

Beekman Therapeutic Center

The Beekman Therapeutic Center is pleased to announce the newest member of their team, *Jasper* a gelding burro has come to us through a program run by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). *Jasper* comes from the National Wild Horse and Burro Program Adopt-A-Horse-or Burro Program. *Jasper* was one of the many free roaming animals that were rounded up in Arizona in 2001. He was also part of a specialty-Training program in Colorado. Through the efforts of Cady Ness-Smith of Eagle and a BTRC Volunteer, working closely with Lona Kossnar, Wild Horse & Burro Specialist, Department of Interior, BLM along with Karen Malloy, Director of Internet Adoptions, BLM, *Jasper* made his long journey from Colorado via Tennessee.

Jasper was taken off the range in Arizona and transferred to the Colorado Corrections Facility where inmates working in this unique educational program trained him. The special use that *Jasper* will provide gave greater meaning to the job at hand, allowing the inmates to know that the time and energy they spent would be benefiting children with special needs. His trainer stated, "I've put a lot of loving care and time into making sure this little burro is wonderful, just for your program I was so happy to hear that he would go somewhere for children. I really hope he will be an asset to your program."

Jasper's vital statistics are as follows, he is a 5 year old gelding, standing approximately 47" tall, he was hand picked by the inmates as being the most level headed and quickest learner, thus they felt appropriate for a therapeutic riding program. It only took them three days to get him to lead and load quietly. They have utilized many safety techniques such as setting up obstacle courses for him to conquer. He passed all of these tests with flying colors. The inmates have taken great pride in their work and we are extremely grateful for the opportunity to bring this animal into our program. He has already changed the lives of those he has touched, and, we look forward to *Jasper* changing the lives of our children by being an exciting member of our team.

I hope you will all join us in welcoming *Jasper* to our family and we wish to extend a huge Thank You to the BLM and Cady for bringing this exciting opportunity to the Lansing School District and the Mid-Michigan Area.