

CAPA “horse groom” training program for the visually impaired



Legend: the trainees with the ARAC team



Legend: A visually-impaired trainee working in the stables

Introduction / Description:

The goal is to enable an increasing number of young visually-impaired individuals to benefit from the CAPA training program in order to become a “horse groom”, alone for the visually-impaired, or for the blind, with a non-visually-impaired horse groom.

Name of the association	ASSOCIATION ROUCHY DES AVEUGLES À CHEVAL (A.R.A.C)
Duration	3 years (July 2008 through June 2011)
Location	The “collets rouges” equestrian center - 13127 VITROLLES
Background and project justification	<p>The training program meets the needs of young visually-impaired individuals, offering them new professional prospects that are “attractive” and “image-enhancing”, in a field that, until recently, was not accessible to them.</p> <p>There was a higher demand than expected and ARAC ended up with 6, rather than 4 trainees, as was initially planned.</p> <p>ARAC chose to meet the rising demand for training, particularly by accepting a blind individual into the program. The project’s success will give credibility to the training program and should help open the door to new areas of instruction for the visually-impaired.</p>
Project Description	<p>In light of the participants’ visual handicap, the program will provide follow-up and assistance for each trainee during as well as after the training program, ensuring that the graduates find jobs once they have received their CAP diploma.</p> <p>The increase in the number of trainees has made this project much more costly than expected, both in terms of human and financial investments.</p> <p>In particular, ARAC must deal with specific logistics in order to enable its blind trainee to optimally take part in the program.</p>

The Foundation Support	<p>ARAC is requesting support from the Foundation for all measures that must be implemented due to the trainees' visual handicap, particularly the constraints regarding follow-up and assistance during the training program, followed by the occupational integration period.</p> <p>These measures, which are in addition to the training program, are not taken into account. They are, nonetheless, essential for welcoming this particular group of individuals and vital for the project to be a success.</p> <p>Moreover, the program for the blind trainee requires more time and resources than the program for the other visually-impaired individuals.</p>
Projected Results	<p>Thanks to its support, the Foundation will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer young visually-impaired individuals the possibility of attending this training session, for the first time ever in France • Provide a higher number of individuals than was initially planned with the opportunity to be accepted into the program: access to a new profession, which will highlight this group's motivational and relational qualities • Promote the equestrian sector in terms of a specific population that, up until now, was neither concerned nor receptive. This could lead to jobs in the area of leisure activities and sports as well as in a more professional sector. • Put forth an enhanced image of the visually-impaired population in terms of the equestrian center managers, who will offer jobs to this special group of individuals
Project Sustainability	<p>This type of initiative must prove to be a success, if, in the future, it will be supported by institutions.</p> <p>For this project to continue it is essential that an increasing number of employment contracts be signed and that there is a great deal of positive "word of mouth", thanks to the reputation amongst equestrian professionals and the "handicapped" workers who are happy with the quality of their employment and social integration.</p>