Executive Director Erin Ochoa Shares DEFHR Vision
by Jan van Courtlandt

Erin Ochoa is a woman with drive and determination. Driven by the very reason Days End Farm Horse Rescue was founded 26 years ago and determined to fulfill her vision of what DEFHR can become—the premier source for hands-on equine education.

Under Erin’s strategic leadership over the past two years, DEFHR has been successful in many aspects of the farm’s mission. With her small staff of only 15 people, the executive director has cost-effectively managed the 58-acre farm, maintained its maximum 4-star Charity Navigator rating for sound fiscal management and transparency; coordinated the help of over 2,000 volunteers and managed the 100,000 hours of their donated time to run the farm; and provided education to over 7,000 people to date. Her success obviously has not gone unnoticed, as DEFHR was accredited in September by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), the only globally recognized organization providing standards for identifying legitimate animal sanctuaries.

Erin stresses the importance of DEFHR’s educational programs and community outreach. “My vision for DEFHR is to grow education and outreach programs to such an extent that the need for intervention for abused and neglected horses becomes greatly reduced,” she explained. “We are just ending our current three-year strategic plan and ramping up for the next phase. When I took over as executive director, I was an aggressive program manager looking to accomplish everything on DEFHR’s plate.” With two years under her belt, she sees DEFHR’s future with more clarity, and in this next phase, she intends to execute a strategic plan geared toward enriching DEFHR’s programs and ensuring their permanence.

To that end, Erin has both started new and stepped up existing programs. A new “barn leaders” program emphasizes customer relations skills development and barn staff retention. It will provide a richer work experience and teaching opportunities for the highly valued barn team. The homeschool education program, launched in September of 2014, provides homeschooled children the opportunity to learn by working hands-on with the horses.

DEFHR’s long-standing education programs are constantly increasing their number of offerings. The farm hosted an all-day scouts program in October, providing 147 girls and boys from local troops with hands-on horse activities. This summer’s youth legacy program was another success, and the internship

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program is attracting ever-increasing numbers of applicants from as far away as Japan. The equine cruelty investigation series recently offered large animal rescue training to law enforcers from surrounding states.

“DEFHR is providing an unparalleled series of educational programs and community outreach initiatives, with 3,300 people completing our programs thus far this year,” Erin proudly said. Under Erin’s leadership, DEFHR has also embarked on the initial stages of planning for a capital campaign with the hopes of launching in two to three years. Erin envisions the campaign will include program quality enhancements such as an indoor riding arena for year-round training and schooling, a critical care facility for severely neglected horses, and more housing for interns.

“But there is much more needed in terms of securing ongoing financial support for the horses’ care,” Erin continued. “We need to build up our monthly horse sponsors to secure a steadier revenue stream throughout the year, and grow our fundraising events to reach an even wider circle of the community.”

Yes, Erin Ochoa is a woman with drive and determination. She says she is also “extremely blessed to have an amazingly creative staff and a tirelessly dedicated volunteer team. Education is the key to preventing horse neglect and abuse, and is the way for DEFHR to stem the tide of horse interventions required. Together, we can strategically set goals, prioritize education programs, and work with neighboring corporations, schools, counties and states to establish DEFHR as the premier source for hands-on equine education.”

Photos of Quest and Río, August 2015 arrivals. Read their rescue story on page 3.

DEFHR is a non-profit animal welfare organization established in 1989 to ensure quality care and treatment of horses through intervention, education and outreach. DEFHR exists primarily on donations from individuals and businesses. Donations may be made by check, money order, Visa, MasterCard or Discover. To make a credit card donation, call (301) 854-5037 or (410) 442-1564. Donations are tax deductible under IRS Tax Code 501(c)3.

Information contained in “Horse Talk” is the opinion of the authors and may not reflect the opinion of Days End affiliates.
On August 20, 2015, DEFHR received a call from the Humane Society of Washington County (HSWC) to help in the rescue of three horses. When DEFHR team members DeEtte Gorrie, Equine Programs Director, and Caroline Robertson, Development Director, arrived on scene they were horrified at what they saw.

A mare and two stallions were locked in dark stalls, standing in three to four feet of manure. The horses’ hooves were over three feet long and curled like corkscrews. “This was the worst case of hoof neglect we have ever seen,” said Caroline. Also on hand were Pete O’Halloran, Veterinarian at Monocacy Equine Veterinary Associates, and farrier Kenny Romjue, who, along with DEFHR’s Emergency Response team, quickly assessed the situation. In order to safely load the two stallions in the trailer, they had to be sedated to enable the vet and farrier to cut off a portion of their hooves. The mare named Piper suffered a dislocated fetlock joint and ruptured ligaments on one leg as a result of years of hoof neglect. Sadly, she had to be euthanized on site.

