

# Spotlight

NEWS FROM  
FREEDOM  
HILL HORSE  
RESCUE

Freedom Hill Horse Rescue



*Free to Live Again!*



## **Fanny and Faro Meet Their Hero: A Two-Year Update**

Susan, at 64, is a life-long equestrian who, as a child, dreamed of having horses on her own property. She grew up in Northern Virginia and owned her first horse at age 11. To pay for board, Susan secured a job at the 50-stall barn. Her first day was one of her proudest moments and a day she will never forget. There had been a huge snow storm the night before. Upon her arrival, she could hear horses screaming in fear and saw that the roof had collapsed. If the stalls had not been constructed of cinder block walls, the outcome would have been catastrophic. As she walked a horse down the long center aisle, parts of the roof fell on both sides of them. Susan admits she was scared, but knew not to show her fear to the horses. A few horses were hurt, but none were seriously injured. Susan rescued all 50

## **In this issue:**

**Fanny and Faro Update**

**Volunteer Spotlight**

**A Haunting Good Time**

**Recent Grant Awards &  
Adoptions**

**Photos in the Rain**

**How You Can Help Horses**



# Winter 2014

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Photos courtesy of: Susan Carpenter

Counterclockwise from Top Right: Fanny and Faro grazing in the field; Playing in the snow after arriving in 2012, Faro joins the turkeys in the round pen; Faro, Susan, and Fanny pose for a photo.



GLOWGA for Horses! Thanks to FHHR volunteer and yoga instructor, Tina Styer, for hosting this fun and fabulous fundraiser in November. The next session will be scheduled soon. Check Facebook for the date.



horses that morning, including her own prized Arabian gelding; she is a hero. Fast forward 50 years and Susan is still a hero; a hero in the eyes of FHHR and her two rescue horses, Fanny and Faro.

Pharoah (now spelled Faro) and Fanny are half-sibling registered Egyptian Arabians who lived with an elderly couple in New Jersey. When the couple passed, the horses were left to their estate with instructions to euthanize them if excellent homes could not be found. A plea went out to all rescue organizations on the east coast and FHHR took possession of them in March 2012. The horses were already 15 years old and had been well cared for, but they had never received training under saddle and they had never been separated. Faro was the leader, confident and kind. Fanny looked to her brother for direction and followed him everywhere. When Faro was being prepped to leave for training, Fanny worked herself into fit; she became very fretful whenever he was out of sight. So, Faro did not go to training and it was clear that the two should be adopted as a pair. This was going to be difficult.

Susan decided that, at her age, she might be too old to ride. Some might disagree with her, but Susan decided it was time to pack up the riding gear and love her horses saddle-free. She had been browsing through website listings and came across Fanny and Faro. "I really felt a connection to them, even though they were not broke to ride," Susan explains. What brought tears to Susan's eyes was when she mentioned the pair to her husband and he immediately said, "well, did you call the horse rescue yet?"

Lori Harrington recalls when Susan and her husband came to meet Fanny and Faro. "I met them and instantly knew we had found our miracle. As I spoke with her, I just had the feeling that this couple was exactly what the Arabs needed; someone who would give them the attention and love they

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**When Susan mentioned Fanny and Faro to her husband, he said "well, did you call the horse rescue yet?"**

## Volunteer Spotlight: Ulla and Hannah Dean



Photo by: Terry Pennington

In this issue, we recognize two very hard-working, dedicated volunteers, Ulla and Hannah Dean. This mother-daughter team has been volunteering at the rescue for nearly 2 ½ years, thanks to a referral from Heidi May. Ulla moved to the Annapolis area in 1987, after growing up with horses in Denmark. Her love of horses has been passed on to 15-year-old Hannah, who has been riding since she was five. Their beloved Quarter horse, Eddy, crossed the rainbow bridge four years ago and, Ulla says, FHHR has offered them the chance to heal their hearts by helping the horses at the rescue.

