

Spotlight

NEWS FROM
FREEDOM
HILL HORSE
RESCUE



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Enjoying Retirement

FHHR horses Molly and Fiona love to share retirement with their caretaker, Chrys Hill. Chrys, now retired from the Naval Research Lab, shares her Northern Calvert 30 acre farm with two senior horses she is fostering through the Freedom Hill Horse Rescue Save Our Seniors program.

Molly is a gentle Senior Quarter Horse with a kind soul. She had been living in a small pasture with longhorn steer and other farm animals as her herd-mates. With the other animals dominating the space, she was unable to eat enough and therefore grew very thin. Her severe arthritis made her unsuitable for riding and her owner felt he could not give her the care she needed. Her body score was a 2 (very poor) when the owner surrendered her to FHHR.

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Fall 2015

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Volunteer Spotlight: Cathy & Terry Hurley



Cathy and Terry Hurley joined the FHHR volunteer team this past April. After seeing an article in a local paper about the Help a Horse Day Ponypalooza event, Cathy reached out to inquire about volunteering. "If I recall, in fact," says Jennifer Purcell, "Cathy visited the barn on the Friday we were setting up and was volunteering at the event the very next day." Not long after, Cathy decided to take on a weekly feed shift. She admits she was very intimidated by the horses at first, laughing only now about how she felt when bringing horses in from pasture. She shares, "I thought this was the most dangerous thing I've ever done. I'm in this big open area, with these loose horses; something bad is going to happen."

To get more comfortable, Cathy took a few private lessons and attended as many volunteer training sessions as she could. Sometimes, just for moral support, she'd ask her husband, Terry, to join her during a shift. "He always did," she tells us, "but he always said 'this is your gig.'" It wasn't a month or so later that we'd find Terry at the barn almost every day either preparing a new paddock for horses or repairing the manure spreader or some other grueling task. So what happened? Cathy explains, "while I was working, Terry was visiting the horses, and one day we were coming from somewhere and out of the blue he said 'you know, I'm retired; I can volunteer' and the rest is history. Whenever he spends a day working at the farm," she continues, "Terry will come

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Enjoying Retirement.... *Continued from page 1*

Fiona came to FHHR from the Pennsylvania New Holland Livestock auction. Fiona arrived at the rescue after FHHR negotiated the release of three lucky horses from the auction's kill pen. Babe, a terrified yearling Belgium colt, Maggie, a one-eyed crippled, senior mare, and Fiona, a miniature horse with kyphoscoliosis, (a convex S shaped curvature of the spine, most likely acquired from improper breeding).

As the horses arrived at FHHR's quarantine barn, they were taken out of the trailer one by one. FHHR's founder, Mel Parrish, said it reminded her of a "circus act," and "although Fiona looked like a hunchbacked ogre, she is really a princess inside."

Fiona spent seven years as FHHR's mascot. She went to events to show young and old alike why horse rescues exist and how to take care of horses. After seven years, and a scary colic episode that almost ended in euthanasia, 30+ year-old Fiona "retired" in 2014 and now is Molly's companion at Harmony Hill Farm with Chrys and Harry Hill. Fiona taught children and adults about horses and now the community is giving back to her. Molly and Fiona are both happy and healthy retirees.

Many horses can not be ridden after rehabilitation. In fact, many are looking for companion homes. Molly and Fiona were lucky to find their forever home with Chrys. She is no stranger to rescue horses as Mel is her daughter. Together they have managed many rehab cases on the farm.

Are you a retiree who wants to be reintroduced to horses after many years apart? Maybe you have the knowledge, time, and the farm space to make a difference in the life of a senior horse. Offering a retirement home can be very fulfilling and the chores you will do to provide their care will help keep you active and engaged with them. Molly and Fiona are part of FHHR's Save our Seniors program, which offers tax benefits to caretakers. FHHR's programs can be viewed at www.freedomhillhorserescue.com.

Retirees CAN make a big difference. Enjoy your retirement together.

Congrats!

Even with dirty barn clothes, Jennifer Purcell was recognized as a "Calvert You Are Beautiful" nominee for her efforts at the rescue.

View all nominees at <https://www.calvertbeacon.com/bocc-awards-calvert-you-are-beautiful-nominees/>

There are so many amazing volunteers in Calvert County!



The Day After **Halloween Fun Show**

The FHHR leadership team is so excited to host a Halloween Fun Show again this year. Last year's costumes were amazing and watching riders compete in the fall-themed activities was a blast. Plus, the rescue raised funds for equine training equipment. In hopes that more people can participate, the show will be on a weekend this year. Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 1, 2015, from 10 to 3. Yes, it is the day after Halloween, but why not wear that costume one more day?

