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As the Arizona summer reaches peak temperatures, <u>Hunkapi Programs</u>, a Scottsdale-based equine therapy nonprofit, is turning to the community for urgent support. Each year, the organization relocates its herd of therapy horses—many of them elderly and retired—to Flagstaff, offering them cooler weather and a much-needed break from the desert heat.

The seasonal move is essential for the well-being of the animals, who have spent years helping individuals navigate trauma, disability, and crisis. But this year, the need is especially pressing.

To sustain the herd during their stay in northern Arizona, Hunkapi urgently requires 160 bales of hay, each costing \$25. In addition, the farm is seeking other supplies such as fly spray, supplements to prevent potentially deadly colic, and electrolytes to support hydration during travel and heat exposure.

"These animals give so much of themselves year-round," Terra Schaad, founder of Hunkapi, said. "They serve our first responders and their children, ALS support groups, children in crisis centers and group homes, and so many more. Now they need us."

Supporters can help in several ways. A financial donation of any amount goes directly toward purchasing hay and supplies. A \$25 contribution sponsors one bale of hay, feeding a therapy horse for up to five days. Those unable to donate financially are encouraged to spread the word or consider making in-kind donations, such as fly spray, shade structures, or transportation assistance.

"This is about giving back to the horses that quietly heal so many," Schaad said. "Every single bale helps."

A complete list of needed items can be found on the farm's <u>Amazon Wish List</u>. For more information, follow along on Instagram @<u>hunkapiprograms</u> or visit <u>hunkapi.org</u>.