On August 21, the horses were impounded and brought to DEFHR. Upon arrival, the stallions were placed in quarantine. Newly named Quest, the larger stallion, and Rio, a miniature stallion, were settled into a large comfortable stall with windows to allow them to see light and call to other horses once again. Brittney Carow, Equine Health Director, is working to follow a strict dietary regimen to alleviate the equines’ emaciated state. Once the horses are healthy again, Sara Strauss, DEFHR’s head trainer, and her team will begin a rehabilitation program to help strengthen their legs.

“We are closely monitoring Quest and Rio’s vital signs several times a day, including heart rate, intestinal sounds, temperature and hydration levels,” Brittney said. “When Quest and Rio arrived we tested their fecal counts and found dangerously high levels of parasites, so they have both been undergoing an extensive deworming process.” The horses are 18 years old and had been confined for most of their lives. The road to rehabilitation will be a long one for Quest and Rio. “Their condition is guarded,” said Caroline. “They are extremely underweight and will require vet and farrier visits every few weeks to begin reshaping their hooves to the proper angle to relieve their legs of the damage caused by the extreme growth.” Both horses have undergone extensive dental care on their overgrown teeth (Rio also has a fractured jaw) and will need much more due to the lack of basic nutritional and medical care. “This is a very expensive process in these types of cases,” Caroline continued. “The cost of care will range from $1,900 to $2,400 per month.” Donations are badly needed for Quest and Rio’s care since DEFHR’s giving levels have dropped significantly this year.

The HSWC has filed 15 charges in Washington County District Court against Boonsboro couple, Robert L. Baugher, 75, and Christine Willson Baugher, 68. They each face four misdemeanor and one felony count of intentionally causing torture for each of the three horses. The misdemeanor charges carry a penalty of up to 90 days in prison and/or a fine of $1,000 each, while the felony charges carry penalties of up to three years incarceration and/or fines of up to $5,000. It is alleged that Quest, Rio and Piper were imprisoned for 12 -15 years without proper nutrition, medical or farrier care. Probable Cause was found on all charges by the District Court Commissioner, and a Criminal Summons was issued. As of publication of this issue, the court date is set for December 2015.

When asked what her goals were for Quest and Rio, Brittney spoke eloquently of DEFHR’s first priority—to get them happy, healthy and adopted out. Second, to raise awareness about these horses and other equines who suffer needlessly from neglect and abuse. Third, to educate people on how to properly care for their horses so situations like this stop happening.

The facts in this case point to a disturbing trend of abuse in this country. These animals need our help. If you suspect neglect or abuse is happening, report it to your local animal welfare authority or police department. In an emergency, dial 911.

Please support DEFHR with your donations. Together, we can save lives.

Resources for learning about and reporting animal cruelty:
- Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), www.humanesociety.org
- American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), www.aspca.org

DEFHR Rescues Two Neglected Stallions from Washington County

by Jan van Courtlandt
Finding a Listening Ear in Sugar and Addie

by Gregory Vince Moore

I have Cystic Fibrosis as well as insulin-dependent diabetes, both of which can be accompanied by a host of other problems. I am also armed with Days End Farm, which has granted me sanity when I might otherwise suffer in near-solitude. When I first came to Days End, it was a special treat for my mother and me because we both enjoy horses. DEFHR took efforts to accommodate my disability, which can be quite debilitating at times. I was granted the privilege of petting some of the horses who were known to be well tempered. Days End doesn’t have mandatory levels of commitment, which is good for me since I have limited energy reserves. I was initially introduced to a horse named Sugar. Now I work with Addie.

It is my belief that the untrained ear hears only words, or perhaps even less than that, but an open mind may assimilate whatever there is to be known. And listening skills can be developed through a lifetime, by both horses and humans. This I learned through experience with Sugar and Addie. They have helped me immensely in reading body language. When Addie wanted scratching for an itchy area, or Sugar wanted her space to be respected, they would let me know by nudging me or distracting me from recognizing what we can feel. We lose the ability to empathize and notice what our conscience speaks.

My mom rode horses in her youth, and she accompanies me while watching from the bench. DEFHR is free of the burden of responsibilities, and I've found people who are decent, who aren’t trying to get the upper hand and who sincerely want to cooperate.

During my youth, I learned from my peers that keeping my mouth shut was sometimes the best way to survive. I also learned that a male was not permitted to feel anything emotionally. At 35 years of age, when I speak with a horse as I groom it, we are both listening. I've said things to a horse that I'd feel awkward admitting to a human. I can open up to a horse without any fear of condemnation, which allows me to articulate my thoughts and express myself.

