Dear Animal Lover,

The morning before the big blizzard of 2016 slammed into the east coast on January 23rd, rescuers rushed to a Pennsylvania farm to save emaciated horses in horrific conditions. When they went in with a search warrant that day, the PA State Police had requested DEFHR’s help with transporting the seized animals to safety along with gathering evidence. Carcasses and bones were scattered across the many-acre farm, including the remains of several horses and sheep, a dog and a lamb. Some of the deceased animals were discarded with partially burned trash. Five horses needing immediate removal were transported to a nearby vet clinic for emergency care.

The storm hit and our thoughts never left the 11 remaining horses—and dozens of other animals including sheep, a pig, raccoon, wild turkey, boa constrictor and 2 alligators—that still needed help, but would have to wait out the storm until we could get back to them. Once the roads cleared a few days later, DEFHR went back to that Pennsylvania farm and helped coordinate the removal of all remaining animals so they could be distributed out to various collaborative rescue facilities.

Gabby and Ferris were 2 of the 5 horses that went to the clinic that day before the storm. Then, on February 1st Gabby and Ferris were transported from the clinic to DEFHR where they are receiving round-the-clock critical care and monitoring.

Gabby is in the worst condition. She lies down frequently to rest and is so weak that she needs help getting up. Fortunately, she is a little thing and can be lifted by a few skilled handlers. At night she can relax and let her body concentrate on healing with the help of an Anderson sling. Our wonderful volunteers are taking four-hour shifts during these frigid nights to monitor and support the interns in continually check Gabby’s vitals. We have been working closely with our vets to determine the best course of treatment and her future prognosis, which currently is extremely guarded.

After his arrival, Ferris, a young Appaloosa, was diagnosed with pneumonia, which further complicates his recovery. Staff and volunteers are making sure Gabby and Ferris get as much TLC as possible in addition to badly needed groceries and medical care.

DONATIONS ARE NEEDED TO BRING THEM BACK. Gabby’s care alone will cost $15,000 over the next six months.

Charges were filed on February 2nd—11 counts of animal cruelty for each of the 2 owners. DEFHR will be the animals’ voices when they have their day in court.

THEN THERE ARE THE DISCARDED RACE HORSES.

DEFHR has taken in 4 Thoroughbreds since the beginning of the year—2 from Maryland and 2 from Pennsylvania. Their racing careers behind them, these horses were impounded for neglect and untended medical issues.

Animal shelters tend to focus on dogs, cats and smaller pets and don’t have the space or resources to take in horses. So DEFHR gets calls from Maryland and surrounding states when horses like these are suffering.

Did you know DEFHR was accredited last year by the Thoroughbred Aftercare
Alliance and the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries? We are an all-breed rescue and are a committed member of the horse industry. We are working to bridge the gap for race horses leaving their racing careers and needing second chances. These 4 horses are off-the-track Thoroughbreds, one of which raced as recently as 2013 earning over $100,000 in her career before being thrown away.

Remember Zodiac, another off-the-track racehorse who came to DEFHR in 2010? He was one of the most critically ill horses DEFHR had ever seen. It was touch and go, but Zodiac pulled through, thanks to donors like YOU. He has been adopted, and he keeps his loving adopted family laughing every day with his antics.

To honor these recent arrivals—and race horses in general—as well as to bring awareness to the need for homes for ex-race horses, the four were named after race tracks from around the country: Anaheim, Belmont, Charlestown and Delmar.

**With your help, we can return these horses to peak health, train them and adopt them out to second-chance homes.**

If they rehab smoothly, they may even participate in DEFHR’s 2016 “Experience the Journey” event where adoptable rescue horses show just how far they can go. This event brings awareness to and promotes the Rescue Horse, and is one way we work toward adoptions.

During these severe winter months, it’s comforting to know we have friends like you who care and who have taken a stand to make the world a better, safer place for animals.

**Can the horses count on you today?** A gift of $500, $250, $100, $50, $20 or any amount will go a long way toward providing for these horses.

Thank you for all you do for the horses,

Erin Ochoa, Executive Director

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**Blizzard Crew**

These are the staff and volunteers who slept at the farm for 3 nights to make sure Anaheim, Belmont, Charlestown, Delmar and all the horses were looked after during Blizzard 2016. They used the trusty tractor to get food and water to everyone. As soon as roads were navigable, local supporters brought in hot dishes and helped shovel out.

Thank you!!

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[YES! You can count on me to do my part to protect horses and educate people.](#)

| | Please call me to set up a monthly recurring gift |

Here is my gift today: [ ] $1000 [ ] $500 [ ] $250 [ ] $100 [ ] $50 [ ] $20 [ ] Other $________

Charge my gift to [ ] MC [ ] Visa [ ] Disc

Card #: ____________________________ Exp. Date: ____________________________

Print Full Name: ____________________________ Phone Number: ____________________________

Address: ____________________________________________

Email: ____________________________

We promise not to share your contact information with others.

Donations are tax-deductible under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code.
Other than needing regular trims to recover a normal hoof capsule, Quest has completed his rehabilitation and has been castrated. He was cleared by our vet to begin training. He now needs only two meals a day, in addition to free choice hay. Quest enjoys new experiences—even the fresh snow brought by the blizzard.

Quest and Rio were castrated thanks in part to a grant from One Horse at a Time, Inc.

Rio is now at optimal weight and has been castrated. He still needs dental work, as his fractured jaw is only freshly healed, so he’s getting an all-mash diet of soaked senior feed and hay pellets split into several meals a day. His left hind leg locks occasionally, but that doesn’t slow him down! Severe neglect left his feet twisted, so he still needs corrective hoof trimming. But he can stand and move comfortably and can be seen prancing around the farm every day. Rio’s spunky attitude has won the hearts of staff, volunteers and visitors.

32 horses found their 2nd chance homes in 2015! Rehabilitated DEFHR horses will be featured in this year’s “Experience the Journey” event on June 4, 2016 bringing awareness to the adoptable Rescue Horse.

Adopted!
Wines & Equines
Formerly known as Grapes of Hooves

Wine Pairing Dinner & Auction Event
April 2nd at 6 O’Clock

Tickets include plated multi-course dinner with wine pairings, live music, live/silent auctions, mobile and online bidding and a whole lot of FUN! Due to limited seating tickets are advance purchase only. For event details and to purchase your tickets visit DEFHR.org.

Proceeds benefit abused & neglected horses
1372 Woodbine Rd., Woodbine, MD 21797 - 301.854.5037 - DEFHR.org

EXPERIENCE THE JOURNEY

SAVE THE DATE:
JUNE 4TH, 2016

on site at DEFHR’s Woodbine facility

1 human, 1 horse and 60 days - discover the potential