



Dan Thompson Account Update December 2023

Round 2 Application Opens

DSHS' Developmental Disabilities Administration has released the Round 2 application for funding from the Dan Thompson Memorial Developmental Disabilities Community Services Account. The application opened on Dec. 1, and closes at 5 p.m. PST on Jan. 19, 2024. DDA facilitated two technical assistance sessions on Dec. 5 and 11, to provide an opportunity for question/answers for interested organizations. The Q&A document from the technical assistance sessions is available at the DDA website [Dan Thompson Account | DSHS \(wa.gov\)](#).

Awardee Showcase – Courageous Connections

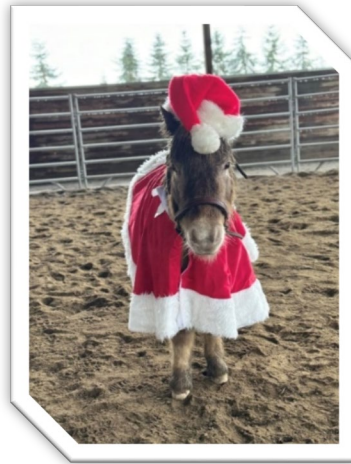
Courageous Connections, located in Snohomish County, received two grants from the Dan Thompson Memorial Developmental Disabilities Community Services Account. [Courageous Connections](#) mission is to promote the physical and emotional development of people of all ages and unique abilities through safe, therapeutic, outdoor experiences with horses. They provide healing, learning and growing through experiences with horses.



During a recent site visit, DDA staff were able to tour the farm, meet the horses, and meet staff. Their programs offer participants, of all ages and abilities, a safe and unique opportunity to partner with horses while working from the ground. Their staff are CPR, first-aid, automated external defibrillator-trained, Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International certified and Trauma Informed Care skilled. From the very beginning their vision has included “the acquisition of a farm property that encourages interactions with nature where all are treated with kindness and respect.”

“This private/public grant is somewhat unique and would never have happened without the perseverance and hard work of our new friends at DSHS DDA, and the Commerce Department of Washington. Our most sincere thanks go to Addie, Joe, Heather, Tom, Nicole, Brittany and almost surely

some others that I have left out, for being so invested in seeing this project to completion for Courageous Connections,” reports Sue Eulau, board member and treasurer.



A picture of a 7-year-old mini pony named Willow grazing plus another dressed up for the holidays.

Other News

There are 78 projects underway. Awardees spent \$21.8 million in the State Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2023. They have invoiced over \$1.9 million through November of this year.

Sincerely,

Nichole Jensen

DSHS' DDA Director, Systems Integration and Children's Continuum of Care

Brandi Monts

Executive Director, Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council