Hannah is an active member of the Training Team, working with several horses, but primarily Ellie, who she has ridden at several eventing clinics. A freshman at South River High School, Hannah wants to pursue equine veterinary studies and hopes to someday own a farm where rescue horses are rehabilitated and used as therapy horses with physically- or mentally-challenged riders. Ulla just started riding again.

Ellie might be the apple of Hannah's eye, but Ulla says, "we love all of the horses that come through the rescue." Ulla noted that even though they owned a horse in the past, they've learned many useful natural horsemanship, groundwork, and feeding tips. As a feed shift team, these two are great. Hannah handles the horse care while Ulla cleans and mucks. That arrangement might seem unfair, but they both love what they do; and they do a phenomenal job!

Ulla encourages prospective volunteers to check out the rescue because there is something for everyone, working with horses or behind the scenes. She says the social interactions with other volunteers have been wonderful and they've made many new friends over the past couple of years. Ulla says she's "fortunate for the quality time she gets to spend with Hannah and seeing her in her element," and is now searching for part-time employment with the hopes of fostering or adopting Ellie someday.

**Thank you Ulla and Hannah** for helping our horses heal and thrive. FHHR is a better place because of you.

### **Fanny and Faro**

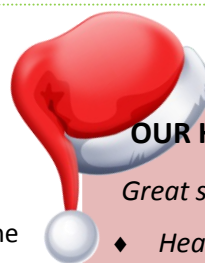
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needed and not feel like they had to be ridden. I left them alone to interact with the horses as I attended to a visiting group of Scouts, and when I came back, she said she was ready to sign the papers to adopt."

So, Fanny and Faro made their way to Delaware in November 2012. Everyone at the rescue cried when they left. There were tears of sadness and tears of joy.

Fanny and Faro have been enjoying life since then. Both have wonderful personalities and can do the silliest things. Susan told us a story about Fanny looking at her shadow on the barn one night, and as Susan describes, "she was getting very angry at it. She pinned her ears back, struck out at the barn repeatedly, but noticed the other horse was not backing off. The more this altercation went on, the funnier it was. She eventually gave up (so did her enemy) and went to Faro's side, possibly for protection." Faro, however, is not always completely calm and collected. Recently, about thirty turkeys were flying over the fence to the pasture. Faro saw one flying straight toward his head, turned, and high-tailed it out of there. A few minutes later, he was grazing among them.

Susan is so thrilled to have found Fanny and Faro. Remember that childhood dream so many years ago? Well, the dream has come true. Susan says with a smile, "now all I have to do is walk out the door to be with my four legged 'children.'" FHHR wants to thank you, Susan, for being the horses' hero and for sharing your stories with us.



### **OUR HOLIDAY WISH LIST:**

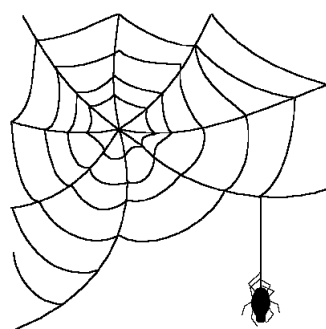
*Great stocking stuffers include:*

- ◆ Heated hoses (2)
- ◆ Elements for heated troughs (2)
- ◆ Stainless Steel Blocker Tie Ring II (2)
- ◆ 4" Double End Snaps (12)
- ◆ Fast gate latch for water buckets (10)
- ◆ Gift cards for lumber and blue stone



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FreeToLiveAgain](http://www.facebook.com/FreeToLiveAgain)**



# A Haunting-Good Time at the Halloween Show



Ghouls and goblins and zombies took over the Hampton Barn on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Thirteen costumed riders and horses competed for ribbons (but really just for fun) at the FHHR Halloween Fun Show, participating in several holiday-themed events such as a pumpkin toss, bobbing for apples, and a spooky obstacle course. Spectators visited our haunted stall and voted for the best costumes while kids embarked on a trick-or-treat scavenger hunt.

