



# Freedom Hill Horse Rescue Annual Report | 2015

## Overview of Programs in Fiscal Year 2015

### Horse Rescue and Public Education

FHHR provides two primary services: horse rescue / sanctuary operations and education programs. Both are critical to helping abused, neglected, and unwanted horses be Free to Live Again.

FHHR operates 3 barns, caring for 14 horses, 1 at a foster home. Seven are sanctuary residents with four receiving special medical care for chronic conditions. Over 30 private owners contacted us for assistance this year.

The 65+ member volunteer team runs all aspects of the rescue including daily feeding, equine welfare and training, adoptions, barn management, public relations, fundraising efforts, and community education.

In 2015, FHHR provided 45 sessions in horse care, horsemanship, and groundwork, plus weekly equine-training clinics. Twenty-six on- and off-site events increased public education/awareness, including Camp Fit for teens, Scouts, and families at our Help-a-Horse-Day event, which resulted in national recognition from the ASPCA. Over 500 people visited the rescue this year.



## President's Message

Horses are creatures of habit. They like routine. They like things to be consistent because it gives them a sense of security, a sense of peace, and a sense of belonging. Those of you who know horses will also know that change can cause some to feel fear, stress, anxiety and confusion. To other horses, though, change is exciting because it makes them think. They like to try new things and conquer new challenges that are placed in front of them. Yet, no matter what a horse's personality, it still needs to enjoy security, feel

safe, and have consistency in their lives. I think that many people can relate to the horse in this way.

Change. The very word can cause anxiety, stress, and fear for some, while bringing excitement, drive, and zeal to others. In 2015, FHHR embarked upon a big change. The Board of Directors recognized a great need in the community to help horses that were typically more difficult to adopt. This shift in focus brought on challenges, both organizational and financial, but it also illuminated a beautiful vision - to give meaning and purpose to a horse that was deemed unusable or unwanted. These horses touch the lives of people in extraordinary

ways. A famous quote from *Seabiscuit* sticks in my head. "You don't throw a whole life away just because it's banged up a little." That is what we believe at Freedom Hill Horse Rescue.

I am truly excited about this change, and I hope the challenges it brings will help FHHR grow, evolve, and touch the lives of not only the horses that need us, but the people who need them. For both horse and human, FHHR is a place to feel safe, secure, and a sense of belonging. Thank you for changing with us as we look ahead to 2016!



**"People Helping Horses & Horses Helping People"**



Participants with Camp Fit, now in its fourth year at FHHR, learned teamwork and communication during a session with Occhi.

## 2015 Results

FHHR is proud to report in 2015:

- 18 horses rehabilitated
- 30 owners assisted (275 since 2004)
- 500+ people attended education and outreach events
- 26 new volunteers recruited
- 4 horses adopted
- 4 horses with Angel sponsors
- 15000+ volunteer hours worked

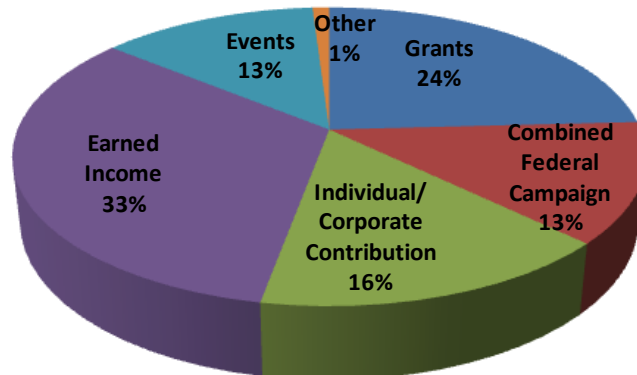


36yo Brocca has both Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis and Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction. He is well-managed and looks like a teenager when romping in the snow.

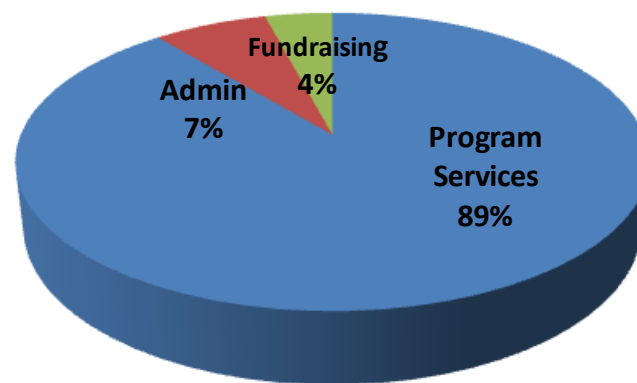
## Horsemanship Clinics New in 2015

Freedom Hill Horse Rescue offered weekly horsemanship clinics geared toward new volunteers for the first time in 2015, and a grant from The Humane Society of the United States will allow FHHR to enhance this training through participation in the 2016 Forever Foundation program. The goal is to improve natural horsemanship skills of all participants, which will help better prepare the horses for adoption.

