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**DATE:** September 13, 2016 **PHONE:** 303-731-9057

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**The Right Step, Inc. Awarded**

**The 2016 Jockey Club Thoroughbred Incentive Program (T.I.P.) Award!**

The Thoroughbred of the Year Award recognizes a Thoroughbred that has excelled in a non-competitive career, such as equine-assisted therapy or police work. This year’s winner is ‘Louie’ aka Big Saga or Shadow Dancer, a therapy horse with The **Right Step Inc.** (**TRS**,) a local therapeutic riding facility in Littleton, Colorado.

Louie is a 1989 dark bay or brown gelding by Arctic Saga out of Don’t Plan, and was foaled in Idaho. Before transitioning into therapeutic riding, Louie (Big Saga) was a consecutive year-end Division Champion in the Colorado Hunter Jumper Association. He taught numerous children about riding, and had three different owners who he helped bring up through the horse show ranks.

Louie excels as a therapy horse. He has a wonderful work ethic and is always ready to go. He is kind and patient with humans and horses alike and carries some of the youngest and smallest clients with great care. One day during a lesson he stopped, planted, and refused to budge no matter what his horse leader did. The instructor realized what was happening and had the side walkers secure the rider. The rider lost control of his body and proceeded to have a seizure. Louie’s sensitivity predicted the seizure and as a result kept his rider safe.

**The Right Step Inc.** clients and volunteers are honored to have Louie as a therapy horse. He is a Thoroughbred who has had something to give back and teach us humans in all the stages of his life. Today, Louie is a valued member of the **TRS** team. Louie regularly demonstrates his skills whether he is comforting someone with PTSD or helping a new client find confidence to ride. Every Louie encounter results in additional stories of love, humor and amazing outcomes.

The Award earns **The Right Step, Inc**. a $5100 cash grant, saddle pad, halter, and other recognition. As part of TRS, Louie’s time to shine is another opportunity to celebrate their successful therapeutic riding program.

To meet Louie, or the people he serves, share his wonderful story or learn more about **The Right Step Inc.** please contact Program Director Sheryl Clossen at 303-731-9057 or email [programdirector@therightstepinc.org](mailto:programdirector@therightstepinc.org)

Discover the healing power of horses!!