



St. Jane de Chantal

Long Term Care Services



Tiny horse makes big impression

A mighty presence, in the form of a miniature horse named Lucky Boy, caused quite a stir recently at Madonna. On May 16, Lucky Boy, age 12, made his debut as part of Madonna's animal assisted therapy program. Many of Madonna's long-term care residents were on hand to greet the mild-mannered horse.

Lucky Boy is the only horse in a three-state area that is cleared to go into hospital settings as therapy for patients. His owner, Julie Wood, and handler, Kevin Cornell, are both certified through the Delta Society, the leading international resource for the human-animal bond.

Julie finds her therapy work with Lucky Boy extremely rewarding. "When people caress Lucky's face, they smile and their eyes say it all; it's like an awakening for many." Her words rang true when one elderly Madonna resident gently stroked Lucky Boy and said she'd broken many colts in her early years. "Seeing Lucky Boy triggers memories for many people and it's therapeutic for them to relive it," said Julie.

Julie hopes to incorporate Lucky Boy into the occupational and physical therapy sessions at Madonna on a year-around basis. "Patients will be able to do activities like groom the horse and get pulled in a cart by him," Julie shared.

Stay tuned for future updates on Lucky Boy's next visit to Madonna!