Animal-Assisted Interactions (AAI) Instructor Bios

Tanya Bailey, MSW, LICSW is a licensed clinical social worker with over 20 years’ experience providing Animal-Assisted Interactions (AAI) in mental health, wellness, and learning programs for individuals, families, school districts, and human service organizations. She is the Animal-Assisted Interaction Program Specialist at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, and a consultant to the U of MN’s Center for Spirituality and Healing where she co-facilitates a graduate course in AAI. Tanya is a Pet Partners® team evaluator with Pet Partners (formerly known as Delta Society), and a TTEAM Practitioner-in-training through Tellington-TTouch. She was Secretary of the Board for EFMHA (Equine-Facilitated Mental Health Association – now merged with PATH, International), and is a Graduate Advisor and Adjunct Faculty for the Master’s of Arts in Education with an emphasis in Equine-Assisted Learning (EAL) through Prescott College. Tanya focuses on engaging people in the journey towards balance and as a multi-species practitioner, works with her registered therapy chicken, an amazing herd of horses at the U of MN’s Leatherdale Equine Center, and goats, llamas, and donkeys at program sites in the Twin Cities.

Leif Hallberg, MA, LCPC, LPC, is a pioneer and leading expert in the field of equine interactions. Leif’s book, Walking the Way of the Horse: Exploring the Power of the Horse-Human Relationship is used as a teaching text both nationally and internationally. Ms. Hallberg is a horse trainer turned licensed mental health professional who has practiced Equine-Facilitated Psychotherapy and Learning (EFP/L) for the past 17 years. She has extensive experience in a wide variety of mental health settings across the country, the creation and oversight of three EFP/L programs in Arizona, New Mexico, and Montana, adjunct faculty positions with Carroll and Prescott Colleges, and instrumental in the growth and development of the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.) as a consultant and volunteer. She currently resides in Portland, OR where she has a private clinical practice and provides business consultation services as well as workshops and seminars across the country and internationally.

Lisa Gidlow Moriarty, BFA, artist, spiritual director, and advanced labyrinth facilitator, is an internationally recognized presenter with a passion for leading others in use of labyrinths and art in the spiritual journey. International journeys to sacred sites continuously inform her work as she designs and installs labyrinths for schools, hospitals, churches, and individuals. She is past president of the international Labyrinth Society and owner of Paths of Peace (www.pathsofpeace.com) in Stillwater, MN.

Nature-Based Therapeutics (NBT) services are a University of Minnesota initiative shared by the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and the Center for Spirituality and Healing to further the understanding of the people-nature connection.