Through talking to a horse, a listener who doesn’t criticize, I can more easily reach my true self. I feel better after visiting Days End. Working with the horses is a form of exercise (which is prescribed by the physicians) that I actually enjoy. Petting, grooming and walking side-by-side with the horses gives my lungs a workout, which they desperately need at this stage of my medical development. Focusing on the horses lessens the pain while increasing breathing capacity. I suspect I’ll live longer and live happier on account of these horses.

The people at Johns Hopkins have noticed improvements since I've been visiting DEFHR too. I'm not a sickly skeleton anymore. That’s worth something, right?

When I feel particularly unhappy, knowing a horse out there needs me gives me one more thing to try to live for. I've often felt unwanted in most of my life, but at DEFHR, I know there is a horse that wants me there. And feeling wanted by someone means a lot more to me than a lot of people might suspect.
An Adoption Story: Starbucks to Go
by Ellen Quirk

Starbucks arrived at DEFHR in June 2011 in poor condition, very skinny (body condition score of 1), with considerable rain rot.

About six months later Starbucks came into our lives. Larisa, who was 14 at the time and had been volunteering at DEFHR for a few years, met her and fell in love. We parents heard a lot about Starbucks before we ever saw her. For a number of reasons it was a good time for us to get a horse again, so after much thought, we initiated the adoption process.

Aug 2012: Since a forever home is the goal for each rescued horse, DEFHR puts a lot of effort into trying to make a good match between horse and potential adopter. Pre-adoption appointments included leading, grooming, tacking up, then riding. Starbucks enjoyed being groomed and was fine under saddle, though she was rough around the edges and fairly “up” in the ring. I wouldn’t say wild, but we definitely had some things to work on.

When we got Starbucks to the stable where we would board for almost a year, a DEFHR evaluator came to inspect the property and make sure she would be safe and well cared for. Every adoption includes facility inspections, whether private or boarding stables.

Jul 2013: We stayed at that barn for about nine months, but although she was taken care of, we felt she could perform better with a different approach. After a short stay with our oldest daughter for some training, we moved Starbucks to our current barn. The world changed for all of us! There were so many different things to try and a more individual approach to Starbucks’ progress.

Aug 2013: Shortly after our move, Starbucks and Larisa both got an introduction to the sport of fox chasing by going “roading.” Neither had done anything like this before, but both handled it like champs! While Starbucks was excited, she handled the other horses and the hounds really well.

Larisa also continued jumping lessons with a new trainer, and dressage lessons she had started at the previous barn. Things were going so well that Larisa decided to try eventing, starting at the Beginner Novice level. The first event in October 2013 went well, and we all learned a lot. Unfortunately, at the end of October, Starbucks suffered an injury that required stitches and put her out of commission for a while. We nursed her wound and once we got the go ahead from the vet, Starbucks was back in work. By March she was back in full form and earned a first place ribbon at another event.

Wanting to expose Starbucks to a variety of experiences, Larisa took her to their first hunter paces. That was a lot of fun! More eventing followed, trying out different venues, and moving up to Novice.

Nov 2014: Starbucks has been an amazing partner and friend. She is so willing to try whatever Larisa asks of her and is eager to please. She’s sensitive and responds to positive reinforcement. She loves to do a good job! Starbucks teaches at least as much as she learns. We’ve had the opportunity to find the things she’s good at and that she enjoys, and some things, well, not so much. She’s not so well suited for the hunter ring, and fox chasing is still in the trial phase, but jumping and cross country are a definite success, and dressage is coming along nicely.

Sep 2015: Larisa and Starbucks were ready to move up to Training level in eventing, but unfortunately Starbucks came down with a digestive illness and spent over a week in an equine hospital, losing some weight, muscle and stamina in the process. She was a good patient, enduring medications and injections for quite a while. After a successful recuperation, reconditioning became the goal. Starbucks is now back to her old self and doing great! This month Larisa and Starbucks competed at a starter horse trial and, despite heavy rain and challenging conditions, won their division at the Novice level. They are ready for Training level this season and we look forward to many more years of enjoyment, learning and progress!
Who weighs in at over 2,200 pounds, recently wrapped up a career emphasizing, “Just Say Neigh to Crime,” and eats like, well—a horse? You guessed it. It’s Officer Barney, DEFHR’s new Equine Ambassador. DEFHR welcomed the 18-year-old Belgian draft horse to the farm on August 12. Barney, who recently retired from the Baltimore Police Department’s Mounted Police Unit, is settling in nicely in his new home and makes friends easily with everyone he meets. His new role is to help educate the public about equine safety and to raise awareness of equine abuse and neglect in the community.

“A vital part of Days End Farm’s mission is educating animal protection and law enforcement officials who work with horses,” said Erin Ochoa, DEFHR’s executive director. “I’m thrilled to welcome Barney here, and to provide a home to a horse that spent so many years being of service to law enforcers.” After the retirement of Equine Ambassador, Tonto, a full circle moment for DEFHR has come about. It is a unique opportunity for DEFHR to be the facility that will provide Officer Barney his new career as an equine educator.

