

People Helping Horses, Horses Helping People

# SPOTLIGHT

WINTER 2020



Freedom Hill Horse Rescue



*Free to Live Again!*

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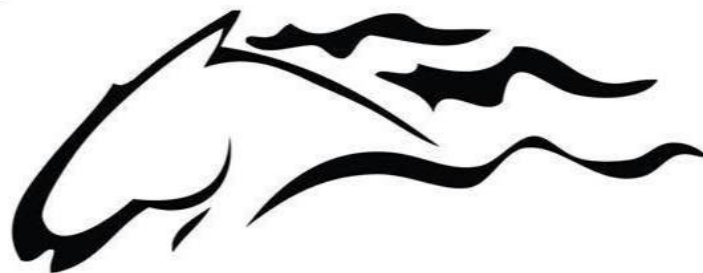
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*Freedom Hill Horse Rescue*



*Free to Live Again!*



Dutiful Sun



## MEET OUR SANCTUARY RESIDENTS



### DUTIFUL SUN

Hi! My name is Dutiful Sun. I'm a registered quarter horse (Dude's Rising Sun) but you can call me "D". I'm a very handsome Palomino Gelding and I stand at 15.1hh. I was born in 1988. My owner mom passed away and I will be spending my golden years at FHHR with my new people that love me. I'm an older man now and have some arthritis in my front left knee and I have trouble picking up my hind legs. I can still walk and trot some. I can no longer jump and canter and play gymkhana games like I used to in my younger days. I sure make a beautiful pasture ornament now and enjoy attention from my humans. My temperament is rated at a 1 and I know that means I'm a very good boy!



### APOLLO

Apollo is a 24 year old registered American Quarter Horse who has an extensive background in western shows and therapeutic riding programs. When FHHR rescued him, he had severe respiratory issues and was about 200 lbs underweight. After extensive treatment and a good diet, he has gained back his weight and is breathing easy now. He is very personable and enjoys being a part of our Equine Assisted Learning and Scout Programs. He is even doing an occasional riding lesson – and is still a great teacher!

## RUNNING A RESCUE

BY LORI HARRINGTON, FHHR PRESIDENT

Someone asked me, “What is the most difficult thing for you in running a horse rescue?” I told them I would have to say that saying goodbye to any of the horses that have been with FHHR is the most difficult. Of course, when they leave this world, it is the utmost heart wrenching time but even when they get adopted out, I am sad to see them go but happy and hopeful that their new home will be better for them than staying with us. Most times it is the best thing for them. Sometimes it doesn’t work out and at some point, they may need to come back to FHHR. Life happens and sometimes adopters can no longer care for their horse. We always welcome them back no matter what. And to that aspect, there comes a lot of logistics: what pasture and what stall do we put them in and who will their pasture mates be? Will they get along? Do they need to be quarantined? What has happened during the time they have been gone from FHHR? Do they need a refreshment course in ground manners or riding training? Will they require a vet exam, need any updates in their vaccines, coggins, hoof trim, equine dentist? Are they on any medication or supplements that need to be ordered? Do we have tack, blankets, sheets that will fit them? There are so many things that need to happen when a new or returned horse comes into the rescue. And also, when they leave.

When we have a potential adopter contact us, we schedule several visits and spend time with them observing whether it may be a good match with the person and the horse. If they are interested in adopting, they will fill out an application and pay a \$25 processing fee. We do a personal site check where the horse will potentially be going. We call references and do a background check on the adopter and try to put all the pieces together to make an informed decision, if this person will be a good adopter for this particular horse and will the new home be the right place for this horse.



FHHR President Lori Harrington and her horse Lu

We then need to follow up and we require updates at 1 week, 3 weeks, 3 months, 6 months, and one year. Then at one year, the adopter can apply for a transfer of ownership. We do another check on the horse and if approved, draw up the transfer paperwork. But it doesn’t end there – oh no. We do annual updates on as many of our adopted horses as we can. We have adopted out 335 horses since our inception in 2004, so staying in touch with that many people is not an easy task. Some adopters, we lose touch with if they have moved and didn’t inform us or changed their phone number or email address. Facebook has helped a lot in the recent years to keep in touch and receive photos or videos of our adopted horses.

I remember when I would mail out letters and make phone calls and then wait for the photos to come in the regular mail or would drive around all day to try and get a few personal site checks done in the course of a week! Times have changed



for the better in that aspect. The same person also asked me what I liked the most about horse rescue. That answer would require a whole newsletter in itself! I love rescuing horses. I love being around horses. I love helping horses and seeing horses help people. I love seeing sick horses become well and unhappy horses become happy or green horses learn

how to carry a rider and become a good mount. I love seeing people learn about horses and enjoy spending time with them, I love sharing information and experiences about horses. So, to sum it up, I just plain love horses. 😊

## PHOTO SHOOT

One day, FHHR President Lori Harrington saw a photo online of three women and three fox that she fell in love with. She knew she needed to recreate this picture with the horses at our rescue! To quote Lori “I was obsessed with recreating that inspirational photo with the horses.” With the help of three wonderful volunteers, an incredible photographer, and of course, our horse models; we were able to pull off the **perfect** picture!

