

Mission Moments

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Man's Best Friend

Dogs have the reputation for being "man's best friend," but, for Mike, horses fit this description.

For much of his life, Mike has worked with horses. A native of Greenfield, he had a close relationship with the Bowen family, who founded Edelweiss Equine-Assisted Therapy. Mike volunteered at Edelweiss for years. However, in early 2018, Edelweiss handed the reins over to new owners and became Agape East. The horses were sent to other Agape locations for the winter months, until Agape East started equine therapy classes in April 2018.



During this time, Mike seemed to lose interest in leaving the house. He became more isolated and would rarely spend time with his roommates, preferring to stay in his room.

Then, one of the Tangram staff members who works with him recommended that he start volunteering at Agape. Mike started working with a horse named Lexi and quickly got his groove back.

Mike is naturally introverted, but when he is working with horses, he is quietly confident. Just by observing him, you can tell that his happy place is anywhere he gets to be around the animals he loves. If ever anyone needed evidence that equine therapy worked, this would be the perfect example.

"He has really come out of his shell and has even been wanting to get out in the community more. I have seen so much growth in him since I became his program manager in January," explained Cory Brown, Mike's Tangram program manager.



Mike has even started spending more time socializing with his roommates at home and has begun helping with cooking and meal clean-up.

Cory loves seeing Mike's transformation. "He's done a complete 360. I'm just so proud of him!"

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