

# EQUUS Gateway

*Film & Arts Fest*

*“Veterans” Mustang Summit*

**June 7 – 9, 2024**

**Gateway Family Services of Illinois POTOMAC, IL**

- ♥ Saturday - BBQ & Film VIP Event with Mustangers
- ♥ EQUUS Films Saturday
- ♥ Mustang Symposium Saturday & Sunday
- ♥ 4 Yearling Mustangs - started and available for adoption
- ♥ Panels with Equine Healing Programs
- ♥ Equine Vendors
- ♥ Sunday - Mustang Adoption Event
- ♥ Saturday & Sunday – Day Events - *Free to the Public (Donations Suggested)*

7757 US ROUTE 136 POTOMAC, IL 61865

[info@gatewayfamilyservices.org](mailto:info@gatewayfamilyservices.org)



## About the EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit

The EQUUS Film & Arts Fest takes place as both a Virtual and In-Person Event! It is the first event of its kind to offer a home to the storytellers of the horse world, with films, documentaries, videos, commercials, and shorts from around the world and cultural elements of fine equestrian art and literature.

The Mustang Summit has been added to the program as an educational platform to raise awareness and understanding about the American Mustangs in holding pens and available for adoption. A horse who has a safe and quiet start can be trainable and become a good partner. It is our mission to bring awareness to American Mustangs who need homes. Focusing on and highlighting the work taking place in the healing and equine assisted learning fields with Mustangs. Providing resources for all who want to learn about the Off-Range Mustang horse.

Founded in 2013 by Lisa Diersen, Director/Organizer, an equestrian, who has spent her life in the company of horses. Lisa's mission is to show the world how horses can bring everyone together regardless of race, age, gender, abilities or disabilities. She presently raises, trains and loves Lusitano horses in Saint Charles, Illinois with her Jack Russell, Amore. Julianne Neal joined the team in 2016.

*Every horse has a story, it's our mission at the EQUUS Film & Arts Fest to share those stories, through film, art and literature.*

The EQUUS Film Fest [Channel You-Tube](https://www.youtube.com/EquusFilmFestival), streaming to all your devices.  
Visit our website at: <http://www.equusfilmfestival.net/> and our [FaceBook](#) page.

### PR AND/OR SPONSOR CONTACT:

Lisa Diersen [lisa@equusfilmfestival.net](mailto:lisa@equusfilmfestival.net) +1-630-272-3077

**Additional Info:** Julianne Neal [julianneneal@me.com](mailto:julianneneal@me.com) +1-803-351-0223

Assistant to the Director: Julie Martin

### SOCIAL MEDIA

FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/EquusFilmFestival>

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/EQUUSFilmNYC>

You-Tube - <https://www.youtube.com/@equusfilmfestival772/featured>



# Partnership Opportunities – EQUUS Film Fest | The Mustang Summit

## Title, Presenting and Custom Partnership Packages

**\*\*Available Upon Request\*\***

### Platinum Partnership Package \$5,000

- Exclusive Social Media blast
- Listed as a preferred partner on EquusFilmFestival.net
- 2–10-minute introduction at VIP party (Their choice on timeframe)
- Presentation slide with company information & logo In film program and lobby loop
- 4' x 2' Banner at The Mustang Summit Location
- Branded logo on banners
- VIP Passes for 10 Guest

### Diamond Partnership Package \$3000

- Exclusive Social Media blast
- Listed as a preferred partner on EquusFilmFestival.net
- 2–10-minute introduction at VIP party (Their choice on timeframe)
- Presentation slide with company information & logo In film program and lobby loop
- 4' x 2' Banner at The Mustang Summit Location
- Branded logo on banners
- VIP Passes for 6 Guest

### Gold Partnership Package \$1500

- Social Media blast with all sponsors
- Listed as a preferred partner on EquusFilmFestival.net
- 2-minute introduction at VIP party
- 4' x 2' Banner at The Mustang Summit Location
- Presentation slide with company information & logo In film program and lobby loop
- VIP Passes for 4 Guest

### Silver Partnership Package \$1000

- Social Media blast with all sponsors
- Shout out for being a sponsor at live event
- 4' x 2' Banner at The Mustang Summit Location
- Presentation slide with company information & logo In film program and lobby loop
- VIP Passes for 2 Guest

### Pony Partnership Package \$500

- Shout out for being a sponsor at live event
- Presentation slide with company information & logo

# Benefits of a Partnership with the EQUUS Film & Arts Fest

- ♥ Partnering with an established Internationally acclaimed Equine Film, Art & Literary Fest
- ♥ Celebrating the 12<sup>th</sup> season in 2024
- ♥ Exposure to a Global Audience through the “Virtual” On-Demand Film Fest
- ♥ Attended by International guests, artists, and filmmakers and those from across the country
- ♥ Annual visitors in New York City 800 – 1000 film & art fest guests attending over the weekend – hosted in NYC for the artists and authors. In 2019 we moved to the expansive Kentucky Horse Park artist and author attendance doubled.
- ♥ Partnering in 10 + Nationwide events annually
- ♥ Connecting with subscribers and visitors to the EQUUS Film Fest Channel
- ♥ Marketing and exposure on all EQUUS Social Media outlets
- ♥ Albuquerque, New Mexico, home of our annual Winnie Awards event, is much more inviting to filmmakers, artists, authors, and other demos in November. The location is beautiful!
- ♥ Partnering with the EQUUS Art & Fest and The Mustang Summit – with invited local equestrian artists as well as selected award-winning EQUUS artists, creating a great holiday shopping opportunity and exposure for marketing of products and services

## The New York Times

Laurel Graeber of the NEW YORK TIMES wrote:

"EQUUS, however, has the heft and breadth of a Clydesdale, screening more than 80 films Friday through Sunday in Brooklyn. It also comprises equine art and book showcases, director panels and jury awards (the Winnies)... EQUUS has just instituted an on-demand streaming service for its films, which “aren’t made in somebody’s little back room on a laptop,” said Lisa Diersen, an equestrian and former engineer who founded the festival in 2013, “These are PBS-quality documentaries.” (Equus also shows a few fictional films.)"

EQUUS Film Fest Documentary Watch the exciting 2021 WINNIE Awards Event

<https://equustelevision.com/watch/932>

EQUUS Film & Arts Fest 2021 Documentary

<https://equustelevision.com/watch/957>



*Hundreds of films have gained recognition, found international distribution and reached global audiences We believe that film holds the power to experience a story in the most compelling way.*

*We empower storytellers to share their unique equine stories.*

*By placing the EQUUS Film Fest in the unique locations around the world, people from all walks of life can enjoy these inspiring stories.*

*We look forward to welcoming you to the EQUUS Film & Arts Fest, and The Mustang Summit where you can enjoy the impressive line-up of films, amazing artists and interesting authors, along with a full line up of Mustang Clinicians.*

Founder | Lisa Diersen

# **EQUUS Film & Arts Fest**

## **The Mustang Summit**

### **Program Schedule** **(Subject to Change)**

EQUUS Film & Arts Fest will be galloping into town with The Mustang Summit! Presenting a full weekend of programming including the EQUUS Film Festival, an Art & Literary Event, Equestrian/Mustang Demos, Lectures, and other exciting events.

#### **Schedule of Events:**

*Friday – Mustang Summit Demo Programs – 9 am – 3 pm*  
*(Friday Sessions are Private)*

***Saturday & Sunday –***  
***Day Programs OPEN to the Public – FREE***  
***Donations Suggested***

**Saturday – Mustang Summit Demo Programs – 10 am – 3 pm**

**Saturday – Panels & Vendors – 10 am – 3 pm**

***Saturday Evening - (Ticketed Event - \$50 per person)***

***EQUUS VIP Event – BBQ, Films & Meet the Mustangers – 5 pm – 9 pm***

**Sunday – Cowboy Church – 10:30 am**

**Sunday - Mustang Summit Demo Programs – 11 am – 2 pm**

**Sunday – Panels, Films & Vendors – 11 am – 2 pm**

**Sunday – Silent Auction Close – 2 pm**

**Sunday– Yearling Mustang Adoption – 2 pm**



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# **The Silent Auction Items**



## Signed Print by Artist *Meghan Guilfoil* – **WON!!!**

**Westward:** direction, orientation, movement towards adventure. This painting is the signature piece of this series and carries the energy discovered when we move together. Each Mustang brings its unique drive and curiosity; yet, all are pulled forward, almost instinctually and with great purpose.

