: Bromley; Darlington; Purley.

U.S.A.—Arkansas: De Queen.

Illinois: Eldorado.

Rhode Island: Newport.

Twenty-six clubs were admitted to Rotary International in August 1948. Congratulations to these clubs on their 50 years of service.

Australia—N.S.W.: Auburn; Vic.:

Camperdown; Terang; W.A.: Victoria Park.

Brazil: Cajáséiras; Lajes; Regente Feijó.

Canada—Ontario: Tilbury.

Chile: Ancud; Providencia.

Dominican Republic: Moca.

England: Romsey; Shepperton; Winsford and Middlewich.

Italy: Alessandria; Carrara Massa; Lodi.

New Zealand: Huntly; Waihi; Waipawa.

Puerto Rico: Fajardo.

U.S.A.—New Jersey: Fair Lawn.

New York: Morrisville.

Pennsylvania: Claysburg.

Tennessee: Gatlinburg.

Texas: Ingleside.



Rat race—These children discover that tickling will spur a guinea pig to run during an annual race sponsored by the Rotary Club of Grenfell, New Zealand. The Rotarians sponsor two races each year and have raised A \$50,000 in the past 20 years.

uan. Most of the population has the equivalent of a high school education or more, but local Rotarians are still concerned that illiteracy may increase because of a disturbing trend.

Many young adults, the children of migrant workers, are opting not to quit school so that they can acquire jobs at new local companies. In 1996, members of the Rotary

ical supplies to South American vil-

lages. Rotarian Arvis Averette initiated the project because members wanted to tackle a local community-service effort and an international one at the same time. Arvis, who oversees a housing project corporation composed of residents, had organized groups of community volunteers in the