

Media Alert

Contact: Marena Assarsson
Marketing Coordinator
Youthville
4505 E. 47th St. South
Wichita, KS 67210
Phone: 316-529-9105
Email: massarsson@youthville.org



Youthville to hold “Special Rodeo” at Dodge City Days



(Wichita, Kan., July 27, 2010) – On Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2010, several children will mount their horses as they participate in the Dodge City Day’s Special Rodeo. The rodeo is held every year at 6pm, just before the famous Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) Dodge City Roundup rodeo begins.

When: Wednesday, Aug. 4

Where: Dodge City Roundup Arena

Time: 6 p.m.

The children who participate have a range of mental and physical disabilities and are part of a community-based Therapeutic Animal Program (TAP) offered on Youthville's Dodge City campus. During the special rodeo, they are teamed with a professional rodeo contestant.

"The special rodeo is a great motivator and esteem builder for the kids," said Vickie Padilla, Youthville Horsemanship Specialist. "It gives them a chance to be involved in the sport of rodeo and the culture of our area when they usually would not be able to be included."

TAP helps children by involving them in all phases of animal care. Residents establish personal goals, develop life skills to form attachments and understand socially-acceptable boundaries.

Youthville is one of the largest nonprofit, child welfare agencies in Kansas, specializing in foster care, adoption, psychiatric residential treatment and counseling. The agency's 600 employees are passionate about its mission of Giving Children Back Their Childhood to the 1,400 Kansas children who suffer from abuse, neglect, abandonment, and trauma. To learn more or to get involved with Youthville visit www.youthville.org.

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