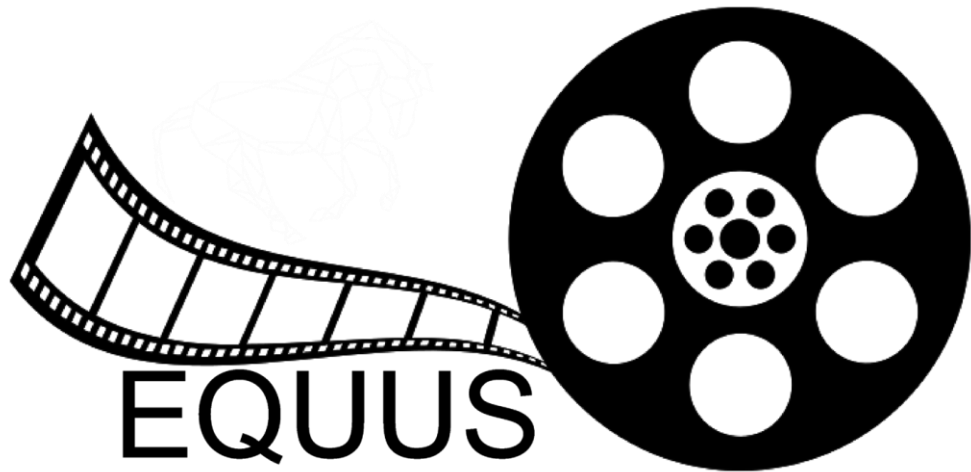
This piece is a bold statement centerpiece for any space. My hope is for this trio to inspire you as much as they have inspired me!

**15x45 inch custom print, with a 1-inch white border for matting**

Printed on the highest quality, cotton rag, and archival paper, this print shares the full artistry of the original work and can be framed with or without glass to display the beautiful texture of the paper. The print will be hand-labeled and signed by the artist and include a certificate of authenticity.

**Valued at \$300**





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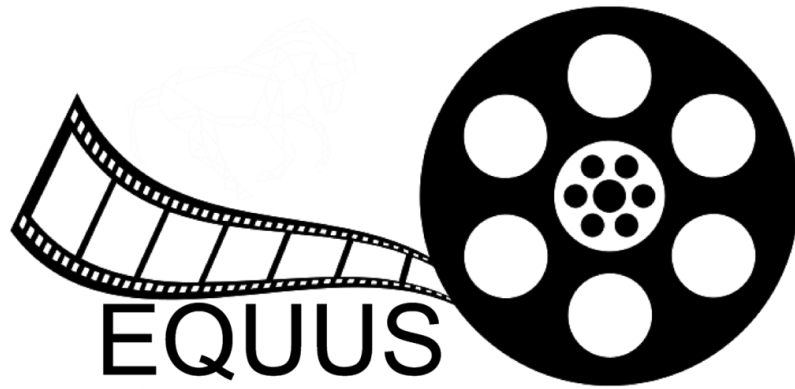
# Our Mustang Partners



THE *Cloud*  
FOUNDATION







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# Our Industry Partners



HORSES FOR  
MENTAL HEALTH



CHATTANOOGA  
GIRLS LEADERSHIP  
ACADEMY  
UNLOCKING A WORLD OF POSSIBILITY



Rocky Mountain  
HORSE EXPO



## Illinois Equine Liability Act

Illinois - Warning - Under the Equine Activity Liability Act, each participant who engages in an equine activity expressly assumes the risks of engaging in and legal responsibility for injury, loss, or damage to person or property resulting from the risk of equine activities.

# Upcoming Dates and Locations 2024

## 42 Mustangs (or more) in 2024

*Based on information from the BLM Website:*

*It costs BLM about \$27,500, on average, to provide life-time care for a wild horse not placed into private care.*

- **March – Rocky Mountain Horse Expo – Denver Colorado - March 15 – 17, 2024**
  - Full Fest – EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit – 6 Mustangs – Adoption Event
- **June – Gateway Mustang Summit - Potomac, Illinois – June 7 – 9, 2024**
  - Small Event - 4 Mustangs & Films – Adoption Event
- **July – BreyerFest – Lexington, Kentucky – July 12 – 14, 2024**
  - Small Event – Films – Rescued Hearts
- **July – The Leonor - Aztec, New Mexico – July 26 & 27, 2024**
  - Small Event – Films & Art & Panels – Mustangs & Rescues
- **July – August – Adams County Fair – Brighton, Colorado – July 31 – August 4, 2024**
  - The Mustang Summit - Mustangers Event – 6 Mustangs – Adoption Event
- **August 25 – Mustang Symposium – Soulful Prairies – Woodstock, Illinois**
  - 1 Day Mustang Symposium
- **September – How Horses Help Symposium – Great Lakes – Oregon, Ohio – September 5-8, 2024**
  - Full Fest – EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit – 6 Mustangs – Adoption Event
- **September – Mustang Classic – KHP – Lexington, Kentucky – September 13-15, 2024**
  - Full Fest – EQUUS Film & Arts Fest
- **September – EQUUS Aiken – Aiken Equine Rescue - Aiken, South Carolina – September 19-22, 2024**
  - Full Fest – EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit – 6 Mustangs – Adoption Event
- **October – Liberty Festival – Kentucky Horse Park – October 11-12, 2024**
  - EQUUS Film & Arts Fest – Rescued Hearts Screening
- **October – Ibericon – World Equestrian Center – Ocala, Florida – October 17-20, 2024**
  - Small Event – Films
- **October – EQUUS BC – Anvil Center – New West Minister, BB Canada – October 26, 2024**
  - Small Event – Films
- **November – Shaker Village – Harrodsburg, Kentucky – November 2, 2024**
  - EQUUS Film & Arts Fest – Art & Films
- **November – EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit Main Event – Albuquerque, New Mexico – November 14 – 17, 2024**
  - Full Fest – EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit – 6 Mustangs – Adoption Event

## *Additional Dates and Locations 2025*

- **April – EQUUS Equine Affaire Ohio – Columbus, Ohio – April 10-13**
  - Full Fest – EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit – 6 Mustangs – Adoption Event
- **May – Mustang Symposium – Colorado BLM Partner Event -Grand Junction Colorado – June 26-29**
  - Full Fest – EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit – 6 Mustangs – Adoption Event
- **August – Maryland Mustang Mission – Harford County Equestrian Center – Bel Air, Maryland – August – August 30 – 31, 2025**
  - Full Fest – EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit – 6 Mustangs – Adoption Event
- **Sacramento – EQUUS Sacramento – Sacramento, California – April or May 2025**
  - Full Fest – EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit – 6 Mustangs – Adoption Event





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# The Team



# Lisa Diersen

## EQUUS Film & Arts Fest | The Mustang Summit Founder / Director

Lisa Diersen is an equestrian; riding since she could sit in a saddle, Diersen has a great appreciation for all types of equestrian disciplines. She is the Founder and Director of the EQUUS Film Festival, now in its 12<sup>th</sup> season. The EFF empowers storytellers to show horses' rich history and diverse tapestry in human culture through equestrian content, film, art, and literature. The EQUUS Film Festival is the first film festival oriented around equestrian-themed content from all over the world that also travels the world. Screening feature films, documentaries, shorts, music videos, commercials, training educational materials, art, and literature, covering all equestrian disciplines, creating a home for the storytellers of the horse world.

Created for Horse Lovers... by Horse Lovers!

Her mission is to show the world how horses can bring everyone together regardless of race, age, gender, abilities, or disabilities. Lisa is passionate about the education and enlightenment of others to the wonderful world of horses and everything they can do to enrich our lives.

Producer and writer credits on the DOWN Syndrome equine documentary "A Pony And His Boy: The Story Of Berry & Josh" for the EQUUS Film Festival in New York City and the National DOWN Syndrome Congress 2019 with SPOTLIGHT Rescue Series partner and film director Julianne Neal. Working on additional SRS documentaries to add to the series she and Neal started in 2017. The Mustang Discovery Ride Project is now in production. Lisa is the Executive Director of the Mustang Discovery Foundation. Adding "The Mustang Summit" to the programming in 2022. With a focus on educating the general public about the American Mustang Horse and its importance in the world today.

She is a published equine author with many articles to her credit. Diersen spent the early part of her career with General Motors in engineering, then moving into the subdivision development and home/barn building market, winning an Illinois Home Builder Award, before returning to her first love..... working with horses! She spends her time, when not promoting equestrian film, having fun promoting Classical Dressage, Lusitano, and Mustang horses, and spending time with her faithful Jack Russell Terrier, Amore, and her Lusitano, Urano.

[www.equusfilmfestival.net](http://www.equusfilmfestival.net)

[lisa@equusfilmfestival.net](mailto:lisa@equusfilmfestival.net)

+1-630-272-3077



# Michael Remole

MA LCPC, NCC, NLC-C, EP

## Gateway Family Services – Illinois Illinois TEAM



Michael has nearly two decades of working with children and families in a variety of settings, including as a Multi-Systemic Therapist, Clinical Director, Children's Pastor, Camp Counselor and speaker. After serving as a Children's pastor, he went on to obtain his Master of Arts in Clinical Counseling from Ashland Theological Seminary. Following seminary, Michael worked at The Buckeye Ranch in Columbus Ohio as a Multi-Systemic Therapist, working with individuals 12-18 and their families. The primary focus was to help change the family system to help assist the child change their delinquent and defiant behaviors.

Michael founded and leads Gateway Family Services of Illinois, providing trauma focused-equine assisted psychotherapy, Individual & Family Therapy. This team is working individuals and families across the lifespan who have experienced trauma. Michael has spent several years working with youth in the foster care system & post-adoption. Gateway Family Services is also working with the VA Illiana Health Care System to provide services to veterans. In addition to Gateway Family Services, Michael is currently the Executive Director of Hooves of Hope, a faith based mentoring program.

