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## Camp Casey founder to air on 'Today'

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Camp Casey, a Michigan-based horseback riding program for kids with cancer, is set to appear on NBC's Today Show on June 10.

The segment, which was pre-taped in Michigan in early May, highlights the organization's Horsey House Calls program, which brings a horse to the doorsteps of kids conquering cancer.

"To say I was both shocked and elated when I received a call from Jill Rappaport from the Today Show is an understatement," Camp Casey Executive Director said Molly Melamed, 27, a Farmington Hills native. "All of us at Camp Casey have only ever dreamed of an opportunity of this magnitude and we're so grateful to Jill and the Today Show. We hope this exposure allows us to reach more families who can use our services."

Rappaport traveled from New York City to tape the segment after learning of Camp Casey's Horsey House Calls program through a friend. Rappaport, who is an animal advocate and horse lover, spent two days interviewing the Camp Casey staff and joined them on a Horsey House Call to the home of a 7-year-old girl with leukemia in Detroit.

"We normally surprise our Horsey House Call recipients with a horse," said Camp Casey Equine Director Amy Gill, 31. "But this time, Maya got a horse and a camera crew! She and her whole family were wonderful and willing to share their personal story of battling cancer and working with Camp Casey."

The segment is set to air on Thursday, June 10 between 8-10 a.m. barring any unforeseen news conflicts.

Camp Casey ([www.camp-casey.org](http://www.camp-casey.org)), a 501c3 nonprofit organization founded in 2003, offers three unique programs to children with cancer and their families.

Cowboy Camp Outs are overnight mini-vacations at dude ranches in Michigan; Horsey House Calls bring a horse to the doorstep of kids too ill to

attend an overnight retreat; Outlaw Outings provide family-oriented activities, like attending professional sports games, without the expense or hassle of planning. All of Camp Casey's programs are free for families facing a pediatric cancer diagnosis.

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