### INSPIRATIONAL PHOTO



### Photographs

Above: unknown source

Right: by Kathy Blanchard Moskios.

Models from left to right; Anne McD on River, Sophie L. on Apollo, and Alicia S on Delilah.

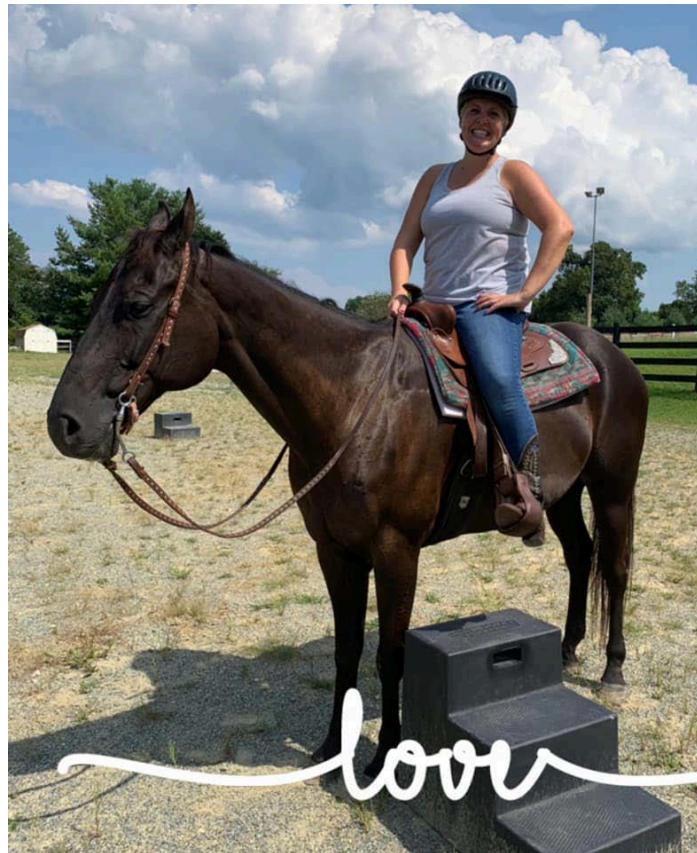
(River and Delilah are available for adoption)

## ADOPTIONS



### ELLIE

Ellie was returned to FHHR as her adopter reluctantly needed to give her up so she could pursue her education full time. She had been well taken care of and had remembered all her training. Not to our surprise, Ellie was only with us for a short time before she was spotted by a wonderful family. We are happy to say their adoption was official in December. Ellie now lives with her new family only a few minutes from Freedom Hill. Congratulations to Ellie, Rashaod and his family.



### JACK

Jack and his buddy Apollo were rescued by FHHR in June. They came to us from a neglectful situation. They were both terribly underweight. Apollo had a list of health problems. Jack was apprehensive about people approaching him and excitable when it came to feeding time. They both very quickly adapted to their new home at Freedom Hill. Jack was soon healthy and happy under the care of our volunteers and vets. Brenda fell in love with Jack upon meeting him and the two quickly became a pair. In December, Jack and Brenda officially became a family. Congratulations!



## AVAILABLE HORSES



### **Delilah**

Delilah is a Quarter Horse mare born in 1997. She is a beautiful cremello color with a possible champagne gene with green/blue eyes and stands at 15.2 hands. Delilah was found abandoned along with four other horses and taken in by Freedom Hill Horse Rescue (FHHR) in early 2017. She has rounded ears due to frostbite on the tips earlier in her life. Delilah has past western riding experience. She stands well for the vet, farrier and does well being trailered. Delilah would be best suited for light riding. She loves children!



### **Gold Story "Goldie"**

Goldie is a lovely 11-year-old stocky bay TB mare standing 16.2 hands. She has been on trails, has arena experience, and ridden english/western. She is sweet, loving and very willing to please, loads nicely, great for farrier, vet and dentist. She is a little apprehensive about shots though. Barefoot. Goldie would be a wonderful trail or equitation horse. Goldie is NOT able to jump and is not a good dressage candidate. She has manageable lymphangitis on one rear leg. Our vet has advised that consistent moderate exercise and keeping it wrapped and dry is the best treatment for her and it has been working well.