So, what was Barney’s life like before coming to DEFHR? He came to the Baltimore Police Department in 2003 as a 6-year-old. He lived in an unobtrusively located stable nestled in the middle of the city, along with seven other draft horses, who are part of the city’s police mounted unit. Baltimore boasts the longest running mounted patrol unit in the country, at over 125 years strong.

Over the past 12 years, Barney participated at every major event in Baltimore, helping Mounted Police Officer Janine Gilley perform patrol duties and respond to emergency situations. “I have so much pride. I’ve been in the unit for 18 years, and it’s just great, because there’s no other mounted unit who can say they’ve been together for 125 continuous years,” Gilley said.

Just like any other police officer, rain or shine, mounted units patrol Baltimore’s streets every day. The officers are specially trained in how to ride on and care for the horses. “It gives us the advantage of being able to see better than ground patrols in a crowd and a higher vantage point to check suspicious vehicles,” Gilley explained.

In addition to daily patrols, mounted units handle traffic control and special events, including the Preakness—the largest annual event. “We patrol to make sure no people or objects are on the course and ensure people behave and stay in the infield,” continued Gilley. The horses also serve as goodwill ambassadors for the police department. People are excited to see, pet and ask questions about the equines and feel less intimidated than having police officers approach them alone.

When rioting erupted in Baltimore last April around the Freddie Gray protests, Officer Barney and team backed up a line of riot police wearing helmets and body armor as they worked to control protesters. The equines and officers also worked, “hoof in hand,” helping the National Guard to prevent violence and looting. Barney’s unflappable nature and large stature (would you mess with somebody weighing 2,200 pounds?), made him ideal for this work.

While crime fighting, Barney was also able to squeeze in an acting job, making an appearance along with other unit horses in an episode of HBO’s hit series, “The Wire.” Besides playing important law enforcement roles on TV and in real life, Barney was instrumental in forging relationships between police officers and the public.

Equine Ambassador Barney will fill a similar role at DEFHR. In fact, he just made his debut at the farm’s widely attended Fall Festival on September 19. He also completed his first assignment, participating in DEFHR’s Large Animal Rescue Training (LART) session on September 23. LART is a course in DEFHR’s education series for equine welfare and emergency response professionals.

Barney’s friendly and patient disposition, along with his expert training and experience, make him perfect for interacting with the public here on the farm, as well as at off-site events. You can visit with him next time you are volunteering. However, please don’t forget to salute, because he still prides himself on being Officer Barney!
Meet Chrissy Barton, DEFHR’s First Residential TRAINING Intern

From March to May 2015, Chrissy served as a residential Training Intern here at Days End Farm. DEFHR has many high school- and college-level interns, both residential and non-residential, throughout the year helping with equine rescue and rehabilitation, as well as development tasks. This is the first time, however, we have had an intern working closely with Head Trainer Sara Strauss to help train the horses and prepare them for their second-chance homes.

Give us a little bit of background about you. . .
I’ve always loved horses, and although I have leased a few, I’ve never owned my own. I grew up in Virginia Beach, taking riding lessons and working in several barns. I recently graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in Animal Science. I’ve had some incredible opportunities to work with horses, including under a balance and biomechanics trainer in Florida, and on a Trakehner farm in Germany.

How did you find out about DEFHR?
I was working an office job when I saw postings for DEFHR’s training internship. It caught my eye because I’ve always been interested in horse rescue. I was itching to work with horses again, specifically with a training focus, and it just seemed like a great place.

What were you expecting to learn or experience in your internship?
I expected to work with a variety of horses with different issues and behavioral problems, and hopefully gain some training insights. I wanted to improve my horse handling and riding skills, while at the same time getting a broader understanding of the rehabilitation process for abused and neglected horses.

How did the internship meet/not meet your expectations?
It exceeded my expectations in many ways! I learned so much from the trainer, Sara, and from each horse I worked with. When I had difficulty with a horse, Sara would show me another approach or technique to reach our goal. I also was fortunate to take part in some unique experiences including an impoundment, an animal control equine welfare workshop, and clinics with horse trainers Scott Purdum and Stuart Rybak. One thing I wish I could have seen was the whole rehabilitation of a horse from start to finish, but we didn’t receive any new cases while I was there (a good thing, really).

What did you bring to the internship, and what are you taking away?
I brought a lot of knowledge about training techniques, horse psychology, and riding to improve a horse’s balance, as well as an open and compassionate mind. Aside from the technical skills I’ve improved upon, one of the main things I’m taking from the internship is the understanding that often horse neglect occurs from well-meaning owners who don’t know any better. I think it’s important to help educate owners about basic horse care. The more a person knows about topics like equine nutrition,

proper hoof care, and even body condition scoring, the better they will be able to care for their own horses, as well as recognize a horse in need.

