

# Team Velvet, Inc. Welcomes Two New Board Members

For immediate release: Contact [lrshupe@frontiernet.net](mailto:lrshupe@frontiernet.net) or 908-892-3255 with questions



Dr. Susan Edwards, with therapy horse, Velvet, left and Dr. Kathy Piparo, with Precious, welcome Lillian Shupe, with Little Annie to the board of Team Velvet, Inc. of Raritan Township, N.J. Team Velvet uses horses to help children overcome trauma. (Courtesy Team Velvet, Inc.)



Dr. Tom Ferguson

RARITAN TWP., N.J. — Team Velvet, Inc. officially welcomed new members at the February meeting of the Board of Directors.

New members are Tom Ferguson, Ph.D., MBA, of Ellicott City, Md. and Lillian Shupe, Lower Mount Bethel, Pa.

Dr. Ferguson will serve as Vice President of Benefactor Relations. A licensed psychologist with a background in international consulting and business management, he will work to strengthen the financial base for Team Velvet Inc. and the horse therapy treatment of child trauma the organization provides.

Lillian Shupe will serve as Media Specialist. A Hunterdon County 4-H horse club leader since 1992, she was a reporter for the Hunterdon County Democrat and editor of Horse News for many years. Owner of Equestrian News Services, offering ala carte public relations services for small organizations and businesses, Shupe produced the short film, “Little Horse, Big Medicine” which won an award at the Equus Film Festival in New York City.

Continuing on the board are Psychologists Dr. Doug Gross [retired], co-editor of the graduate university textbook, *Youth At Risk*, now in its seventh edition; Dr. Susan Edwards, Psychologist/Program Director and Dr. Kathy Piparo, 4-H Leader and well-known equine expert within Hunterdon County.

Team Velvet Inc.'s mission is to: Provide non-mounted equine-facilitated mental health services for traumatized children ages 5-12 within an atmosphere of natural horsemanship/good land stewardship; and to develop a referral infrastructure and offer public education on child trauma.

Team Velvet is supported by tax deductible donations which can be made securely at <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/helping-horse-farm>

### **About Team Velvet:**

Each day there is a child who experiences the death of a loved one, is a witness to violence, is victimized by crime or intense bullying, is disfigured by an accident, or experiences countless other events — all resulting in severe childhood trauma.

If left unaddressed, in the extreme, child trauma may cause flashbacks, blackouts, and may result in severe damage.

Team Velvet, Inc. provides multi-modal horse therapy for traumatized children ages 5 to 12 years with psychologist Dr. Susan Edwards. Therapy horses may be involved in interactive games, kick a soccer ball, dance or be taught liberty performance. Children do not ride the horses; they interact while working in psychological therapy toward goals of increased self-esteem and resiliency.

See [www.teamvelvet.com](http://www.teamvelvet.com) or follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/team.velvet.inc/>.

Upcoming fundraising events include an animal communications workshop led by Anita Curtis, March 21 and 22. Team Velvet, Inc. was also selected as one of the beneficiaries of the Hunterdon Polo Classic to be held on June 13.

To refer a child for trauma treatment, call Dr. Edwards at 609-924-4330. Confidential inquiries about being a benefactor can be made with Dr. Ferguson 443-415-7652.