### **River**

River is a very handsome 19 year old Tennessee Walker gelding standing at 16 hands with lots of trail/arena experience. A very loving, soulful, and sensitive boy who deserves a special someone to love him back. He has been treated for EPM and Lymes 2 years ago, and we can happily say he is currently doing very well and is asymptomatic. He is being ridden and refreshed with groundwork weekly.



### **Dawson**

Dawson is a 16hh Thoroughbred born in 1994. He came to us in 2015 when he was retired from a rigorous lesson and jumping program. Dawson has a wonderful temperament and has been a very willing partner in the Equine-Assisted Learning and educational programs at the rescue. He is a delight to ride, knows it all, has done it all. He requires an intermediate level rider as he can get nervous at the canter or leaving his pasture mates. He can W/T/C. Due to his previous years as a lesson horse, he would be best suited to a non-jumping home. An occasional small fence is fine.

## OUR NEW HORSES

**Gabe** is a 23-year-old QH, returning to us from an adoption in 2018 and **Kirby** is a 12-year-old Paint mare who was originally rescued from starvation in 2014. Their owner contacted us that she was no longer able to care for her horses and could we help. We, of course, said we would take both horses.

FHHR rescued Gabe from an abandonment situation in 2017. There were 5 horses that were at a small boarding farm about 30 minutes away. The farm owner contacted us one evening that the owner had not been by to feed or care for the horses or pay the board in some time and he didn't know anything about horses. We said we would come out the next day. It was a warm day in February when we went to go look at the horses and they all had blankets on, no hay, little water on a dry lot. We discovered that one of the horses had passed away in the early morning hours in one of the stalls before we got there. She was a 5-year-old Thoroughbred mare. We took the blankets off all the horses and found them to be very thin and lots of wounds, long cracked hooves and very weak. We called animal control and a vet to come right away. While we were waiting for AC to get there, we took photos, did a height/weight assessment, groomed the horses, gave them some hay, water and some love.

The Animal Control officer came and started an investigation. She placed a citation at the location warning the owner that the horses were to be seized in 30 days due to neglect and abandonment. The vet gave a thorough exam on all the horses and gave them their vaccines and we dewormed them. FHHR and SOFE horse rescue volunteers and friends went to the farm twice a day to feed and care for the horses for 30 days until AC deemed them abandoned as the owner never came and it was discovered that this person had many warrants for animal cruelty and theft charges. We gave all the horses biblical names. The young filly that passed was named Angel. The grey TB gelding was named Noah, the dark brown QH gelding was

named Sampson, the cremello mare was named Delilah, and the chestnut QH gelding was named Gabriel. SOFE took Sampson and FHHR took Gabriel (Gabe), Delilah and Noah. Noah was fostered nearby by our friend Hilary and then was adopted by a veteran who later formed an equine assisted veterans therapy program with thoroughbreds. Gabe was fostered by Hilary after Noah left for his new home. Both Delilah and Gabe eventually were adopted but both ended up coming back to us through no fault of theirs.

Gabe has extensive western pleasure show experience and can do some amazing things. He was diagnosed with a navicular cyst so he can't do sliding stops and spinning anymore but is still a great trail and show horse. We also found that he had apparently had a procedure done long ago that severed his tail nerves. (This is sometimes unfortunately a desired thing in high level western pleasure show industry so they do not raise their tails high in the show arena) We had special shoes on him when he was with us before and it seemed to help with his comfort for his cyst. His adopter opted to let him go barefoot after several x-rays by her vet showed that his navicular cyst had shrunk. She told us he has been very comfortable barefoot over the last year and a half. We will watch and see if he continues to be sound without shoes. We hope he finds his forever home as he is a very sweet and comical guy who deserves a home.

Kirby was rescued in 2014 from a starvation situation in Florida. She has a lot of western obstacle experience and has been trained to side pass, go over and through many trail obstacles; bridges, gates, etc. She neck reins, knows verbal cues and will stop on a dime. Kirby likes to strut her stuff in the arena for the geldings watching in Paddock A. She is very sweet, seems to have nice ground manners and is healthy. We hope Miss Kirby finds her special family soon.

(Continued on next page)



Due to her past starvation situation, she is a bit food aggressive and should never be fed with another horse in the same area. Same with Gabe due to his past starvation situation. They have been

very well taken care of for the past two years and are ready to be someone's forever friend. Both horses are currently available for adoption.