Michael is passionate about neuroscience and understanding the impact of trauma on the brain. Michael has completed Phase II/TTT and Neurosequential Model of Reflective Supervision with the Neurosequential Model of Therapeutics course taught by the leading trauma expert Bruce D. Perry MD, PhD. A part of his training is to work with mentors and help Phase II participants. Michael has completed his EMDR training and has earned his certificate as an EMDR Child Specialist. He is currently enrolled with UC Davis as a fellow in the Infant-Parent Child Institute. Michael is former a trainer for Natural Lifemanship, the model of therapy that incorporates the Neurosequential model to understand human and horse brain development.

Michael was recently recognized by The Trauma Therapist Podcast as one of the "Incredible People." He currently serves as the Executive Director of Hooves of Hope, a faith-based mentoring program that teaches basic horsemanship skills and helps individuals explore their faith. Remole also serves on the Board of Directors for the Prevent Child Abuse Illinois, Vermilion County 708 Mental Health Board and Emerald Springs Equine Services in Granby Connecticut.

In Michael's spare time he enjoys spending time with his wife, Gabby & their twin boys, riding horses, photography, playing the piano & building projects.

<https://www.gatewayfamilyservices.org/>



# Gabrielle Remole

LCSW, NLC-C, EP

Gateway Family Services – Illinois

Illinois TEAM



Gabby earned her MSSW from The University of Texas at Austin. She is certified as both a clinician and equine professional in the trauma-focused equine assisted psychotherapy model, Natural Lifemanship. She is also a trainer for the model. She is trained, and pursuing certification, in EMDR. She has been practicing TF-EAP since 2013 and has had extensive experience in play, art and nature therapy. She has over a decade of experience working as an adoption caseworker.

Gabby employs a systems-based perspective to help children, teens & families who have experienced trauma. She prefers experiential therapy - including work with horses, art, music and nature - to traditional talk therapy, believing that movement and “doing” can often be more effective, particularly for children and adolescents.

She enjoys using humor, when appropriate, hoping that clients know that, while therapy can sometimes be really hard, it can also be fun.

Gabby was blessed to have been raised around horses. She loves that she is able to incorporate her connection with, and deep respect for, horses in her work.

<https://www.gatewayfamilyservices.org/>







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# The Venue



# Potomac, Illinois

June 2024

## Gateway Family Services of Illinois

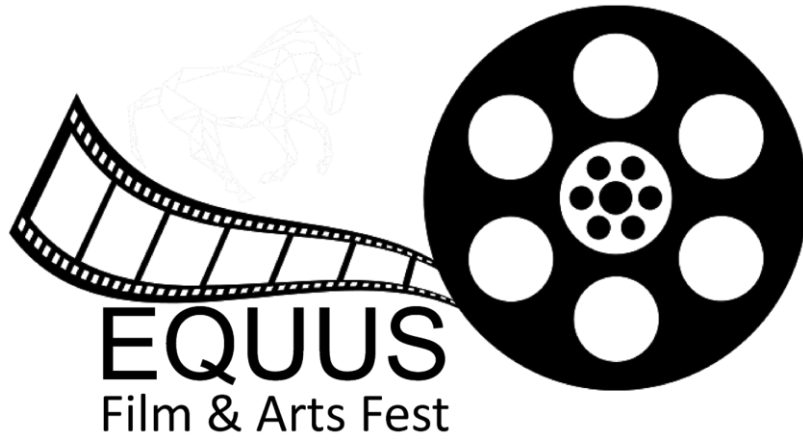


Gateway Family Services of Illinois provides Trauma-Focused Equine Assisted Psychotherapy to improve relationships and address challenging behaviors. Gateway utilizes Natural Lifemanship, a Trauma-Focused Equine Assisted Psychotherapy model, based on the neuroscience of human and horse brain development, the impact of trauma, and the role of relationships in recovery and healing. Sessions incorporate science-based principles for building healthy, connected relationships aimed to help individuals and families. This comprehensive approach addresses the impact of trauma that has taken place throughout one's development to help individuals and families achieve success in all arenas of their lives.

*Gateway Family Services of Illinois is a 501(c)3 mental health non-profit (82-5497238), United Way partner agency providing a variety of services from Trauma Focused-Equine Assisted Psychotherapy, EMDR, play, sand, art and nature therapies to intensive home-based therapy.*

<https://www.gatewayfamilyservices.org/>





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# The "Mustangers"



# Alec Adams

Colorado

Alec Adams Horse and Rider Training

Lake George, Colorado

10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Equine

Author / Mustangs Advocate / Veterans Mustang Program



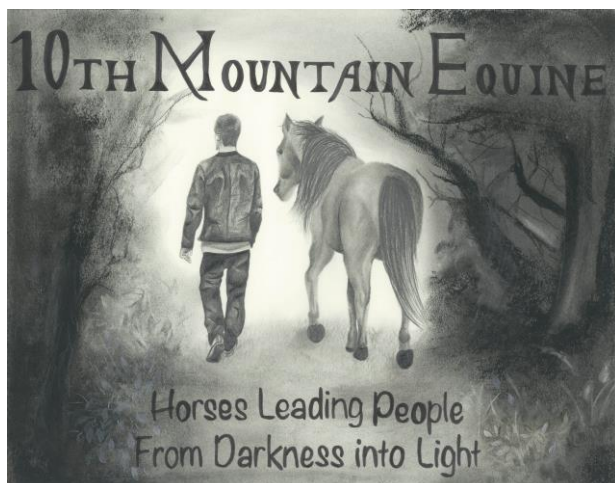
Alec Adams, President and Director of Equine Operations at 10th Mountain Equine. Trainer at Alec Adams Horse and Rider Training, she has been working professionally with horses for over 35 years internationally. A successful competition and pro rider in a variety of disciplines: Hunters, Jumpers, Eventing, Reining, Trail, English Equitation, Western Pleasure, and many Gymkhana Events, she currently works as a horse trainer, private riding instructor, Depth Hypnosis Practitioner, Equine Assisted Activity Facilitator, Ranch Manager, and Mustanger with the Mustang Summit.

Ms. Adams published the book *Mindful Horseback Riding*, and trains horses and individuals alike in methods from her book, from Trustwork to Yoga on Horseback, as well as teaching traditional riding disciplines, vaulting, and mounted archery. She also spent several years designing, creating and training both horses and staff for several companies in both North and South America, including the number one equestrian tour company in Peru, Mountain Lodges of Peru.

In 2019, Alec co-founded the Colorado 501(c)3 nonprofit 10th Mountain Equine, with the mission to rescue horses and serve our community and country by providing proven, effective Equine Assisted Therapies and Activities to improve people's lives including children, veterans and those experiencing psychological trauma. Ms. Adams has been facilitating and providing Equine Assisted Therapies and Activities to people in need for over a decade. She has developed several new modalities, including the Equine Assisted Trauma Release and the Horse Guided Hypnotherapy methods which are becoming increasingly successful across the country.

<https://www.facebook.com/aleczadamshorseandridertraining/>

<https://10me.org/>



# Sky Epperson

Indiana

MUSTANG Adoption Academy – Founder/Director

Mustang Heritage Foundation TIP Trainer

Haubstadt, IN

[www.mustangadoptionacademy.com](http://www.mustangadoptionacademy.com)



Sky is a father of triplets, a horseman, mustang gentler and trainer from Southwest Indiana. Interestingly Sky grew up without horses, heck he did not even have a pet till he was married and in is late 20's. Around 2003 Sky got his first horse at the encouragement of his father who wanted another riding buddy. Sky took his father's advice on that first horse and learned to not take his dad's horse advice! The horse had some issues caused by previous owners/trainers that put Sky on the fast track to learning much about the horse. This learning process led to a passion and love for the horse, horse training and horse communication with both humans and herd. Sky and his 3 children's love for horses has grown and now have a herd of 11 horses and 2 onery but adorable burros. The herd, Sky, and usually one or two of the family squeeze in a horse pack trip each year.

As a Brain Based Horseman, Sky, has worked with Mustangs placed in 10 different states AND 2 countries, he also has worked with horses in three continents. Sky believes that although there are many training methods that can help horses and mustangs there is only one, that can help all horses, Brain Based Horsemanship. This will be the way America saves the Mustang.

Most of Sky's horse sense has come from studying a variety of trainers but a spur of the moment sign up for a West Taylor seminar pulled it together for him and he is fully entrenched with science-based horsemanship of Dr. Steven Peters. Everything Sky had learned was validated in this clinic. Horse neuroscience has helped him to understand the horse better. West Taylor and Dr. Steven Peters really showed what was important.

Sky's horse sense grew immensely when working for Hall of Famer, Terry Palmer and the Palmer family at their Ranch in Durango Colorado. Having the chance to be in front of some many different horses from yearlings to older horses was a real blessing.

Today, Sky specializes in TIP training Mustangs, saddle starting Mustangs, and training horses and their humans to communicate better, as well as, tirelessly, promoting successful Mustang adoption through the Mustang Adoption Academy and Brain Based Horsemanship.