## Fiscal Year 2015 Revenue



## Fiscal Year 2015 Expenses



Program Services include rescue operations and education programs.



**Code: 52449**



## A Shift to Sanctuary

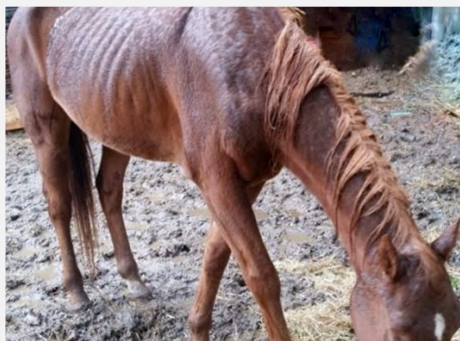
Freedom Hill Horse Rescue built and managed a successful equine rescue, rehabilitation, and adoption program for ten years. The ten-year anniversary was a perfect time to reassess the needs for rescue work and to develop a plan to best leverage current resources based on community needs.

Inquiries and requests for equine rescue services have shifted over the past two years. In most cases, owners have weathered personal challenges, physically, emotionally or economically, and are no longer able to provide appropriate care to their horses. Many of the calls are for older horses; those which are often very difficult to place, even for successful rescues. Because most cannot be ridden or medical treatment is beyond the reach of many people, these gentle souls often find themselves at auction or on a trailer to the slaughterhouse. It doesn't have to be this way.

Older, injured, and well-managed horses still have a lot of love to give and deserve to live a life with dignity and compassion. These horses, after rehabilitation and healing, often become amazing healers themselves to the people they encounter.

There is a significant need for sanctuary space in southern Maryland to complement new adoption-focused rescues, and FHHR is filling the gap.

*Finn prior to arrival at FHHR in October (left) and a much healthier Finn in December 2015 (right).*



*Below: Mickey Blue grazes among the dandelions.*



### **FHHR is a 100% volunteer-run organization. Why volunteer?**

"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 Hurley** (volunteered 124 hours since May 2015)

## Grants

Grant funding was awarded by:

ASPCA

Bernice Barbour Foundation

Dancer's Legacy Foundation

Help Association

Humane Society of the United States

Snyder Foundation for Animals

Unwanted Horse Vet Relief Campaign

## 2015 Board of Directors

Kristy Alvarez, President

Lori Harrington, Treasurer

Tammy Sommer, Secretary

Jennifer Hottle, Heidi May, Terry

Pennington, Jen Purcell, Members

Melody Parrish, Advisor and Founder



## FHHR Adopters and Alumni Stay Involved

It brings such joy to see horses thriving in their new homes. FHHR is fortunate to have a very active alumni base. This year, FHHR alumni participated in the Optimist Club Holiday Parade in Prince Frederick, the Halloween Show, various training clinics, and our annual Ponypalooza. In fact, we wouldn't have been recognized by the ASPCA as one of seven grant winners nationwide if it wasn't for the support and engagement of our adopters and volunteers.

We invite all alumni to share their stories and visit us each year! Our goal is to change the perception of rescue horses, show that rescues can be amazing equine partners, and encourage people to consider adoption when looking for a horse.

*To left: Adopted in 2014, Tehya returned to FHHR's Ponypalooza as a unicorn, representing that dreams do come true for horses and adoptive owners.*



## Are You Ready to Join Us to Help Horses?

There are many ways to help FHHR fulfill its mission. First and foremost, spread the word. The more people know about our work, the more we can do to save horses. Whether you choose to volunteer, attend an event, donate a wish list item, designate FHHR as your online 501(c)3 charity, or simply write a check, you will make an impact on a horse's life. Join other members of the Horse Angel Network today by sponsoring a specific horse. For as little as \$25 per month, you will be a horse's angel!



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