## GABE

Left: When he was rescued,

Right: What he looks like now



## KIRBY

Left: When she was rescued,

Right: what she looks like now

## ADVANTAGES OF ADOPTING A HORSE

BY LORI HARRINGTON, FHHR PRESIDENT

Why is adopting a horse from us better than purchasing from a private seller, breeder or broker? First, the adoption fee is a lot less than a sales price would be for a horse. Horse rescue organizations do not make a profit from adoptions. Even if we acquire a horse for free, we invest in vet exams, farrier and equine dentist visits, vaccines, training and much more into each horse. Secondly, most horse rescue organizations provide a safety net for their adoptees if the adopter ever has to return the horse. Reputable horse rescue organizations will take their horses back if the need arises. Thirdly, Freedom Hill offers options like fostering the horse and offering the potential adopter several visits with the horse before adoption to make sure it is a good match.

We spend time getting to know our horses, establishing what their skills are and evaluating their health and behavioral attributes so we can present an honest and open assessment to potential adopters. We pass on all health records to adopters. As a member of various organizations such as Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, GuideStar and EQUUS foundation that require transparency, we take that responsibility seriously. Freedom Hill also checks in with adopters periodically to make sure the match still works. Our responsibility doesn't end with the signing of the adoption agreement or transfer of the horse to the adopter.

## DUTIFUL SON

BY DIANE HERMANN, VOLUNTEER

Unfortunately, the last two articles that I wrote for Freedom Hill Horse Rescue were for two of our horses who recently went over the rainbow bridge. Unfortunate that they are no longer here but fortunate that each shared their personalities and quirks with us so we got to learn and share a bond with them.

But this time, I want to write about my horse angel, Dutiful, whom yes is still with us and who I have forged an amazing bond. Some of the things that Dutiful and I share are old age and old arthritic bones, so our expectations of what once was or could be are a little limited.



Diane and Dutiful Sun "D"



But that's ok because we share that time in our lives where things have slowed down a bit and we share the quiet time of life. A sunny afternoon with him grazing and me sitting there reading a book are welcome. Food is something we look forward to and a good grooming or massage can make us feel sooo good. We tried many times to provide him with a pasture friend and each time he made it clear, "I'm good". He's a character. Dutiful is, as they say, getting up there. He is now 32 years old and some days I can see it is difficult for him, yet you can see he still loves life.

He loves a sunny day in the pasture, his snacks, attention and even seems to like his pedicures. He loves his home. Who wouldn't, he has the best accommodation of all the horses. His hugs and snickers melt my heart. He has provided me with confidence and so much knowledge being in my life. Although he is a sanctuary horse...which means he will live out his life here at Freedom Hill, I say he is my sanctuary place I go where I know I am safe, where I am wanted and a place where we both want to be with our best friend.

## MY WISH HORSE ROMEO

BY ALEXIS WRIGHT, JR. VOLUNTEER

When I went to Freedom Hill Horse Rescue, I met Romeo, he stole a piece of my heart and I stole a piece of his. I know I gained his trust and I now know I got a friend for my whole life. Romeo made me happy. I wanted to foster him because I knew it meant I could be with him more and ride him. I have great memories of Romeo when he was alive. I wish I went to FHHR sooner to be with him a little bit longer, but I still have good memories of him and I together. Like the time I groomed him and fed him oats and grain and brought him to his circle pen. When Romeo put his head on my hand and I petted him he started to pass out, it was so cute. I do miss him, but he is still in my heart and I am still in his. I am sad but happy he is in heaven with his friend Junior running free.



Romeo

\* Romeo went over the rainbow bridge on May 5, 2019. He was a one of a kind horse who was dearly loved by all the volunteers at Freedom Hill. From a tribute to Romeo; "Romeo came to live at Freedom Hill Horse Rescue in 2015, gracing us with his willful intelligence, sense of fun, zest for life, and love for tricking unsuspecting visitors."

## MAGGIE

BY BETH MEADER, TEAM LEAD HORSE CARE

Maggie is one of the sanctuary horses at Freedom Hill Horse Rescue. She is a 32-year-old (we think) Chesapeake pony, who was originally at Davidsonville Animal Sanctuary. When the sanctuary closed due to the passing of its owner, we went to get Maggie and her sidekick Roxie. (More on Roxie in the next newsletter). While being at FHHR, Maggie was diagnosed with Cushings Disease.

Cushings Disease is caused by a disorder of the pituitary gland. It generally affects the horses that are middle aged or geriatric. Symptoms of Cushings include: a long, wavy hair coat that fails to shed according to normal seasonal patterns; chronic recurrent laminitis; weight loss; muscle wasting, especially along the topline; abnormal distribution of fat, with accumulation in the crest of the neck, tail head, sheath and above the eyes; consumption of large volumes of water and passage of large amounts of urine; delayed wound healing; and increased susceptibility to infections.