What do you miss most about your time at DEFHR?
I miss the personalities of all the horses I met at DEFHR, going on adventures with Sara [Strauss] and [volunteer trainer] Leigha [Schrader], and meeting other people who came to the farm to help the horses! I enjoyed seeing the diverse ways people brought their own strengths and talents to help the horses at DEFHR, whether it was doing farm repairs, fostering a horse, or simply spending time grooming.

I’m so grateful for the people I met at DEFHR and all they taught me about horses. Keep up the good work! 🐴

Ask IPod

Q. How much does a draft horse like Barney eat?
A. Draft horses are typically very "easy-keepers," meaning they don’t require a lot of grain or sweet feed to stay at a good weight. Barney actually does not require a lot of this type of feed. However, he does eat A LOT of grass and hay. A 1,000-pound horse eating strictly hay requires about a half a bale per day (roughly 20 pounds). Barney weighs 2,200 pounds, so he would need to eat at least twice that much. In basic arithmetic, let’s say Barney eats 1.25 bales of hay per day (50 pounds). That’s about 456 bales per year, which comes out to 18,250 pounds! Wow!
For some, retirement doesn’t mean kicking back in a recliner all day, but a chance to learn and have new adventures. Days End Farm Horse Rescue has quite a few retiree volunteers who are using this next phase of life to realize their life’s dream to better know—and help—horses. Seven of us took a step toward reaching the dream on July 11 when we participated in a DEFHR-sponsored beginning groundwork clinic offered by nationally recognized trainer Scott Purdum of Advantage Horsemanship.

We retiree volunteers are a dedicated bunch. Not that the younger folks aren’t just as dedicated, but maturity brings health challenges and a lifetime of work that might influence us to take it easy. But no, we come out in sweltering heat and freezing cold to do hard, dirty jobs to take care of horses. Some of us travel long distances for the pleasure of shoveling poop. For example, recent retiree Joy DeMatteis comes from Gettysburg several times a week. We do it out of love, but another benefit to volunteering at Days End Farm is better health. June Gravitte says that she’s “in better shape than I have been for years.” Linda Schwartz gave all the credit to the horses for her good health at her last doctor’s visit.

Many of us had little horse experience before volunteering. Most of what we know about horses we learned at Days End Farm, and we’ve been slowly improving our horse-handling skills. But because we all want to be smarter, more confident handlers, we take advantage of every opportunity to learn more about horses. We were willing to pay some of our hard-earned retirement money for, as June said, “a 3-hour class on a Saturday morning in the middle of summer, instead of relaxing or playing with grandkids . . . we weren’t being Aunt Bee (on the Andy Griffith Show) or even the Golden Girls. We were out there in the sun with 1,000-pound horses learning how to better communicate with them.”

According to Purdum, a successful human-horse relationship is based on the human providing Leadership, Energy, Affection and Discipline (L.E.A.D.).

An on-site Scott Purdum clinic provided us the perfect opportunity to further develop our horse-handling skills and understand how to communicate effectively with horses. As Mary Ann Erlitz said, “You are never too old to learn!” To get ready for the clinic, Days End Farm Head Trainer Sara Strauss paired each of us with a horse partner: Bonnie Douglas and Val, Joni Miller and Eddie, Joy DeMatteis and Blanca, June Gravitte and Andy, Linda Hatcher and Alfie, Linda Schwartz and Isaac, and Mary Ann Erlitz and Jinx.

L.E.A.D Your Horse! After getting to know us and our goals, Scott Purdum explained that a successful human-horse relationship is based on the human providing Leadership, Energy, Affection and Discipline (L.E.A.D). He noted that most of us have no problem with the affection part, so he focused on how to provide leadership by matching our energy levels to the situation at hand and how to use safe, humane discipline.

Scott began by demonstrating with a “pushy” horse how to establish boundaries and respect (by the horse, for the human!), and how to ratchet the energy of the message up or down appropriate to the horse’s responsiveness. Scott quickly
established effective communication, and the horse’s behavior instantly changed.

Armed with this knowledge, we were guided through a series of exercises in leading (without getting run over or pushed), backing the horses up, yielding the hindquarters (aka “Move your butt!”), and lunging right and left. When a human or horse had challenges, Scott or assistant Tyler quickly stepped in to offer assistance, comically playing the part of the horse at times to better illustrate the horse’s thought process. We capped the session off with a desensitizing exercise and tips on how to get our horse partners to lower their heads.

“...to instill confidence in your horse, you must have confidence in yourself.”