## And the **Winners** are:

**Jousting:** Taybor Grimes and Honey as Woody and Bullseye

**Pumpkin Toss:** Amanda Bowen and Buffy as Frozen's Anna and Sitron

**Bobbing for Apples:** Heidi May and Rainy as Flower Power

**Obstacle Course:** Veronica May and Sir, the War Horse

**W/T Equitation:** Jessica Langley and her Skeleton Horse

**W/T/C Equitation:** Amanda Bowen

**Costume Contest:** Jessica Langley

The costume parade also included two American Indians, a Unicorn, a Hunter and his Duck Blind, a Zombie, Cruella Deville and her Dalmation, and Elsa and Sven. It was a fun-filled evening that would not have happened without a village of volunteers.

**Show Champion:** Winning 2<sup>nd</sup> place in four classes and 3<sup>rd</sup> in another, Tina Styer and Tehya as Rainbow Brite and Starlite.



Photos by: Kristina Truluck



Top Right: Tina and Tehya start the pumpkin toss. Clockwise from Top: Hannah and Ellie navigate the corn maze, Missi and Henna in the costume parade, Pam and Avalanche also join the parade, Taybor and Honey enter the leaf pit, Heidi and Rainy circle around for another run at the pumpkin toss. Horses pictured are FHHR alumni. Ellie is available for adoption.

## IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Thanks to the following individuals for making this event a success.

### DONATING TREATS, DRINKS and CANDY

Marilyn Deans, Valerie Caswell, Jen Hottle, Hannah Bohn, Kirk Martin, Ulla Dean, Heidi May, Jessica Proctor

### LIGHTING

Pete, Heidi, and Sebastian May (PM Lighting & Productions) and Erick Quintanilla of Quality Home Improvements

**SOUND** Bullhorn – Heidi May  
Speaker and Microphone – Amanda Bowen and Brian Schaffer

**PHOTOS** Kristina Truluck, Catelyn Crawford

### HAUNTED STALL and SCAVENGER HUNT

Jennifer, Mike, and Ryan Purcell

### THE REGISTRATION AND SALES CREW

Cheri Carter, Ulla Dean, and Marilyn Deans

**PUMPKINS** Mark and Bonnie Spiknall of Brickhouse Farm in Dunkirk

**JUDGES** Valerie Caswell, Mike and Ryan Purcell, Cheri Carter, Kristy Alvarez

**RIBBONS** Claire Hill

**JOUSTING EQUIPMENT, CHAIRS, and OTHER RIDING STUFF**  
Terry Pennington

## Spotlight on Fiona

Fiona is the newest addition to the herd at Freedom Hill Horse Rescue. This beautiful chestnut mare is an Arabian-Saddlebred cross who is approximately 14yo and stands 14.3 hands. She appears to have had significant training under saddle. Although she hasn't been ridden in nearly a year, she crosses bridges with no hesitation, stands to open gates, neck reins, and executes flying lead changes with ease. Fiona is energetic and eager to please. She will make a great partner for the right person / family.



All of our horses are looking for an Angel. Join our Horse Angel Network by making a monthly financial commitment toward the care of one horse. The program starts with as little as \$25 per month. Contact Kristy Alvarez for details.

### CONGRATULATIONS



**Tehya,  
Henna,  
and Dawn  
have  
found  
forever  
homes  
with Tina,  
Missi and  
Cynthia!**



**We  
couldn't  
be  
happier  
for the  
appy girls  
and their  
new  
owners.**



### Grants Support the Equine Training Program

FHHR is pleased to announce two recent grant awards. Grants from The Binky Foundation and The Tony Stewart Foundation will provide the necessary funding to enhance FHHR's current Equine Training Program.

The Binky Foundation, founded in 2004, is a private charitable organization dedicated to the protection of domestic and wild animals and their habitats. FHHR was awarded the full requested amount to purchase new equipment and tack for the Training Team.

The Tony Stewart Foundation is dedicated to helping critically ill or disabled children, at-risk animals, and injured motor racing drivers by awarding grant funds to help non-profit organizations accelerate change in their respective areas of interest. FHHR was awarded funds for arena enhancement and to send green horses for professional training under saddle.