When Maggie came to us in January 2017, she had a curly coat that needed to be shaved during the summer. In October 2017, we noticed that one of her eyes was protruding. A visit from an Equine Ophthalmologist confirmed that she had Exophthalmos or a “pushing out of the socket due to a suspected fat deposit most likely due to Cushings”. We were advised to use a sun mask on her during the day, rain or shine. Then in June 2018, Maggie developed Mastitis (an infection) in one of her teats. At that time our veterinarian suggested she may very well have Cushings, which was confirmed by a blood test.

Since that day, Maggie has been taking a drug, Pergolide, to help with the symptoms of Cushings. The use of Pergolide will not cure Cushings but will manage the signs and symptoms of the disease. The drug helps provide a good quality of life for Maggie as she lives out the rest of

her life. Unlike our other horses who live at Hampton Plantation, Maggie is currently fostered by Liz C., a volunteer at FHHR. Liz keeps up with Maggie’s day to day care by providing her with a special low sugar – high fiber diet, daily grooming with an eye on any possible infections and daily hoof care to check for laminitis.



Maggie Photo by Anna D.

Maggie is a sweet, sweet pony. She is quiet, loving and easy to work with. She loves attention and scratches. Most notably, on hot days, you may find her with her butt facing a fan. Thanks to frequent farrier visits to keep her hooves healthy, regular dental and veterinary check-ups, Liz’s attention, grants from organizations such as The Doris Day Animal Foundation and contributions from our many supporters, Maggie should be able to have a nice life throughout her senior years.

\* [American Association of Equine Practitioners](#), Christie Malazdrewich, DVM, Diplomate ACVIM; University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine; [The Horse](#), Nancy S. Loving, DVM, May 22, 2017



## LEARNING ABOUT LYMPHANGITIS

BY SHAUN GANDIA, VICE PRESIDENT

Over my lifetime of caring for horses, I have never come across lymphangitis. Upon meeting Goldie at the rescue, I was determined to learn all I could about this condition. And boy have I learned a lot! Here is my understanding of this condition and what I and several volunteers at the rescue have been doing to help Goldie.

The lymph system in the horse works in conjunction with the blood circulatory system to remove waste products from the horse's body. Lymph fluid gathers bacteria, infection, dead cells and anything else that needs to be removed from the body and transports this into the blood stream to join in the body's natural waste elimination process. When a horse gets a wound, the body works to heal and fight off any infection using the immune system and extra lymph fluid. When the wound is healed, the extra lymph is reabsorbed into the body. As with any system, sometimes something goes wrong. When a horse's body cannot clear out the excess lymph fluid from the area of an injury, then you get lymphangitis.

From what I have learned about this condition and also Goldie's history from before the rescue, I think she sustained some sort of cut to her left hind ankle or pastern that was not treated correctly at the time. The wound probably got infected and her body worked overtime trying to heal and also fight the infection. Without proper cleaning and protection, the cut would never quite heal and contamination and infection would continually re-occur. This resulted in the formation of scar tissue and a malfunctioning lymph system. Goldie's previous owners gave her antibiotics to help fight the infection during flare-ups but the damage had already been done.

With the aid and advice of our veterinarians and extensive research by several volunteers, we have tried many, many different things to help improve Goldie's condition and prevent further damage. We



Gold Story "Goldie" with her leg wrapped

are currently placing a compression wrap on her leg to help the existing lymph fluid travel up her leg and get reabsorbed and also to prevent new fluid from settling in her ankle. In addition, we are using anti-fungal and anti-bacterial powders combined with regular thorough cleaning to minimize re-infection. She received regular exercise to help the body reabsorb the excess lymph fluid. And finally, as this is a systemic problem, we are trying different supplements and feeds to help boost her immune system and reduce her irritation and pain while not further upsetting her stomach, which we think may be damaged from the overuse of antibiotics.

Lymphangitis is an on-going and degenerative condition that will always require attention and maintenance. Goldie is lucky to have found an amazing place with caring people that are dedicated to helping her. Unfortunately, this condition is a lot to take on and has scared several adopters away. I am optimistic though. She is a great horse with a lot to offer the right person and I have faith in that person coming to find her. Meanwhile, I plan on enjoying every minute I get to spend with her.

## EVENTS SPOTLIGHT

### SPIRITS AND STEEDS

Our annual fall festival with live music by Boogie Lou and friends, over 20 vendors (including beer and wine), barn tours, games for kids, and horseback rides!



### HOLIDAY PHOTOS WITH HORSES

Our annual holiday market featuring local crafters, artisans and photos with the horses. Customers had the opportunity to choose from multiple holiday photo backgrounds featuring our rescue horses.



### FALL BARN CLEAN

Twice a year, spring and fall, our wonderful volunteers, board members, and families come out to help clean and organize our barn. It's a wonderful time with friends, food, and hard work; and the barn looks amazing!