Riders will participate in round robin classes including a pumpkin toss, jousting, jumping jack o'lanterns, and a haunted obstacle course. After a costume parade and contest, riders and horses will take on the barrels and blood, ghost races, and the legless horseman equitation competition. Ribbons will be awarded for all classes and we'll crown a new Grand Champion, currently held by FHHR Volunteer Tina Woodbury and her adopted rescue horse Tehya, otherwise known as Rainbow Brite and Starlite.

Not a rider? Come on out and vote for the best horse costume. There will also be a costume contest for the kids. Winners will receive ribbons and the child who claims the top spot will receive a free Equine Connections session with the horses. More information is available online at freedomhillhorserescue.com.

JOIN IN THE FUN!



Volunteer Spotlight.... *Continued from page 2*

home and tell me how the horses were watching him, neighing and whinnying. He would make up stories about what they were saying or thinking."

Originally from Prince George's county, but Calvert residents for over 20 years, Cathy and Terry are enjoying retirement (is there a theme in this newsletter?). Terry retired from Giant Food/Penske about a year ago, and Cathy wrapped up a 38-year career in the federal government on September 1, 2015. They like to travel, ride their Harley, and spend time around animals, especially horses.

Cathy says she's always loved horses and just thought the rescue was an awesome opportunity to help out and be around these gorgeous creatures. When asked what she might say to prospective volunteers, she responded, "it is awesome to work with all the horses and get to know their personalities. It's also satisfying to know these wonderful creatures are getting a second chance. It's been rewarding and therapeutic....and you can kiss them all you want." Cathy says she's grateful to have found the rescue; we say that FHHR is grateful to work with two such amazing people!

Oh yeah, one more question for Terry: *what exactly do you think Mickey Blue was saying to you?*

Congrats!

FHHR volunteer, Taybor Grimes, and his rescue horse Honey complete a successful run at the 149th Calvert County Jousting Tournament. He'll be a great representative for FHHR in the 150th year! Go Taybor and Honey!



Like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/FreeToLiveAgain

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Events!

Events:

Oct 17: Painting for Ponies @
the barn 1:00 - 4:00

Nov 1: Halloween Fun Show

Equine Connections Program:
10/3, 11/7

Contact Kristy for more information
240.320.7715

Volunteer Training Sessions:

New Volunteer Orientation
10/3, 11/7, 12/5 1:00—3:30

Volunteer Training: Adv. Topics
10/4 and 11/1 3:00—4:00

Contact Heidi for more information
Heidi.freedom.hill@gmail.com

Horsemanship Team Sessions:

For Level 3 Approved Members
(all volunteers welcome to observe)

Mondays at 6:30pm @Hampton

Horsemanship Team evaluations
are scheduled by appointment

Contact Terry for more information
240.535.4009



FHHR Participates in Development of New Farm-to-School Curriculum about Horses

FHHR is participating in a state-wide effort to create an experiential learning curriculum focused on the equine. This curriculum will meet the Maryland State Standards for grades 4-8 in social studies. A team of writers from private farms, rescues, the historical society, and the Maryland



Members of the MHIB's Curriculum Development Writing team at its first meeting this past May

Agricultural Education Foundation are working to prepare a series of hands-on educational sessions that farm-based educators can use with elementary and middle school students on field trips or other group visits. FHHR will host these student groups when the curriculum is complete.

How You Can Help!

Donate Online

at www.freedomhillhorserescue.com or send a check to PO Box 606, Dunkirk, MD 20754.

Use Amazon Smile!

If you shop on Amazon.com, consider joining Amazon Smile and choosing FHHR. Every time you shop, Amazon will donate to the rescue.

Join the Horse Angel Network!

You can support FHHR by joining the Horse Angel Network! We are seeking individuals who are willing to become a monthly sponsor of one of our equine residents. We have several levels of sponsorship available from \$25 per month to \$200 per month. Contact Kristy today if you would like to become a horse's angel.

Purchase Wish List Items

For the months of September—December, wish list items include:

- ◆ Safechoice Senior grain for 4 horses
- ◆ 4x6 rubber stall mats
- ◆ Wood for fencing
- ◆ Care Kit Items: Fly Spray, MTG, Banixx, SWAT, Kopertox, and Keratex
- ◆ Farnum Weight Builder and Neighlox
- ◆ 12 Praziquantel Dewormers



Members of the Spring Dell Center in LaPlata, Maryland visited FHHR on September 9th to learn about our daily barn tasks. Anthony and Brandon, to left, learn to groom Occhi.

Halloween Fun from 2014; This could be YOU!



What's Next? Behind the Scenes

Have you ever wondered what happens behind the scenes so the rescue horses have a place to call home? Check out the next issue of Spotlight to learn more about what it takes to run a rescue and how you can make a difference.