



## News from THE WALLACE GROUP

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**ProAct, Inc.**

**For Immediate Release**

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### **AREA SADDLE CLUB DONATES \$1,500 TO PROACT IN RED WING**

#### **Bear Valley Riders shares proceeds from rodeos to provide outdoor exercise equipment for people with disabilities**

A horseback riding club that can trace its roots to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century is contributing \$1,500 toward improved recreation opportunities for people with disabilities at ProAct in Red Wing. The Bear Valley Riders Saddle Club is known for its summer rodeos and children's events.

The club has supported numerous community causes in the past. "It's been something we've strived to do over the years," said Club Secretary Mark Diercks. He fills that role together with his wife, Judy, and the couple has an adult daughter who receives services from ProAct. "She's the type who has to go out and see people. It's a joy for her to go to work, Diercks said.

ProAct Director of Programs and Services Sally Ogren said the nonprofit is grateful for the help. "Diminished funding and a difficult economy make it harder than ever to keep up with the need for equipment and supplies for the people we serve," she said. The group plans to purchase a basketball hoop, and other outdoor game and activity equipment.

**ProAct donation/page two**

The nonprofit Bear Valley Riders are based in Mazeppa, Minn., and many of its members come from the Zumbro Falls area, Diercks explained. Its rodeo events typically feature one by one sorting of cows by horseback riders.

ProAct is headquartered in Eagan and has additional operations in Red Wing, Zumbrota and in Hudson, Wis. Its mission is to serve individuals experiencing barriers to employment and self-sufficiency due to intellectual and developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, mental health issues, traumatic brain injuries, and other challenges.

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