## 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>February 1<sup>st</sup> thru 29<sup>th</sup></b>	Valentines for our Horses
<b>February 1<sup>st</sup>, 1:00 - 3:00 pm</b>	New Volunteer Orientation
<b>February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 - 3:30 pm</b>	Volunteer Meeting
<b>March 7<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 - 3:00 pm</b>	New Volunteer Orientation
<b>March 7<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 - 4:00 pm</b>	Open House and Tack Sale
<b>March 21<sup>st</sup>, 12:00 - 2:30 pm</b>	Horsemanship Day
<b>March 28<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 - 2:00 pm</b>	Spring Clean-up Day
<b>April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 - 3:00 pm</b>	New Volunteer Orientation
<b>April 4<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 - 4:00 pm</b>	Open House and Tack Sale
<b>April 11<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 - 3:30 pm</b>	Easter Hop
<b>May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1:00 - 3:00 pm</b>	New Volunteer Orientation
<b>May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3:00 - 4:00 pm</b>	Open House and Tack Sale
<b>May 16<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 - 2:30 pm</b>	Horsemanship Day
<b>June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 - 3:00 pm</b>	New Volunteer Orientation
<b>June 6<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 - 4:00 pm</b>	Open House and Tack Sale
<b>June 12<sup>th</sup>, TBA</b>	Sweet Frog (Prince Frederick) Fundraiser
<b>July 3<sup>rd</sup>, TBA</b>	Sweet Frog (Prince Frederick) Fundraiser
<b>July 11<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 – 3:00 pm</b>	New Volunteer Orientation
<b>August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1:00 to 3:00 pm</b>	New Volunteer Orientation
<b>August 16<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 – 9:00 pm</b>	Applebees Fundraiser
<b>August 28<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 – 3:00 pm</b>	Back to School Party
<b>September 5<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 - 3:00 pm</b>	New Volunteer Orientation
<b>September 19<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 - 2:00 pm</b>	Fall Clean-up Day
<b>October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1:00 - 3:00 pm</b>	New Volunteer Orientation
<b>October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 - 7:00 pm</b>	Spirits and Steeds
<b>November 7<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 - 3:00 pm</b>	New Volunteer Orientation
<b>November 21<sup>st</sup>, 12:00 - 3:00 pm</b>	Holiday Photos with Horses
<b>December 5<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 - 3:00 pm</b>	New Volunteer Orientation

## THE HEART OF FHHR - VOLUNTEERS

BY CATHY HURLEY, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Freedom Hill Horse Rescue (FHHR) is an all-volunteer 501©3 non-profit organization that would not be successful without our wonderful, dedicated volunteers. Some of our volunteers are entire families, which is a wonderful way to spend time together; learning and forming great work ethics while instilling a love for caring for animals. We have a lot of school age kids who have been with us for years and we have watched them mature to young adults going off to college. Volunteering at FHHR can be very rewarding and therapeutic. We form great friendships and a strong bond not only with the horses but with other volunteers. We are like a big family. We have helped those who were painfully shy and unsure of themselves blossom into strong confident people. There are many opportunities in which to volunteer with FHHR. Most volunteers enjoy joining one of our daily feed shifts, which include feeding and caring for our horses. However, we have many “behind the scenes” opportunities as well; such as grant writing, marketing, fundraising, getting corporate sponsors, or attending and helping with events. There is something for everyone.

We have two feed shifts per day, morning and evening. We strive for safety and consistency among our feed shift teams. We strongly encourage

all potential volunteers to attend our two-hour orientation, whether they are horse experienced or not. We feel attending orientation helps to keep everyone safe and keeps our routine consistent among all volunteers. Our orientation is hands on and attendees learn FHHR’s specific feed shift routine, the importance of horse safety, how to safely walk a horse in and out to pasture and how to groom a horse. We also offer opportunities for them to attend one of our programs or clinics to learn even more. Each feed shift has a leader and co-leader to ensure all the tasks are completed and everyone is enjoying themselves and staying safe.

In 2019, we recruited 95 new volunteers. Some of the new volunteers, we did lose, however over half of them decided to stay and are happily volunteering on one of our feed shifts or helping out behind the scenes. Our volunteers are hard-working and very dedicated. In 2019, our volunteers logged in over 8,000 hours. Some working two or three shifts per week and averaging almost two hours at each shift. Since FHHR was founded in 2004, people average almost three years volunteering with us. We currently have eight people who have been volunteering for over five years and one volunteer who has been with us for an amazing 11 years.





