

# Horse therapy group wins state award

H-T Report  
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A Bloomington nonprofit has received a 2009 Indiana Youth Investment Award from the Indiana Youth Institute.

People & Animal Learning Services — known as PALS — provides assisted activities with horses to children with physical, cognitive and emotional disabilities. The activities improve strength, coordination and balance, and help children develop learning skills along with short- and long-term memory.

PALS will receive the Youth Investment Award Saturday afternoon during PALS' ninth annual Fun Show at Ellington Stables, 680 W. That Road. Indiana Youth Institute president and CEO Bill Stanczykiewicz will present the award.

“When you visit PALS, one of the first things you see are smiling faces — on the kids, on their parents, on the staff — and you almost expect the horses to break into a grin,” Stanczykiewicz said in a prepared statement.

PALS is one of 10 organizations to receive a 2009 Indiana Youth Investment Award, and was selected from nearly 200 applicants. In addition to a \$5,000 award, the local nonprofit group will receive free admission to the Indiana Youth Institute's 2009 Kids Count in Indiana Conference in December.

The Indiana Youth Institute promotes the healthy development of children and youth by serving the institutions and people of Indiana who work on their behalf. For more about the Indiana Youth Institute, visit [www.iyi.org](http://www.iyi.org). For more about PALS, visit [www.palstherapy.org](http://www.palstherapy.org).



Tony Keyt shoots a basket from a horse as Laura Anderson and Kara Lasher, right, watch during the People & Animal Learning Services fun show in this photo from October 2007. Jeremy Hogan | Herald-Times