Sky is available to do Clinics or demonstrations or help you with your Mustang privately. Reach out to him to save your mustang as well as others. Follow Sky's progress on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/sky.epperson> , <https://www.facebook.com/Mustangadoptionacademy/> or on Instagram @Mustangadoptionacademywithsky, or [Mustangadoptionacademy.com](http://Mustangadoptionacademy.com)



# MUSTANG



# Adoption Academy

# Gabrielle Remole

LCSW, NLC-C, EP

Gateway Family Services – Illinois  
Illinois TEAM



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# Annamaria Sims

*Partnering with Sky Epperson - Illinois*

**Strengthen the Saddle - Founder**

**Equine Bodywork, Massage & Awareness**



Annamaria Sims, certified Equine Massage Therapist, started her journey with horses later in life. An animal lover at heart, she enrolled her son who was diagnosed with autism (who also showed a fondness for animals) into a therapeutic riding program in 2005 and has never looked back.

Annamaria took an immediate interest into the compassion, natural healing power, and therapeutic aptitude that the horses demonstrated. She volunteered for over 15 years working with occupational, physical, and speech therapists as they worked with both kids and adults with physical and mental disabilities all while expanding her own horizons and watching her two children thrive in the program.

After spending 25 years in database management and retail, she decided to take the knowledge that she had gained and her love for horses and bet on herself. Believing that horses are at their best when they are sound physically, Annamaria received her certification for equine massage and began building a business that now sees her working on over 125+ horses per month in two different states (Illinois and Wisconsin) and growing.

In addition to her massage work, Annamaria has recently worked with wild mustangs at multiple events nationally in an effort to have them adopted to forever homes. Her work has assisted in having multiple mustangs adopted to work in therapeutic program that work with military veterans.

Her ultimate goal is to be able to help as many horses as she can so that partnerships can be made to the benefit of both the horse and the human being.

“Horses are truly an amazing force of nature. The world would not be the same without their powerful healing presence.” – Annamaria Sims



[ajsims42598@comcast.net](mailto:ajsims42598@comcast.net)  
630-878-9517

<https://www.facebook.com/annamaria.sims.39>

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063526724046>





# THE MUSTANG SUMMIT

presents

## Mustangs



# Available for Adoption

in partnership with

**Wild Horse and Burro Program  
Bureau of Land Management**





presents

# The Guest Speakers



# John Matias

## Mental Health Professional | Mustang Owner Michigan

Rev. John Matias, LLPC, MA, MMin, is a graduate of Calvin College, Calvin Theological Seminary and Western Michigan University. He became an ordained minister at age 25 and currently serves as a bilingual clinical mental health therapist at Bethany Christian Services with refugee youth specializing in EMDR, DBT, and CBT. John served on the Grand Rapids Public School Board for 9 years and is the Vice President of the Board of Network 180, the community mental health entity in Kent County, Michigan's second most populous county.

John founded and pastored churches in Chicago, El Paso, Texas, and Grand Rapids, Michigan, and served in education K-12 and college, traveling and advocating nationally. Through his career he has worked at the grassroots level addressing pertinent issues affecting urban at-risk communities in the U.S. including the AIDS epidemic at its outset, gang violence, economic, housing and educational inequities, immigration and racial disparities, minority pastoral leadership development, removing barriers to mental health and higher education, and advocating politically in Lansing and Washington D.C. regarding the needs of the most vulnerable.

John grew up second generation Puerto Rican, number 15 of 16 children in the inner city of Chicago, exposed to the impact of community violence and poverty. His experiences have influenced his passion for addressing the impact of complex trauma in youth and adults. Along with his wife Sarah, also an EMDR therapist, he became involved in an equine therapy program volunteering as the development director for the past two years through which he developed an understanding of the powerful impact of horses in the treatment of trauma and mental health. Sarah and John have 4 grown children and one grandchild and also both come from family cultures of military service. They are Army parents of a Blackhawk pilot and Sarah is an adult child of a combat veteran. Throughout their marriage they have rescued and rehabbed a variety of animals and recently adopted two Wild Mustang yearlings and are in the process of starting a non-profit horse sanctuary and trauma-focused equine assisted therapy program for the treatment of both military and civilian populations experiencing the effects of trauma.



# Sarah Matias

## Mental Health Professional | Mustang Owner LMSW, CAADC, ADS is a Licensed Master Social Worker Michigan

Sarah Matias, LMSW, CAADC, ADS is a Licensed Master Social Worker, Certified Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor, advanced trained EMDR therapist, NADA Acudetox Specialist and EAGALA certified mental health professional. Sarah trained in EMDR with Dr. Wendy Freitag, President of the International EMDRIA Research Foundation and colleague of Dr. Francine Shapiro and is trained in several advanced protocols including equine-assisted EMDR. Sarah is a graduate of Wheaton College, Grand Valley State University.

Sarah has over 30 years of experience in community-based counseling, advocacy, and ministry. She currently serves as a clinical mental health therapist specializing in complex trauma and substance use disorders at Arbor Circle Corporation in Grand Rapids, MI and served on the board of an equine assisted growth and learning facility from 2017 to 2023. She has a passion for cross cultural work, studying in Latin America, Asia and Europe and serving in community-based work in Chicago; El Paso, Texas; Ciudad Juarez, Mexico; and Grand Rapids, Michigan addressing a broad range of populations who have experienced complex trauma including gang members, incarcerated populations, and war refugees. She has partnered with her husband in urban church planting, missions, and has been actively involved in advocacy through a variety of community coalitions, program development, grant writing, and networking between the faith community and social service system.

Sarah specializes in the treatment of complex trauma, addiction, attachment and other mental health diagnoses, utilizing EMDR, equine assisted EMDR and psychotherapy and other modalities as part of an integrative trauma-informed, approach. She has integrated animal assisted therapies throughout her community-based work and has also developed treatment to address the mental wellbeing of the horses and other animals assisting in therapy. Sarah and her husband John, also an EMDR therapist and ordained minister, have 4 grown children and one grandchild. Sarah and John come from family cultures of military service, are Army parents of a Blackhawk pilot and Sarah is an adult child of a combat veteran. They recently adopted two Wild Mustang yearlings and are in the process of starting a non-profit horse sanctuary and trauma-focused equine assisted therapy program for the treatment of both military and civilian populations experiencing the effects of trauma.



# Dana Price

## Michigan

My name is Dana Price and I have been in the social work/counseling field for more than 23 years. I have a double major Bachelors Degree in Psychology with an emphasis on Children and Family and Sociology from Western Michigan University. My Masters in Counseling Psychology is also from Western.

I am a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and a Certified Advanced Drug and Alcohol Counselor (CAADC). My primary approach is Cognitive Behavioral Theory however, I am also experienced in using Dialectical Behavioral Theory and Motivational Interviewing. I offer a laid-back approach to therapy utilizing humor, accountability, warmth, and empathy. Collaborating closely, I work to help clients learn new positive coping skills and get them back on track for long lasting change.

I currently work with adolescents, adults, and couples and am comfortable treating a diverse range of presenting problems. Some of the most common issues I treat are: depression, anxiety, addictions, trauma, personality disorders, and grief. A good therapeutic relationship can offer clarity and support. Emotions can feel overwhelming, but having a safe place to process them can help clients move toward symptom reduction and personal change.

[Dana@changestudiocounseling.com](mailto:Dana@changestudiocounseling.com) (work)

616-259-5033 (work)



# Tim Dippon

## Illinois

Tim was born and raised in Northern Illinois. He graduated from Dwight Township High School in 2000. He enlisted in the Marine Corps late that summer and left for bootcamp late that year. Tim served honorably from late 2000-04 as an Assault Amphibious Vehicle Crew Chief. He deployed twice while serving. His first deployment was to Okinawa where he saw a lot of southeast Asia. The second deployment was with a Special Marine Air Ground Task Force in support of Operation Iraqi/Enduring Freedom. Tim spent approximately 4 months in the Middle East.

The first 16 years after the Marine Corps became quite chaotic and challenging for Tim. He tried his hand at many jobs. He's been a bartender, worked at a vegetable oil refinery where he loaded tank wagon trailers, done tree work, and then tried college. His fall back skill was always the hospitality industry. Tim had a knack for entertaining the crowd and engaging with the people. Along the way there were many broken relationships, lost jobs, and run-ins with the law. He's been through multiple alcohol induced pancreatic attacks and still couldn't let go of his vice in an attempt to fight off his demons. There were many attempts but nothing would stick in regards to terms of sobriety.

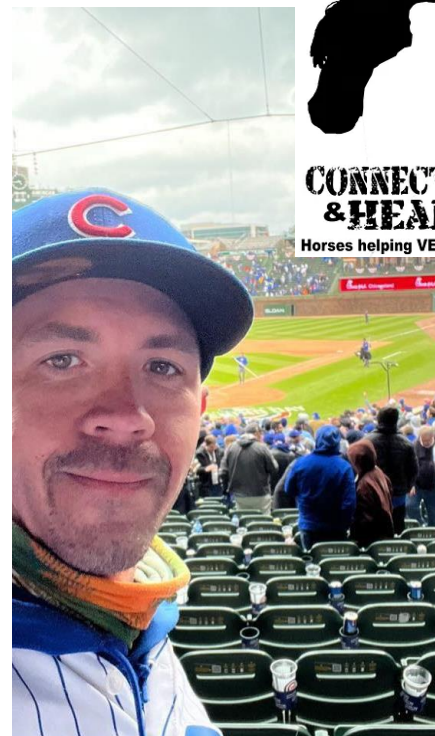
The light bulb finally came on in January of 2020. Tim was finally ready to try another way. He checked in at the Danville VA Illiana PTSD and Substance Abuse program. This is where he found the connection with Gateway Family Services and met his first horse friend, Gabe. He couldn't get enough of it. Tim returned to the farm in the spring of 2022 as the Veteran Outreach Coordinator. Since then he has learned and trained to understand the equine world as directed by the Gateway team of mental health and equine professionals. He has attended and graduated from the Natural Lifemanship Fundamentals Program. He recently completed the Phase I portion of the Mustang gentling course facilitated by Mustanger Sky Epperson.