## HORSE RESCUE: A VOLUNTEER'S EXPERIENCE

BY RYAN SHUTT, VOLUNTEER

I figured it would be another day of taking care of the horses after my dad dropped me off. But before I even opened the front gate, I looked over expecting to see D poking his head out of his stall door waiting to get fed. Instead I saw him lying on his side in the mud and I instantly became worried. Me and another volunteer tried helping him up but quickly called others and they came to help. Needless to say, a lot of volunteers and shift leaders showed up and eventually we managed to help him up while we (today's afternoon shift) also worked on getting our job done, while also helping when we could with D. I've been working at Freedom Hill for about 5 to 8 months now and that was the first time I have ever been as worried as I was in a long time. The entire time I worked I kept hoping he'd get back up on his feet and it reminded me of when I spent the final days with my dog Traci before she passed away years ago. Before I started working there, I remember a few people I know saying that if they didn't get paid to work a job, then it wasn't worth it.

But ever since I've started working here, I have become more social with the people I work with, met amazing people that are great to work with, developed a dedicated work ethic, and learned so much about horses that I never ever dreamed of learning. I've learned how to handle each of the horse's quirks and personalities (even learned to take their attitudes in stride) and have never been more excited to get out of the house and do something super early in the morning. Everyday there is a new learning experience for me, and I love being there. So for me, this job, while I'm not



Volunteer Ryan Shutt and Apollo at FHHR Holidays for Horses event.

getting paid to be there, has taught me what it means to work and care for creatures that can't give anything back. So if 10 – 15 people show up KNOWING they won't get PAID being there but rather CHOSE to be there to help an old horse we all love and care about get back up on his feet, then that's the place I want to work at. And I'll remember this for the rest of my life.

## VOLUNTEER HORSEMANSHIP CLASSES

BY SHAUN GANDIA, VICE PRESIDENT

Volunteers were treated to horsemanship classes this past fall on Sunday afternoons. Classes covered many different topics about horse care and horse behavior. Many volunteers learned the parts of the horse, how to take vital signs, spotting lameness or sickness, and basic wound care. Many classes offered hands-on experience leading the rescue horses, lunging, and general safe horse handling. Some favorite classes involved introducing horses to scary objects and helping them overcome fear. Several sessions introduced and demonstrated round pen techniques and using the round pen to create a working bond with a horse. Mickey Blue was featured as volunteers learned how to teach a horse to drive a cart. Volunteer horsemanship classes are set to start again this spring. Please come out and have a great time learning all of the wonderful things about horses.



Shauna Gandia teaching a horsemanship class with Ellie.

## VISIT US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Here at Freedom Hill Horse Rescue, we like to stay in touch with our volunteers and supporters. We welcome you to visit us on our social media sites to learn more about our horses, day to day operations, or even how to be a better horse owner through our horsemanship classes.

Twitter: @FHHR\_Horses

Instagram: Freedomhillhorserescue

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/FreeToLiveAgain](http://www.facebook.com/FreeToLiveAgain)

YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRvD0tXvZAEPBB12j6\\_bzvA/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRvD0tXvZAEPBB12j6_bzvA/)



## FHHR AND SCOUT VOLUNTEERS

At Freedom Hill Horse Rescue, we love working and getting involved with our local community. One of our favorite ways to do this is partnering with local scout troops on service unit projects, events, and scout badge programs. Below are just a few examples of what our scout groups have accomplished with us this past year.



Members from local Girl Scout Troop 11019 and their families designed, constructed and installed a beautiful mural on the side of one of our run-in shelters. We love it and we're pretty sure the horses do too.



Thank you to Matt C, his family and friends from BSA Troop 2777, and members of the Church of Jesus Christ and Latter-Day Saints for cleaning up the overgrown historical cemetery at Hampton Plantation, home of Freedom Hill Horse Rescue. Matt will be earning his Eagle Scout badge for his hard work. Information about this historical gravesite can be found at [www.hampton1825.com](http://www.hampton1825.com) and [www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2433260/hampton-plantation](http://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2433260/hampton-plantation)



Girl Scout Juniors from troop 1186 ran the games and children's section at our annual Spirits and Steeds Fundraiser. They had face painting, a relay race, bean bag toss, pumpkin painting, and "Kiddie Corral". The event was a huge success and the children had a wonderful time horsing around. 😊

## WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Because we are a 501(c) 3 nonprofit charitable organization, we rely heavily on the generous financial support of individuals like you. All donations to FHHR are tax deductible and 100% of your donation goes directly to support our organization's mission, vision and goals.

