

### **EQUINE INSPIRED LEARNING**

Horses are instinctual, powerful teachers of communication, trust and leadership. They provide a mirror for us to see ourselves from a new, fresh perspective. Horses are highly sensitive and natural experts in non-verbal communication-- an important skill for humans to master considering that 70% of our communication is non-verbal. Their size, mass and strength, easily ten times that of a human especially when frightened or threatened, means that they must be handled with care and respect. Their trust must be earned. Their leadership takes time, patience and cannot be forced. These are just some of the gifts of equine inspired learning for executives and business owners that can have an immediate and profound impact on the individual, the leader and the organization.

Equine inspired learning sessions may be arranged for Executive Passage clients by contacting Cynthia Roney directly. These customized one-to-one sessions focus on improving communication, addressing fear and emotion, establishing trust and strengthening leadership skills. Offered in the tranquil community of Southlands (known as 'a little bit of country right here in the city'), these sessions allow busy, stressed-out executives and business owners to take some time away to relax, refocus and learn how to become more effective and congruent in their actions by discovering the gifts of equine inspired learning. Sessions involve groundwork interaction only, no riding or previous horse experience required.

### **EXECUTIVE PASSAGE & EQUINE INSPIRED LEARNING**

A lifelong equestrian, passionate about horses, riding and equine inspired learning, Cynthia Roney began to explore ways to merge her love for business, people and horses. In 2007, Cynthia attended the world renowned Epona Center in Arizona founded by Linda Kohanov where she was trained by Epona-certified coaches including Cathryn Clerc from Hippocrene Springs in California. Epona equine-assisted therapy is now one of many horse-human interaction programs to recently emerge in North America.

In 2008, Cynthia created the corporate name **Executive Passage** to reflect her passage from sales to CEO to executive coach, and to capture the equestrian term "**Passage**". The *Passage* is one of the highest level movements in dressage (a dance of the horse) attained only after years of focused training and perfect partnership between horse and rider. One of the world's most inspirational horse/rider combinations, Blue Hors Matine and Andreas Helgstrand perform the *passage* in this [videoclip](#).

In June 2009, the reality of integrating horses with Cynthia's business came together when the Company invested in its latest coach, Piko's Executive Passage. Piko was a big 17.2 hand warmblood Westphalian who was as comfortable jumping a 5ft fence as he was doing dressage (including a *passage*!) He was relaxed, easygoing and happy to have you lay down beside him in his stall. He also adored hugs and affection from Cynthia's nephew Brady, a handsome 17 year old with special needs. Cynthia's daughter, Taylor Roney a talented 3-day event rider would often say, "Piko will you marry me" and Piko would respond by lowering his head and gently lifting his front leg followed by a kiss on Taylor's forehead. Piko's remarkable gentle disposition and his genuine trust and love for people made him ideal for equine inspired learning.



**Piko's Executive Passage & Taylor Roney**

Sadly in August 2010, we lost our beloved Piko following emergency colic surgery and discovery of a rare, massive stomach impaction. We sincerely thank Dr. Antonio Cruz and his team at the Paton, Martin & Cruz equine veterinary hospital in Langley for all their support and tireless efforts to try to save Piko during this very difficult 3 week period. **Piko touched all our lives! What can we learn from this 1,500 pound animal....tons!**

*Success is a journey, not a destination.*



#### **CYNTHIA RONEY**

Founder & CEO, Executive Passage

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