

## The Fun of Play

Join us on Monday, February 13 for a most unique and fun program, presented by Ayni and Micah Rose from 6:00- 8:00 pm at Mental Health America (note the new name) at 3136 W. 4<sup>th</sup>.

What's faster than a speeding Frisbee and more powerful than a rubber chew toy? Who can soothe stress, warm hearts, and fetch more smiles in a single tail wag? That would be Micah Rose, a golden retriever and Ayni, a loving (and lovable) dachshund. They will bring along with them their pet partners, Jo Burleson and Theresa Fuss.

Jo and Teresa will talk about the certification process to become an Animal Assisted Therapy Dog. Animal Assisted Therapy and Animal Assisted Activity are useful modalities that can be easily incorporated into the counseling and school setting. Animals in counseling sessions, and the classroom, facilitate an atmosphere of trust, nurturance, and relationship building. The therapy animal is a non-judgmental companion in the process of learning and development, for the animal offers nurturance through the presentation of unconditional acceptance and interaction. (Chandler, 2001)

Jo is in private practice with Family Counseling where she specializes in play therapy and grief transformation. Theresa is a counselor at Fort Worth Country Day's Lower School. It is not uncommon to see Micah playfully facilitating team challenges on the ropes course, listening to kindergarten students read their favorite story or playing fetch on the soccer field with Theresa and a lucky student.

This program will be both informative and fun! Don't miss meeting Ayni and Micah Rose!!!

Also, please note: *Ethics in Recordkeeping*, Saturday, March 24, 9 am.- noon, 3 ethics CEUs. Fee information and details available next month.