Tim is a proud handler of his certified PTSD dog "Scotty." Scotty was paid for, trained by, and gifted to Tim by K9 Mission Warriors of Georgetown, IL American Legion Post.

He is a proud Uncle of four nephews. He sits on the board for "That's The Dream Farm" in Glyndon, MN. He is the Illinois Liaison for registered non for profit "Project Reboot". He is currently working with Vermilion County Probation and their specialty court program where he will likely become a Peer Mentor to their Veteran specific court supervision program. He is also a member of the Men's Fellowship of New Life Assembly of God in Dwight, Illinois.

Tim is very appreciative of those that have played pivotal roles in his positive life change. The list of names is too long to list here. He is passionate about what he does and believes that every Veteran should have access to mental health services without long waits. He is not a fan of medicating with pills. He enjoys the organic and interactive approach of animal assisted therapy and the inner peace he finds in experimental/nature therapy.

Tim Dippon Veteran Outreach Coordinator  
USMC Veteran  
(217)920-5635



# Julia Pettersen

## Illinois

My name is Julia Pettersen, I am an LSW and Equine Professional here at Gateway Family Services of Illinois. My love for horses started when I was five and had my first lesson (thank you mom for telling them I was seven!), from then on you couldn't keep me away from horses. I spent my school years working on jumping and spent my summers, from ages 12-17, working as a trail guide and wrangler in Telluride, Colorado.

I received my bachelor's in Psychology at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana, and went to work in the mental health field for two years in Asheville, NC. I found my-self working in a multitude of higher-level care facilities such as a residential treatment facility for children, a therapeutic boarding school for girls, and a mental health treatment facility for adults with substance abuse struggles and/or mental health struggles.

I always knew I loved working with people and working with horses. It wasn't until I was 22 that I learned you could combine the two in a mental health setting. In the horse world, I always found myself thinking "close, but not it". When finding Natural Lifemanship and the brain based model we use, I thought to myself "there it is". This isn't to mean that it was immediately easy for me, but I have found such growth and partnership in my horsemanship that I did not think possible. Allowing space for those who have suffered from trauma to experience this transformative connection, has been such an honor. I now get to be the person to watch others think to themselves "there it is".





**ADOPTED!!!  
ALL  
ADOPTED!!!!!!**



# THE MUSTANG SUMMIT

presents

## Mustangs



# Available for Adoption

in partnership with

**Wild Horse and Burro Program  
Bureau of Land Management**





**MUSTANG AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION  
AT  
THE MUSTANG SUMMIT  
GATEWAY FAMILY SERVICES OF ILLINOIS JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**

**BLM Yearling Available **ADOPTED!!!****

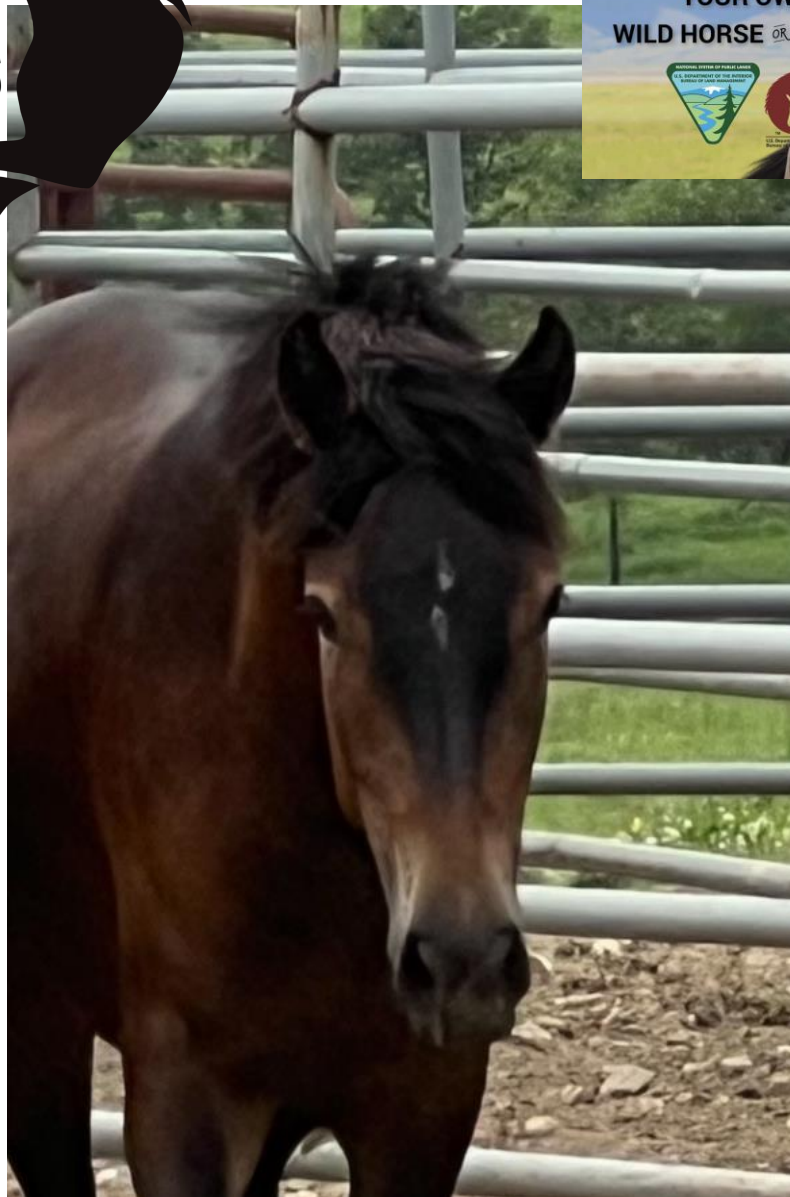
**Tag # 8805 Seal Bay – Filly**

**Triple B HMA – 01-Feb-2023**



**MUSTANG AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION  
AT  
THE MUSTANG SUMMIT  
GATEWAY FAMILY SERVICES OF ILLINOIS JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**

**BLM Yearling Available **ADOPTED!!**  
Tag # 8803 Seal Bay w/ White Stripe - Filly  
Triple B HMA – 01-Feb-2023**



**MUSTANG AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION  
AT  
THE MUSTANG SUMMIT  
GATEWAY FAMILY SERVICES OF ILLINOIS JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**

**BLM Yearling Available—ADOPTED!!!  
Tag # 8744 Sorrel w/ Smaller White Blaze - Filly  
Desatoya HMA – 01-Jan-2023**



**MUSTANG AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION  
AT  
THE MUSTANG SUMMIT  
GATEWAY FAMILY SERVICES OF ILLINOIS JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**

**BLM Yearling Available ~~Available~~ **ADOPTED!!!**  
Tag # 8871 Sorrel w/ Big White Blaze - Filly  
Triple B HMA – 04-Apr-2023**





presents

# The Partners



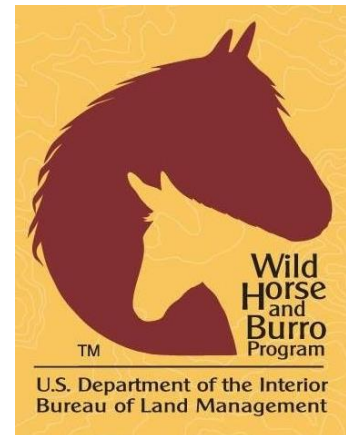
# Bureau of Land Management

The BLM works to place excess animals into private care through its Adoption and Sales Programs as well as [successful partnerships](#) with organizations across the nation. Many have found it personally challenging and rewarding to adopt or purchase a wild horse or burro. It is a chance to care for, and then own, a part of America's heritage.

The BLM has placed more than 240,000 wild horses and burros into private care since 1971. Many of those animals have become excellent pleasure, show, or work horses.