Both awards will help increase the adoptability of our rescue horses.

### FHHR Tries Round Bales this Winter Thanks to the Bernice Barbour Foundation

Now that FHHR has moved into the beautiful Hampton Plantation facility, we have more horses in larger pastures. That is a great thing, but as our volunteers know, colder temperatures make for longer feed shifts. By using round bales in the winter, our horses can have free access to hay 24/7, which not only has great health benefits for the horses, our volunteer work time can be decreased too. Thanks to a generous grant by the Bernice Barbour Foundation, FHHR will be able to purchase round bales this winter. The Foundation, based out of Wellington, Florida, is devoted to making the lives of animals happier and healthier. The horses send their thanks, too.

**The Unwanted Horse Veterinary Relief Campaign** awarded free vaccinations for 10 horses this fall.

**WANTED:**  
We are seeking funds to purchase round bale feeders. Feeders decrease waste, thereby decreasing the total cost of hay. Please consider a donation to help us purchase these feeders.

# Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Events!

## Events:

**Glowga for Horses**  
TBA @ Northeast Community Center

**Winter Soiree @ Friday's Creek**  
02/20/15 6:00 pm

**Business Meeting & Potluck for Volunteers**  
03/07/15 (location and time TBD)

Contact Jennifer for more information  
347.595.9100

## Volunteer Training:

New Volunteer Orientation &  
Advanced Volunteer Training  
12/20/14 @ 4:00 pm

*In 2015, sessions will be held the 1st  
Sat. of each month. 1/3, 2/7, 3/7\*, 4/4.  
\* orientation only*

Contact Kristy for more information  
240.320.7715

## Training Team Sessions:

Mondays at 6:30 pm  
Second night to be added soon.

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

Training Team evaluations are  
scheduled by appointment with  
Crandell's Horse Works.

Contact Terry for more information  
240.535.4009

## Despite Rain, Holiday Photos Event a Success

Rain, rain, go away, please come back another day. That was the song of the day on Saturday, December 6th. But despite mother nature's best efforts, there were sunshine and smiles in the barn!

FHHR hosted it's third annual Holiday Photos with Horses fundraising event and raised nearly \$1500.00. Four local photographers donated their services, coffee was generously donated by WaWa in Dunkirk, and more the 25 volunteers donated time and supplies so that 100% of the proceeds benefit the horses. Thirty families had professional photos taken with one of ten horses decorated in the spirit of the season, kids created holiday crafts, and even Santa stopped by. Pamela Hill won the free photo package and donated the funds back to the rescue. Thanks, Pam! And THANK YOU to all of our volunteers and supporters for making it a great day all around!



*Clockwise from Top Left: Santa offers Bob a candy cane, Stockings of Hope line the tack room wall, Jen Hottle ran an amazing craft table, Kelly Kostelnik lines up a shot, Steve Moscati and Taybor Grimes were part of the Perky Ear Crew, and a family poses with Honey.*

## How You Can Help!

### Buy a Calendar or FHHR Apparel

Contact us at [freedom.hill.org@gmail.com](mailto:freedom.hill.org@gmail.com) to place your order.

### Two Ways to Help on

Through the end of the month, designate FHHR as your favorite charity at [givingworks.ebay.com](http://givingworks.ebay.com) and we could win \$10,000 by random drawing. - OR -  
Donate gently used items that we can sell on ebay.

### Amazon Smile!

If you shop on Amazon.com, please join Amazon Smile and select FHHR. Every time you shop, Amazon will donate to the rescue.

### iGive and GoodSearch

Similar to Amazon Smile!, these two online programs donate funds to FHHR every time you shop. Visit [www.iGive.com](http://www.iGive.com) or [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com). Both are fast, free, & easy!



### Donate an Item

**See our Holiday Wish List  
on page 3.**

### Volunteer from Home

If you'd like to help horses, but can't make a regular feed shift (or want to do more than a shift), consider working on projects from home. We are looking for assistance with data entry, website updates, advertising our horses and events, social media posts, and coordinating feed shift calendars, just to