“I had a blast! Although most of us went into the class with similar goals—to better communicate and feel more confident with horses—our experiences were very personal.” Bonnie said. “It was a beautiful day, and it was nice to spend the day with the ladies.” She laughed as she said, “Scott was so funny even if he called me a troublemaker.” She noted that she learned so many things, laughed a lot and had a great time.

Joni’s goal was to better understand how to communicate and maintain control of the horse’s behavior. With the help of partner Eddie (Eddie’s Eldorado), she was amazed at how clearly the horse interprets the right signals.

Joy liked Scott’s focus on goals. Hers was “to throw off the rust of not having worked closely with a horse since a bad riding accident,” and to have her equine partner, Blanca, be interested and responsive. Joy noted that “Scott’s method of establishing leadership while making allowance for affection is a good ideology for helping me reestablish control.” Blanca’s understanding of Joy’s signals improved during the class, and her attention never wavered for 3 hours! Joy also noted, “Scott has a very engaging way of teaching and an interesting insight to share. His assistant Tyler was a steady help.” Joy says she hopes to apply the lessons learned when she’s volunteering at Days End Farm, especially if she ever moves into sponsoring a horse at the farm. “Time will tell where my renewed journey with horses will go,” she said.

Instead of moving to a retirement community to relax when she retired, as one of her colleagues planned to do, June started volunteering more. She even started taking horseback riding lessons this spring, something she never thought she’d do.” June’s goal for the clinic was to “refresh her groundwork skills with the hope that some of the basic skills would sink in—and they did!” June observed, “I think Scott was as entertained by us as we were by him.” When June was challenged by lunging Andy, Scott demonstrated the technique by playing the part of the horse and having June lunge him.

“The clinic was excellent and Scott was terrific.”

Before the class, Linda Hatcher wondered if it was possible for “an anxious woman with little horse experience to influence a 1,000-pound animal to do my bidding.” She also suspected that her horse, Alfie, sensed her anxiety and knew that he could “push the limits” with her. During the clinic exercises, Scott confirmed her suspicions. By better managing her emotional energy, Linda saw Alfie become more attentive and responsive to her guidance, even lowering his head for her—an exercise he had previously, and not so politely, declined.

Before coming to Days End Farm, Linda Schwartz was “a shaky leaf of a person almost afraid to stroke a horse’s nose.” Even two years ago, she couldn’t imagine herself parading a dressed up horse around the arena for Fall Fest, leading a horse into an arena to talk to a group of any size, or attending a horse-handling clinic. But she now is able to do all of these things. After 13 years of tirelessly walking horses from pasture to feed bucket and back again, she has arrived at a new plateau. “Scott put us through things we have NEVER done before,” Linda commented. Working with her “brilliant pony,” Isaac, she said the clinic was close to being the culmination of her dream to someday adopt her own “beloved equine friend and deliver him (or her) to his forever home. But I must get this basic thing down first—to instill confidence in your horse, you must have confidence in yourself.” Linda says there is still work to do, and she’s ready for another clinic. In the meantime, she will care for the DEFHR horses with greater confidence.

Long-time volunteer Mary Ann, partnering with her sponsorship horse Jinx, wanted to learn how to get the fullest enjoyment in handling her own horse and four sponsorship horses. Mary Ann found the clinic informative and entertaining, and learned some basic moves in horse handling that will come in handy, especially now that she has a place to keep and work with her own horses.

By the end of the clinic, all the participants had learned a lot and felt more confident in handling their horses. As we headed back to the barn, we were walking a bit taller. We all look forward to the next opportunity to further our skills and knowledge!
In 2009, my husband, daughter and I became volunteers at Days End Farm Horse Rescue. This “volunteer bug” came in the wake of us looking for a way to give back some of our time and talents to a worthy cause. My husband remembered seeing DEFHR’s road sign on I-70 and suggested I look at their website. The rest is history.

I remember getting a newsletter early on from DEFHR and seeing a “magical” caption that read, “Turning Dollars into Change.” My family can give testimony to that statement as we have witnessed the effect loving care, proper nutrition and farrier care can give horses once forgotten or abused. Seeing a horse shy away from human contact or horses so thin their ribs are showing are sights ever-lasting. However, once these horses are on DEFHR’s property, the “magic” begins. Dedicated staff and dependable volunteers work countless hours rehabilitating so many deserving horses. Seeing a horse’s transformation is pretty powerful, to say the least.