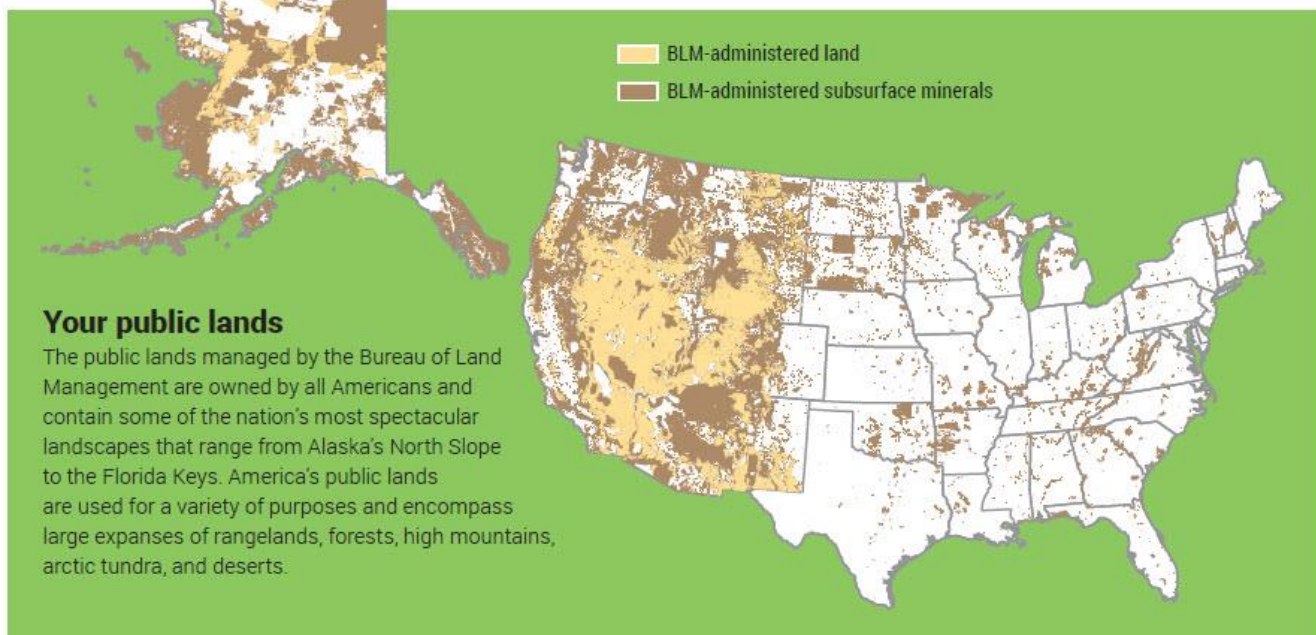
*Learn more about:*

- [How to adopt or purchase a wild horse or burro](#)
- [Adoption Incentive Program](#)
- [Off-range corral adoption and purchase locations](#)
- [Wild horse and burro adoption and sale events](#)
- [Visiting and adopting or purchasing from a public off-range pasture](#)
- [Sale Program](#)
- [Frequently asked questions](#)



## The Bureau of Land Management

Manages more than 1/10 of the nation's surface area and 30% of the nation's minerals and soils.



<https://www.blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/herd-management>

<https://www.facebook.com/BLMNational>



**HORSES FOR  
MENTAL HEALTH**

### **Who We Are**

Horses for Mental Health is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded to increase awareness, public engagement, funds, and access to programs incorporating horses for mental health and personal growth.

We partner with nonprofit organizations, philanthropists, celebrities, influencers, and companies to realize our collective vision of a world where all mental health needs are met – together.

We seek to strengthen engagement to create a community of inclusivity and diversity while increasing access to quality mental health programs incorporating horses that serve all groups of people..

### **Our Team**

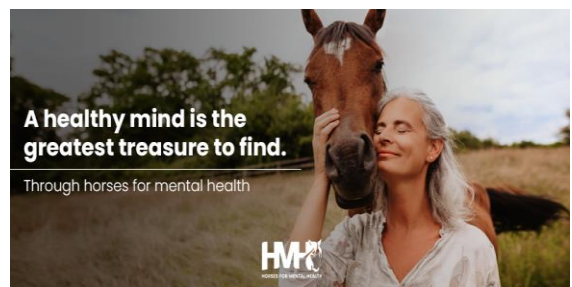
Our team consists of world-class thought leaders with expertise in varying disciplines ranging from: mental health, horsemanship, brand development and strategy, fundraising and awareness modeling, talent acquisition, sponsorship consulting, creative scripting and design, program management, impact reporting and analysis, among other engagements in the social impact realm.

Our team involves and engages with experts and leaders in the equine-assisted services industry, and specifically with psychotherapy and counseling incorporating horses, who help advise our work.

Horses for Mental Health (HMH) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working to expand the role horses play in mental health and well-being to realize our vision of a world where all mental health needs are met.

At our foundation is our heart for the welfare of both horses and humans, and how they can impact each other to heal and thrive in incredible ways.

<https://horsesformentalhealth.org/>



Lynn Thomas, Co-Founder/President



The Wild Horse Refuge is a private sanctuary that was created entirely for rescued Wild Mustangs that were taken from BLM Herd Management Areas (HMA) located within Colorado. The Wild Horses living on this special property are now protected and have regained the freedom and independence they had prior to government interference.

With more than 29 square miles of contiguous land to run free, their wild and free spirit has been restored. With the Refuge being located just 30 miles from the Sand Wash Basin, the horses feel right at home as they roam freely across the vast open spaces of the Refuge!

There are no paddocks, stock pens, fenced pastures, or other smaller and more restrictive spaces in use here. Instead of being relegated to pens or smaller pastures where they might have an occasional opportunity to run one or two hundred yards - or possibly even a few thousand feet... the wild horses living at the Refuge continue to run until they choose to stop.

It is truly a beautiful sight to see when these wild horses are able to regain control of where they go and what they do completely on their own!

The Wild Horse Refuge is a completely new facility that was acquired in order to create a special home for Colorado's native Wild Horses.

Wild horses (Mustangs) are allowed to roam freely within the Refuge - which has more than 22,500 acres of land for the horses to roam freely.

<https://www.wildhorserefuge.org/>





# Mustang Champions

## Texas

Mustang Champions is a nonprofit dedicated to the adoption and sale of American mustangs in BLM holding.

We share a deep belief that we can make a difference in the lives of American mustangs. Mustang Champions is a nonprofit dedicated to the adoption and sale of mustangs that have been gathered and are currently in BLM holding.

As a 501(c)(3) working in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management Wild Horse and Burro Program we can help to transition mustangs in holding into private care to lessen the burden of an abundance of animals, reduce the cost of care to the American taxpayer and help protect rangeland. Mustang Champions will create and manage programs and events that showcase the ability and diversity of mustangs with the sole purpose of getting mustangs adopted.

We are dedicated to the proper gentling, training, and treatment of mustangs. By enlisting qualified trainers, potential adopters, owners, and all Americans who want to support our efforts, we will prepare mustangs for homes outside of government holding. We provide educational and training resources to help those interested in and working with mustangs improve their skills and knowledge to ensure better handling and care of mustangs.

Mustang Champions will help educate the American public about wild mustangs, raising positive awareness for the BLM and the WH&B Program staff.

Our hope is that with our combined efforts and talents we can give American mustangs in holding an opportunity to demonstrate their abilities as a companion or a champion.

We want to hero the American Mustang.

We are Mustang Champions.

Mustang Champions is proud to be a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit.

[www.mustangchampions.org](http://www.mustangchampions.org)



# Mustang Adoption Academy

**Our Mission:**

**Successful Mustang Adoption and helping humans and mustangs have better relationships.**

[www.MustangAdoptionAcademy.com](http://www.MustangAdoptionAcademy.com)

## MUSTANG



## Adoption Academy



Triple E Ranch  
Haubstadt, IN  
812-270-0028

[www.MustangAdoptionAcademy.com](http://www.MustangAdoptionAcademy.com)



Presents

# The Films



# 5000 Miles 5000 Mustang “Project”

Directed by: Julianne Neal

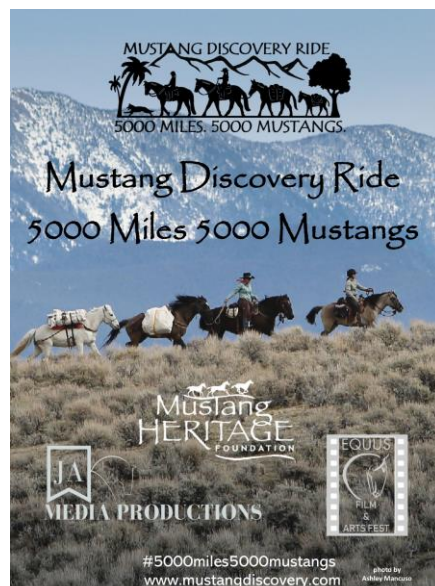
## 08:00 mins Trailer

Take a young woman with a passion for horses looking for a grand adventure, add American Mustangs and a host of guest riders and you have the ingredients for the “Mustang Discovery Ride.” This documentary project will tell the story of a journey across the United States on the American Discovery Trail (ADT) featuring Mustang TIP trainer, Lianne Fear, along with her Mustangs, dogs and support team. The team is covering 12 states, coast to coast from Delaware to California, riding previously wild Mustangs while packing, camping and speaking about the power of these amazing animals. Lianne rode out from Delaware’s historic Cape Henlopen State Park on September 28, 2021, with members of the team and is continuing her adventures through Maryland, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, and California. The documentary will detail the struggles and triumphs that she encounters, most attributed to the kindness of strangers met along the journey. We will also feature aspects of the ADT in each state, Mustang adoptions inspired by the project, college and university equine programs utilizing Mustangs, Veterans Programs in existence and other Mustang-related stories. The goal of the ride is to cover 5,000 miles across the country while inspiring the adoption of 5,000 Mustangs into appropriate homes. Through the documentary film, related podcast/vodcast and documentary-series, we are trying to reach as many people as possible to make it happen!

