



### **BraveHearts Media Contact**

Meggan Hill-McQueeney (847-366-4571)

[meggan@braveheartsriding.org](mailto:meggan@braveheartsriding.org)

### **BRAVEHEARTS RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM BAXTER INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION TO INCREASE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

**HARVARD, Ill., December 6, 2017** - A two-year grant from Baxter International Foundation will allow BraveHearts to hire a professional who will provide equine-assisted mental health services to veterans and their families. BraveHearts will be accepting applicants for this position in the next few months with hiring to begin in early 2018. Any applicants interested in this position should contact Meggan Hill-McQueeney at [meggan@braveheartsriding.org](mailto:meggan@braveheartsriding.org), including a professional resume.

“Baxter and Baxter International Foundation are committed to increasing access to care in communities where Baxter employees live and work,” said Stacey Eisen, president of the Baxter International Foundation and senior vice president, global communications at Baxter. “By helping veterans access mental health services, we not only honor this commitment but also the dedication of those who have served our country.”

With two locations in Illinois (Harvard and Poplar Grove), BraveHearts has developed, presented and implemented curriculum at the national level to help strengthen the PATH Intl. industry’s education on serving veterans with use of horses. BraveHearts is committed to serving veterans and their families in our near communities and throughout the nation.

With the rapid growth and interest in equine-assisted services at BraveHearts, it is critical that the participants and family members served have access to a strong support system and an experienced professional while at BraveHearts. Thanks to Baxter International Foundation, BraveHearts will be able to develop this role and hire a professional to facilitate equine-assisted services but who also holds the necessary requirements and credentials to relate to and guide the participants in their healing journey. “We are told by veterans that horses have saved their lives --- that without equine programs, they would have been a statistic. Through this grant we intend to respond further to the needs of veterans by having comprehensive, innovative and integrated services on the ready at our farms,” explains Meggan Hill-McQueeney, President/COO of BraveHearts.

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### **About Baxter and Baxter International Foundation**

Baxter and the Baxter International Foundation are committed to saving and sustaining lives and creating healthier communities. Every day, Baxter employees strive to make a meaningful difference in the lives of people who depend on Baxter products, and in the communities where employees live and work. The company focuses on three core areas including improving access to healthcare; fostering tomorrow's innovation and serving its communities. Baxter works closely with public and private partners around the world to ensure people have access to the healthcare they need, to develop the next generation of innovators who will lead the way in advancing care, and to create long-lasting impact in Baxter's communities. Baxter International Foundation supports initiatives and organizations that make a positive, lasting impact on increasing access to healthcare for the disadvantaged and underserved. For more information, please visit [www.baxter.com](http://www.baxter.com)

### **About BraveHearts**

BraveHearts is a Professional Association for Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.) Premier Accredited Center that provides equine-assisted services to children, adults and military veterans in need. In 2007, BraveHearts began serving veterans and have become the largest PATH Intl. horse program in the country. BraveHearts provides innovative services for veterans at no cost and has helped over 639 veterans providing over 12,962 sessions to veterans in 2016. By utilizing a faculty of national experts, BraveHearts is a center of excellence within the therapeutic industry through its unique efforts in programming, education and research. For more information on BraveHearts visit [www.braveheartsridding.org](http://www.braveheartsridding.org).