We have donated our time, talent and those “magic” dollars toward many deserving horses in the past six years and will continue to do so as we believe in DEFHR’s mission. Please join us in our efforts to promote the continued work of the Rescue through financial support. The horses’ lives depend on it.
On September 23, DEFHR hosted a class on Large Animal Rescue Training (LART), the latest in DEFHR’s education series for equine welfare and emergency response professionals. Co-presented by DeEtte Gorrie, DEFHR’s Equine Programs Director, and Nicole Ehrentraut, owner of Da Vinci Equine Emergency Transport and Frederick Volunteer Firefighter, the session included representatives from Prince George’s County Animal Control, Fredericksburg, VA Fire Department, Loudon County, VA Police Department and DEFHR volunteers who have been recruited to serve on DEFHR’s equine rescue team.

The all-day class consisted of three components: a classroom lecture on horse psychology, equine safety, and LART techniques and equipment; live horse handling; and scenario role-playing. Nicole spoke about why LART training is so important. “If there is a traffic accident involving large animals, it becomes paramount that proper training and techniques are used to protect human life and expensive equine investments,” she said.

The second component of LART was a hands-on clinic. “We’re going to split everyone into four teams,” DeEtte explained. “Using the safety issues learned earlier, you will focus on working together to corral, halter and lead multiple horses to a safe haven.” DEFHR’s Head Trainer, Sara Strauss, galloped thunderously into the arena, adding a surprise element to the exercise.

The teams then worked with “Officer Barney,” who made his equine training debut in his new role as DEFHR’s Equine Ambassador. [See article on Barney, page 6.] Nicole and Barney demonstrated the proper technique for strapping a horse in preparation for pulling him free in an emergency.

Later, the teams returned outside to implement newly learned skills. A group of attendees picked up “Pegasus,” DEFHR’s life-size equine training model, and brought him along. “It’s time to put everything you’ve just learned to work in the field,” Nicole explained. “Your scenarios are—one, an equine is cast between a fence and a tree, and two, a horse attempting to jump a fence gets injured by striking a rock near a major roadway.” Teams worked together skillfully, made their plans, used the correct equipment and implemented rescue techniques to extricate Pegasus from his emergencies.

Finally, the last piece of the session involved Incident Command Systems Training, where each team had to formulate communications, medical and transport plans for emergency rescue situations. Nicole gave each group specific scenarios for which they had to answer four questions: Who is in charge on scene? What resources are needed? Who is qualified to perform each component? What are the legal implications involved?

“We’re really proud of you,” DeEtte told everyone, as Nicole handed out certificates at class end. “You all did a fantastic job,” Nicole added. “Don’t forget, you can always contact me for questions, or additional levels of training.” For more information about emergency equine safety, rescue and transport, visit Nicole’s website at www.DaVinciEquine.com.

Hands-on activities—using live and model horses—enrich the learning experience.

This Prince George’s animal control officer had never touched a horse before coming to class. After only two hours of instruction, he was tasked with catching, haltering and leading River. The two hit it off famously!
My Legacy "Summer Camp" Experience

by Angeni Xuan Patrick

I am a 12-year-old girl and I have been volunteering and sponsoring a horse at DEFHR for over a year. This year, I had the wonderful opportunity to join the Legacy summer youth program (I call it “camp”) for two weeks. Legacy was a great way for me to be more involved with the horses that I love, to learn and to make memories that will last a lifetime. As a regular volunteer at DEFHR, I also have the privilege of serving these horses and spending time with the wonderful people that are a part of this great organization year round.

A typical day at Legacy begins something like this: first we bring in the geldings for feeding and grooming. Then we turn them out in the fields and split up into work zones that include Main Barn, Robin’s Nest, All-Around Spectacular, and Sheep and Goats.

In Main Barn and Robin’s Nest zones, chores include mucking stalls, sweeping, making sure the horses have clean water, and generally maintaining the barn and stalls. In the All-Around Spectacular zone, chores aren’t in any specific category. This is great because you kind of roam around and never know what fun work you will get into, like helping to round up a horse that needs some special attention. In Sheep and Goats, the pony paddock and sheds need mucking and raking, and the water troughs need cleaning.

Each day you go into a different zone except for one day when you get the same zone twice. Lunch is from 12:00 to 1:00, and I liked walking to Alex’s, a little place across the street that sells mostly hot dogs and yummy snow cones. It is a great place to get food, maybe a snow cone or some ice cream to cool off, and hang out with new friends from camp.

After lunch you go to the classroom and have a lesson in how to care for horses and properly conduct yourself around them. After that you might do a fun “hands-on” activity like tie-dyeing a shirt or practicing corralling horses. Then it’s time to bring in the mares from the field for feeding and grooming.

Later, when you are hot and sweaty you can enjoy a short break with a cold freeze pop, followed by afternoon chores. If you happen to finish up early, you can hang out in the air-conditioned Legacy barn talking and laughing with friends until a parent/guardian comes to pick you up.