There are currently 53,000+ wild horses in holding pens across America. Each and every one deserves a loving home. Have we inspired you to want to adopt one of these living legends? Join us if you’re inspired to adopt and want to find out more!

Julianne Neal, JA Media Productions, will direct a Documentary and Docuseries as the journey progresses. A team of EQUUS photojournalists and videographers will contribute to the film, each adding individual creative perspective of the ride. Sponsors Mustang Heritage Foundation, Espana Silk, Crypto Aero Feeds and Omega Fields are joining the Mustang Discovery Foundation in supporting the team along the way. Follow the team's progress on social media or visit [www.mustangdiscovery.com](http://www.mustangdiscovery.com) to learn more about the ride. To keep up with progress on the film project, visit [www.jamediaconnections.com](http://www.jamediaconnections.com) [www.equusfilmfestival.net/mustang-discovery-ride.html](http://www.equusfilmfestival.net/mustang-discovery-ride.html)

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/n38CtylRlcw>





# E.E.T.

## Equine Retreat for Veteran Couples

**Directed by: Kristen Ferrell, Robin Voss, Michael Dunne**

04:00 mins

### **Mustangs Helping Veterans!**

If one family member has PTSD or is struggling, it takes a family effort to work through it. That's why EET has developed its Horse Sense program and retreats for veteran couples. Horse Sense is the frequency and rhythm of couple's communication. Genuine "horsepower" for veteran couples embraces the nature of the horse to support and accelerate growth, inspiration and partnership. EET protocol is a non-confrontational approach with no questions asked that relate to combat or service-related trauma. A couple experiences intimate horse communications and interactions on the ground (no mounting or riding required).

There are myriad ways to address marriage and couples counseling these days... and then there is Horse Sense- simple, natural and effective. When each partner embraces horse communication, it opens new levels of human communication that include trust, awareness and presence.

<https://www.equineempoweredtherapy.com/>

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/M54nhmKsDF4>

E.E.T. partners with horse ranches, horse rescues and equine professionals around the Southern California area to provide a variety of veteran programs for life enrichment, as well as occupational training programs for veterans who want to work in the equine industry.

These programs allow the veterans to experience the healing nature of horses, learn the therapeutic lessons a horse can teach in order to apply it to the stresses of their daily lives, and improves the lives of the horses we work with.

EET's programs are 1-day experiences or weekend retreats that allow veterans to spend time with the horses and live in the moment the way a horse does. EET protocol is a non-confrontational approach with no questions asked that relate to combat or service-related trauma. Veterans experience intimate horse communications and interactions on the ground (no mounting or riding).



# Rescued Hearts Film

**Directed by: Krisanna Sexton**

**Produced by: Dana Croschere**

**20 minute teaser | Q & A with the Filmmakers**

A new documentary about the miracles, the mystery, and the science of healing with horses.  
The Inspiration Behind Rescued Hearts

I once witnessed a miracle when a 7-year-old boy with autism spoke his very first words while interacting with a horse, and it forever changed my life.

After hearing countless stories of people who have experienced miraculous transformations in the presence of horses, I began to wonder, "Why are horses so healing to humans and what are they here to teach us?"

My partner, Krisanna, and I are award-winning filmmakers, and together we are embarking on a journey to better understand the horse-human connection.

Our film will share powerful stories from those who have experienced incredible transformations and those who have dedicated their lives to equine-assisted work. We'll highlight researchers who can speak to why this connection is so powerful and share tools to help us access our healing power within.

Rescued Hearts isn't just the story of horses; it's the story of all of us and the power that lies within to create healing and transformation in our lives.

- Dana Croschere, Producer

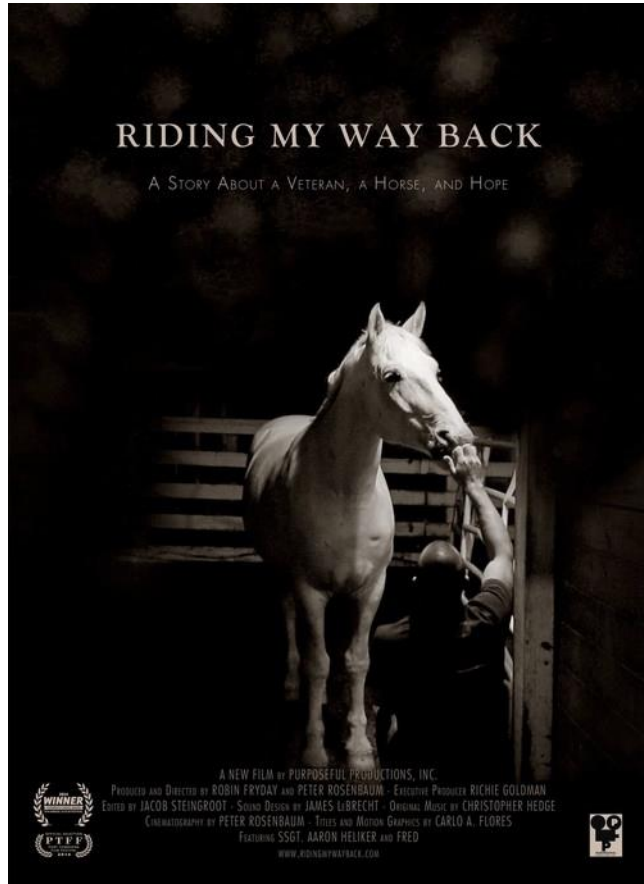
Here's a short clip about why we're making this film:

<https://youtu.be/U99LnW30cfA>

<https://www.rescuedheartsfilm.com/>



Krisanna Sexton is an award-winning Director with Live Wild Films who is passionate about spreading hope and healing throughout the planet. Although she doesn't have a ton of experience with horses, she believes in sharing alternative modalities for healing and is excited to be on a journey of discovery in the filmmaking process. Her most recent documentary, Love Heals, is receiving worldwide acclaim and will be nationally broadcasted on PBS in July 2023.



# The Mustangs: America's Wild Horses

Directed by: Steven Latham & Conrad Stanely

90:00 mins

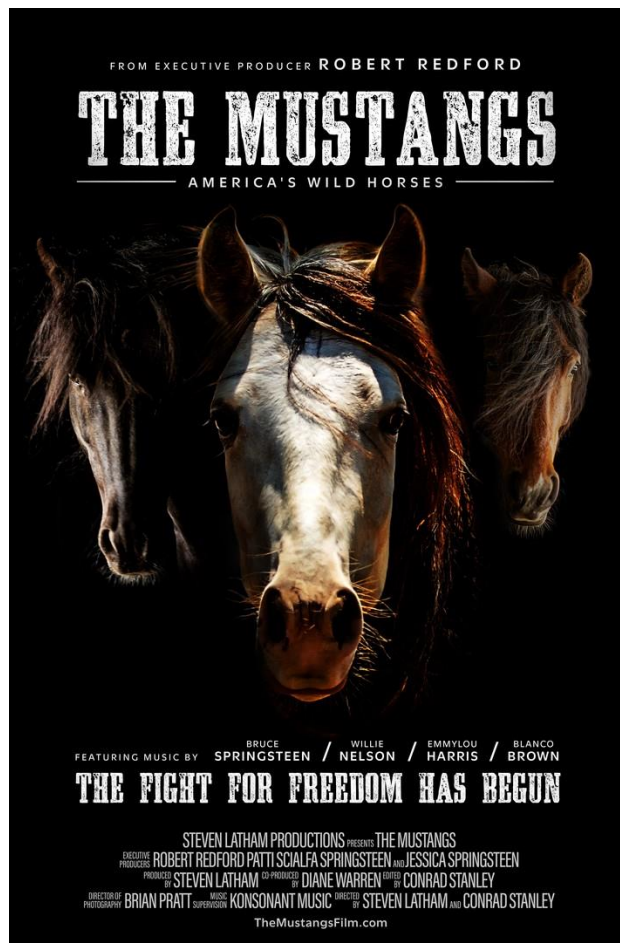
"The Mustangs: America's Wild Horses" is a feature documentary that is executive produced by Robert Redford, Patti Scialfa Springsteen and Jessica Springsteen.

The film features songs by Bruce Springsteen, Emmylou Harris, Willie Nelson and an original song written by Diane Warren and performed by Blanco Brown.

"The Mustangs" takes audiences on an odyssey throughout America to places few people have seen or even know about. There are more than 80,000 wild horses on our public lands and more than 50,000 in government corrals. This film will make you fall in love with America all over again and understand why the protection of our wild horses and our public lands are worth fighting for.

<https://themustangsfilm.com/>

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/SSWEC0buBq0>



Director - **Steven Latham**

Steven Latham is an award-winning filmmaker and the President of Steven Latham Productions. Mr. Latham produced and directed the film, *Saved By The Sun*, for NOVA/PBS. He also produced and directed the feature documentary about the TED Conference, *The Future We Will Create*, with Daphne Zuniga.