You can mail your donation by check or money order to P.O. Box 606, Dunkirk, MD 20754 or you can give by debit or credit through PayPal

### WISH LIST

- Amazon Wish List located at:  
[https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/1VL320LZ7L3QZ/ref=cm\\_wl\\_sortbar\\_v\\_page\\_1?ie=UTF8&sort=rank](https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/1VL320LZ7L3QZ/ref=cm_wl_sortbar_v_page_1?ie=UTF8&sort=rank)
- Gift cards to Home Depot, Tractor Supply, Sneads's, & Southern States
- Pressure treated 4x4s and 2x4s for fence repairs
- Tools for tool box - hand wood saws, heavy duty plastic coated hooks, double sided clips, boxes of various size screws and nails, plug-in drill with level, vise grips,
- 15x15ft heavy duty tarps
- Bulk sawdust for bedding
- Arena sand
- 8 ft. corral panels
- Flat bed trailer
- 4x4 truck

### OTHER WAYS TO HELP

- Use Amazon Smile when shopping: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-1933165>
- Join [iGive.com](https://www.give.com) and go shopping.
- We are proud members of the **Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)** through the Animal Welfare Fund! Federal Employees please pledge to donate. Pledges are being accepted now! **Code 52449**
- **Maryland State Employees** - In late 2018, Freedom Hill Horse Rescue was approved to participate in the Maryland State Employees Campaign, which is an annual workplace giving campaign where MD state employees and retirees can choose to support charitable organizations through an automatic deduction in their paycheck. We are thrilled to be a part of this program and hope to see lots of pledges coming in!
- **Donating new or used tack**



#### Get on Board... Literally

By purchasing and inscribing a board, you will support ongoing building projects at the rescue. Projects included new fencing, run-in sheds, a bulk bedding bin, and various obstacles for our horses to use in training.



## WAYS YOU CAN HELP (CONT.)



## PURCHASE A VALENTINE

During the month of February, you can purchase a valentine for \$5 for one or all of our horses. Links to our valentine fundraiser can be found on our Facebook page or our website. To honor your purchase, a paper valentine will be placed by the horses' stalls and a virtual valentine will be posted by their photos online under Events section of our website and on our Facebook page. Spread the Love!



## VOLUNTEER!

You don't need horse experience to volunteer. We need help with direct horse care and behind the scenes. Do you have a special skill? FHHR can use it. We always need help with feed shifts, barn maintenance, grooming, events, training, marketing, social media, photography and much more!

## ADOPT OR FOSTER

When you adopt a horse from FHHR, you not only help your new four-legged friend, but you give another horse a second chance at life by freeing up space at the rescue. The "Save our Seniors" program offers additional tax benefits.

## BECOME A HORSE ANGEL

If adoption is not an option, the Horse Angel Network might be right for you! When you become a Horse Angel, you help one horse on its journey to find a forever home. Tax-deductible contributions range from \$25 to \$200 per month.

## SHOP WITH US

100% of ALL tack and clothing sales directly support and benefit FHHR's mission. Email us at [freedom.hill.org@gmail.com](mailto:freedom.hill.org@gmail.com) to set up an appointment to shop for tack or our FHHR apparel. Semi-annual tack sales will be posted on our Facebook page.

## SPECIAL THANK YOU

Freedom Hill Horse Rescue would like to give a special thank you to all of our supporters. We are blessed to have over 100 volunteers who spend countless hours helping run the rescue and care for our horses. Our volunteers work on committees for farm operations, barn management, feed shifts, equine health and training, adoptions and fosters, horse angel network, horse owner assistance, public relations and fundraising, volunteer orientation/training, social media and more ensuring the barn runs smoothly and our horses are well cared for.

We would also like to thank our sponsors, donors, foster families and horse angels! We could not do this without the help of our community and the many people who care for our horses and support what we do.

### Grant funding was awarded by:

- \*ASPCA
- \*Bernice Barbour Foundation
- \*CFC
- \*Dancers Legacy Foundation
- \*Doris Day Animal Foundation
- \*EQUUS Foundation
- \*Gus Hawthorne Foundation
- \*Help Association
- \*Joseph Robert Foundation
- \*MD Charitable Contributions Fund
- \*Sheet Metal Workers Union Local 100
- \*The Strickland Foundation

### Horse Angel Sponsors

Marcie S, Diane H, Janet L, Janice S, Michelle V, Sharon F, Lina C, Susan F, and Halvorson/Finn and Carlson families

### Fosters:

Liz C, Cara & Sophie L, Jennifer & Carrigan W and Jaylee C

### Donations over \$50

William W, Laura C, Carol B, Schwab, The Elliott Family, Ken & Dawn W, Ledo's Pizza, Crossfit, Alana C, Shannon C, Sharon F, Christine L, Mark M, Michele V, Carol M, Anne T, Friends of Barbaro, Arthur J, Linda C, Janice S, Heartlands Outreach, Kathleen S, Alexis A, Charles S, Timothy M, Shirley D, Susan F, Cynthia S, Prince Frederick Ford, Double W of MD, Wendy W, David L, Ameriprise Financial, P Deal, Your Cause LLC, Stephanie M, Rebecca B, Touchstone Jewelry, Giant, Applebees, Sweet Frog



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