One of my very favorite days was Wednesday or Thursday—horseback riding day, when you are assigned a group and horse based on your height. You mostly do competition relays and learn to work together to win. In order to get bonus points, your group has to show the most team spirit and cheer to receive the Most Spirited Award. Fridays are water days, with fun-filled water activities.

Legacy is a great program and by the end of the week it all ends way too soon. I am looking forward to being a part of Legacy next year and for as many more years as I possibly can.
The afternoon sun beautifully highlighted horses, riders, volunteers and visitors at our Fall Festival on September 19. Photographer Jan van Courtlandt captured some of the day’s best moments.
Good News! Our adoption radius has been expanded, and now includes Virginia, Pennsylvania, West Virginia (some counties), Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and Rhode Island!

**Nicky Wetzelberger**, DEFHR’s Community Outreach Director (holding mike, left photo), attended the Great Frederick Fair on September 22 (Agri-Science Field Day) and September 23 (Agriculture Day/Children’s) sharing the story of Quest and Rio [see article on page 3 of this issue], helping raise awareness of the effect of long-term neglect (hoof, parasites, dental, etc.) on nutrition and health.

**Sara Strauss**, DEFHR’s Head Trainer (right photo), attended the Great Frederick Fair on September 27, along with volunteer trainers Lyn Purdum and Leigha Schrader. She and Twilight, pictured here, participated in the Parade of Breeds, as well as gave demonstrations throughout the day. Éclair went too, and she has been adopted (see below)!

Left photo courtesy of A Personal Touch Photography

We are so happy for Éclair and wish her the best of luck in her new 2nd chance home! Thanks to the Makosky family for opening up their hearts and home to this gorgeous girl.
WE WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING GRANTS

Received 5/22/15-11/9/15
- The Snyder Foundation for Animals
- Prince Charitable Trusts
- Brennan Equine Welfare Fund/Greater Cincinnati Foundation
- Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen’s Association
- Farvue Foundation
- The Pennsylvania Horse Show Foundation
- EQUUS Foundation
- Maryland Horse Industry Foundation
- Annie Lee Roberts Emergency Rescue Fund
- One Horse at a Time

NEW ARRIVALS
Officer Barney, Quest, Rio

OFF-SITE TRAINING/FOSTER
Fire Fly

ADOPTED
Anastasia’s Ally, Boston, Candy Crush, Éclair, Erin’s Ever Essence, Flacco, Geronimo, Gwen, Huckleberry, Irish I’s, Jeremiah, Navigator, Ohana, Outback Osbourne, Polly, Poptart, Truffles, Twilight, Ulani

RETURNED
Polly

RIP
Atlas, Bam Bam, Double Dutch, Fergie, Hannah, Harriet, Piper, Sugar

WISH LIST

For the Horses
- Ivermectin/Praziquantel dewormer
- Water trough heaters
- Heated 20-gallon buckets
- Waterproof rain sheets and lightweight blankets (sizes 69-81)
- Triple Crown Senior feed (Southern States)
- Electrolytes
- Cosequin
- Plastic pitchforks
- Gift cards for Southern States
- Gift cards for Farmer’s Cooperative
- Timothy/orchard grass 2nd cutting square/round bales

Education
- Walkie talkies
- Stethoscopes
- New desktop computers
- Lamination sleeves
- 15-tab dividers
- 3-inch black binders
- Clipboards
- Dry-erase markers

For the Office
- Copy paper
- Forever stamps
- Laminator
- Paper cutter
- Shredder
- 3-hole punch
- Office task chairs

UPCOMING EVENTS

2015
Dec 12 Holiday Party

2016
Jan 22-24 Maryland Horse World Expo
Mar 3-6 Pennsylvania Horse World Expo
Apr 2 Grapes of Hooves Fundraiser

NEWS

Around the Farm

Special thanks to: Rebecca Gaffney, Contributing Editor and Bette Dolan, THE OUTER OFFICE, for printing this issue of “Horse Talk.”

Please shop at our show team sponsor for the holidays or for gifts for our horses!

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Thank you for your support. Together we are protecting horses and educating people.

**GLOBAL FEDERATION**

Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS), the only globally recognized organization providing standards for identifying legitimate animal sanctuaries, awarded Accredited status to DEFHR as of September 21, 2015.

Executive Director Erin Ochoa said, "Their recognition of our commitment to excellence and quality of care for our animals will help us continue our work in protecting horses and educating people. It is our hope that through education DEFHR can make strides in helping to improve the quality of life of horses throughout the world."

**Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA),** a nonprofit that inspects and awards grants to approved aftercare organizations to retire, retrain and rehome Thoroughbreds, awarded Accredited status to DEFHR as of November 3, 2015.

Organizations that achieve this award “have gone through a rigorous accreditation process and have met or exceeded our Code of Standards,” praised Jimmy Bell, TAA president.

**Days End Farm Horse Rescue**

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