Mr. Latham created and was the producer/director of the PBS series, *The Living Century*, which told the amazing stories of the 20th Century through individuals who were at least 100 years old. He produced this with Barbra Streisand and Cis Corman of Barwood Films. The project's board of advisors included Leonard Maltin, Art Linkletter, Dr. Tom Perls and 3-Time U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky.



# Wild Heart

Directed by: Ariana Noel Sakaris

11:00 mins

This is a true story about a girl and her Mustang. It's a story of a girl that never gave up on her horse, no matter how challenging it was. It's a story about two souls, terrified of each other, yet longing for connection. It's a story about how they both brought out the greatest parts of each other behind their deepest fears.

<https://www.arianasakaris.com/>

[ariana@arianasakaris.com](mailto:ariana@arianasakaris.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/arianasakaris>

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/VP1KOpROQBw>

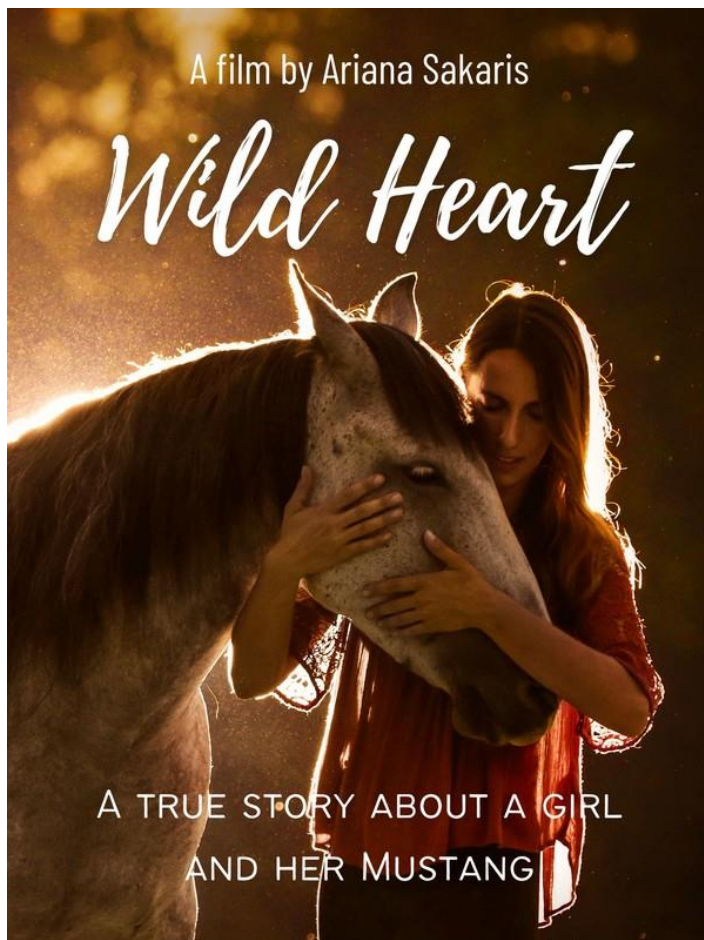


**Director : Ariana Noel Sakaris**

Over the years, Ariana traveled the world to work with renowned mentors studying the art of Dressage, Liberty, Groundwork, and Horsemanship.

Ariana's journey with horses began at the young age of 5 years old, where she became fascinated with horses and the interactions humans share with them. This led her into a lifelong passion of learning and growing, both in her horsemanship and in her own personal life. She committed many years to traveling both within the U.S. and overseas to gain valuable hands-on experience, and to be mentored by world renowned professionals. She has trained with several respected USDF Gold Medalists and Grand Prix trainers in Dressage, earning her USDF Silver Medal. She has spent time overseas learning about Classical Dressage and spent time learning from greatly valued Horsemanship and Liberty professionals. These experiences helped her gain valuable insight into the love, patience and compassion that goes into bringing horses and people to a point of better understanding both on the ground and in the saddle.

Ariana is based in the horse capital of Lexington, Kentucky with her mares "Mermaid" and "Wild Heart." She teaches, trains, and travels for clinics, focusing on Dressage, Groundwork, Liberty, and Horsemanship. She offers online education and coaching in her "Student of the Horse" Membership, offering over 650 training videos. Her intention is to inspire and help people gain a better understanding of themselves and the connection they have with their horses. Her goal is that this connection helps to grow a greater acceptance of people and animals worldwide.



# Woodrow and My Dad

Directed by: Ivy E Schexnayder

06:13 mins

Maryland

Woodrow the Mustang helps a woman feel closer to her dad.

Hi, my name is Ann Hanlin, and I am the owner of SBF Mustang Eventing and the host of the Maryland Mustang TIP Challenge. My journey with Mustangs began in February 2018 after winning the bid of a black and white Pinto Mustang named Woodrow. Now, I'm proud to say I've personally gentled 1 Mustangsgs (#20 coming end of April) and helped over 60 get out of holding and into forever homes. This journey has been life-changing and has set me on a mission to help as many of our American us Mustangs as possible! So, that's why I decided to host the Maryland TIP challenge!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/775340236733053>

<https://mustangheritagefoundation.org/tip/>



Director: Ivy E Schexnayder

# The Mustang Speaks Documentary

8:00 mins

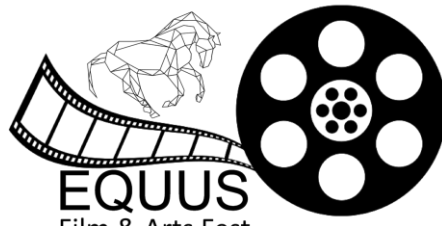
Trailer

In July 2023, Sky Epperson and Annamaria Sims combined Sky's Brain-Based Horsemanship training and Annamaria's Neuro-Pathway Body Work to help 3 untouched Mustangs. We filmed over 6 days of work at the Mustang Adoption Academy and now would like to bring this story to the world. Meet Ambiente MAA and her 5-month foal, Amore MAA, both adopted by Patricia Cross and transported into Indiana for the project. Meet Ajax MAA and Atlas MAA, both found at a nearby long-term holding facility. Follow their stories over the 6 days to see just how well the brain and body collaboration worked for these Mustangs and can work for your horse as well! From first touches to halters, feel good healing to licking and chewing, holding tags on to tags off, see for yourself how this work is making a difference. Now we need your help. The Production phase is expensive. Postproduction is even more so.

By supporting this project, you can help make the difference in bringing The Mustang Speaks to the big screen, and to an audience that may be able to make a difference in the life of a Mustang. Please visit [www.mustangadoptionacademy.com](http://www.mustangadoptionacademy.com) for more information about Mustang adoptions. Please visit [www.amustangstory.com](http://www.amustangstory.com) for more information about The Mustang Speaks, The Mustang Discovery Ride Documentary and A Mustang Story, the docuseries. Thank you for your support!

<https://www.mustangadoptionacademy.com/>





**EQUUS**  
Film & Arts Fest

**AZTEC**  
**4 Corners**  
**New Mexico**

presents

# **The Artists**



**THE MUSTANG**  
**SUMMIT**  
**AZTEC**  
**4 Corners**  
**New Mexico**

# Meghan Guilfoil

## Meghan Guilfoil Studios – Silent Auction Print Tennessee

“I can’t remember a time that my heart didn’t beat for horses. While I grew up in a suburb of Atlanta, my spirit lived with the hoofbeats and I would grasp at any opportunity to be near them. I always loved to draw and it was a challenge to get me to focus on any subject matter other than horses. In search of an equine life, I started a pre-veterinarian program for large animals, but my heart was still in the arts. After graduating with a Fine Arts degree and the joy of working through college at a quarter horse farm, I became an educator. The realities of life carried me gradually away from my unrealized dreams. Now a mom of two teen-agers, a spark has been reignited. Encouraged to paint again, I found my heart come alive when the oils, pigments, manes, spirited gazes, majestic western skies and powerful movements hit the canvas. I knew I was back on the right track and ready to run free.

The adventure of life awaits! And I am ready to run with the wild horses. They possess an undeniable quality of power, freedom, spirit and beauty. Their unbridled nature requires this certain surrender in the act of painting. My desire to study this nature and their striking features progresses effortlessly to the canvas, where my gift as the artist is to paint freely, honoring the creature, yet setting it free. I hope to inspire the same wonder, spirit and life in those who observe, invoking boldness in the drowsy dreamer. I aspire to experience the "other-liness" in life, and see its movement through creation, to inspiration, through oil and canvas, into the experiences of the beholder.

<https://meghanguilfoil.com/>



# EQUUS Gateway

*Film & Arts Fest*

*“Veterans” Mustang Summit*

**June 7 – 9, 2024**

**Gateway Family Services of Illinois POTOMAC, IL**

- ♥ Saturday - BBQ & Film VIP Event with Mustangers
- ♥ EQUUS Films Saturday
- ♥ Mustang Symposium Saturday & Sunday
- ♥ 4 Yearling Mustangs - started and available for adoption
- ♥ Panels with Equine Healing Programs
- ♥ Equine Vendors
- ♥ Sunday - Mustang Adoption Event
- ♥ Saturday & Sunday – Day Events - *Free to the Public*  
*(Donations Suggested)*

7757 US ROUTE 136 POTOMAC, IL 61865

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Adoption Academy