Meet DEFHR’s New Community Outreach Director:
Interview with Nicky Wetzelberger
by Susan Rosenberg

Nicky Wetzelberger joined DEFHR in August 2014 as community outreach director.

SR: Tell me a little about you. What’s your background?
NW: I was born on a small farm in Maryland and grew up playing in the barn and in a home surrounded by animals. From a young age I helped my mother rehabilitate animals that somehow always found their way to our doorstep. From baby birds and feral kittens to fostering dogs, I quickly learned the importance of opening my home and heart to animals in need.

After college, my husband and I moved abroad, and our time away helped shape my views on animal welfare and the importance of giving animals in need a voice. While living overseas, I continued to welcome animals into my home and after witnessing countless animals in distress I swore to myself that when we returned to the U.S., I would follow my heart into animal rescue. I firmly believe that people can choose to watch or be a part of the solution, and I like to be a part of the solution.

SR: What brought you to DEFHR?
NW: Looking back, I think I’ve always been on a path that has led me to DEFHR. I have always been familiar with DEFHR and the amazing services DEFHR is able to provide for so many unwanted horses. I remember seeing DEFHR horses at local shows growing up and I was always captivated by the horses’ stories and their progress in rehab.

I have a background in teaching, animal welfare and volunteer coordination. When I saw an opening for a position at DEFHR in the outreach department, I knew I could really grow in this role and organization.

SR: Are you a “horse person”?
NW: I grew up with a number of different horses, but I’ve spent the past 21 years with my same old faithful friend. My childhood horse Beau has taught me everything about horses from grooming, riding, showing, to the simple beauty of earning a horse’s trust and what it means.

A horse has the potential to give and do so much once you both learn to trust each other. In our friendship, we’ve both
S:R What experience(s) best prepared you for your new role at DEFHR?
NW: Upon returning home from living abroad and making a promise to myself to work in animal welfare, I began working as the volunteer and outreach coordinator at a humane society in Maryland. This is where my passion for animal rescue really found its roots and I was able to learn much in that role, from going into schools to teach youth the importance of responsible pet ownership to witnessing people bring their unwanted or injured pets through the humane society’s gates every day. In this role, it was very easy to see the importance of education and outreach. Through education we can help many more animals and give their plight and the rescue process increased visibility.

S:R What excites you about working here?
NW: I don’t even know where to start! From the dedicated volunteers who are here every day working alongside staff to the camaraderie among staff and the feeling I get when I pull up to the farm . . . we are all striving for something larger than any of us. Working towards finding abandoned horses homes, healing the wounded, and teaching people about these beautiful animals and what they have to offer is an exciting part of it as well. I feel so lucky to be a part of an organization that continues to grow and make huge developments in equine rescue.

S:R What message would you like to convey to the DEFHR community?
NW: How thankful everyone at DEFHR is for our amazing volunteers! I am excited to work alongside DEFHR’s volunteer team to continue developing DEFHR’s mission together. DEFHR volunteers are totally dedicated and are the backbone of this organization. We couldn’t do what we do every day without the support from volunteers. From helping clean out water buckets, to writing a grant, or helping with maintenance around the farm—DEFHR couldn’t help as many horses and provide them with a second chance at life without the selflessness of our volunteers . . . and for that, we will never be able to thank you enough!

Days End Farm Horse Rescue is a non-profit animal welfare organization established in 1989 to ensure quality care and treatment of horses through intervention, education and outreach. Days End exists primarily on donations from individuals and businesses. Donations may be made by check, money order, Visa, MasterCard or Discover. Credit card donations may be made by calling (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.

Ask IPod

Q: I really love Valentino, but I can’t afford to take him home with me. Is there a way I can support him other than adoption?

A: Everyone knows babies are a handful, but boy are they cute with their little fluffy tails and spindly legs! The competition for most adorable DEFHR animal is getting pretty tough around here; I’ll be glad when some of these foals find their forever homes and I’m in the lead again.

I know giving a horse a home can mean an expensive future, but there are lots of other ways you can support Valentino and the many other special DEFHR animals. For example, giving just $15 a month can support the cost of hoof care for a horse.

I have several special supporters I look forward to seeing each week - my DEFHR Family Forever peeps. They groom me and scratch my favorite spots; it is nice to have family showering me with affection. Some of the other horses even go for rides with their supporters; I enjoy watching them practice their movements in the riding arena beside my paddock. If you are interested in becoming a DEFHR Family Forever supporter, talk to Brittney Carow. She’ll find just the right horse for you!

Do you have a question for IPod?
Email: info@defhr.org
A Rescue Horse in Need of a Host of Allies

by Susan Rosenberg

After rescuing horses for 25 years and giving every arrival a new DEFHR name, we have to get pretty creative, especially with the double and triple names. Over the years we have had Baja Blast, Candy Crush, Fruit Fusion, Miller’s Microbrew. Then there was All About Aaron and Deanna’s Disco Dancer. Toward the end of the alphabet, we have XerXes and ZuZu.

Anastasia’s Ally was the 27th horse DEFHR took in this year, so she needed a double “A” name. It took some brainstorming to come up with Anastasia’s Ally, and really, it’s quite fitting. Anastasia, or Annasta, is the female form of the Greek male name Anastasius/Anastasios, meaning “resurrection.” It is also the name of several early saints, including one martyred in the 4th century. For Anastasia to avoid martyrdom from a particularly tragic situation this past summer, she would need many allies.

Anastasia’s first ally dropped into her life toward the end of July—a person in search of a horse to buy. That person was scheduled to meet with a horse dealer in the parking lot of New Holland Sales Stables, a livestock auction house in Pennsylvania. The prospective buyer took one look at the horse and her two equine companions and called the Lancaster County SPCA. When the SPCA arrived and saw the condition of the horses, they immediately seized them.

Susan Martin, director of the Lancaster County SPCA, said the dealers were hoping to sell the horses to a Florida-based horse-rescue group. “Out of the three, only one survived, said Martin. “The other two were put down right away, the next day.”

The remaining mare was taken to Brandywine Valley Veterinary Hospital for critical treatment. Martin knew she had to go somewhere where she could get round-the-clock care, so she called DEFHR. To combat animal cruelty everywhere, it is essential for DEFHR to expand our reach and assist law enforcement officials in upholding animal welfare laws in surrounding states. So we said “yes.”

Anastasia has been here at DEFHR since August 13, and her condition is improving. After two months of proper care, her body condition score has gone from a 1 (as emaciated as a horse can get) to 2.5 (5 is ideal). Her coat is becoming glossy, her feet are healing from the deep thrush they had when she arrived, and her personality is starting to shine through. She’s got spunk!

Meanwhile, the dealers have been charged with animal cruelty. Their charges include transporting Anastasia and the other two in “an inhumane manner,” depriving them of necessary sustenance and veterinary care. When the case comes to court, DEFHR will be ready with documentation to help hold the dealers responsible.
An Intern’s Reflection on Her Time at DEFHR

by Katelyn Jacob

Before DEFHR, I was driving myself crazy, figuring out what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. I was a sophomore at Sterling College in Vermont doing the daily activities of taking care of and working with the draft horses.

[Sterling is a small liberal arts college with a sustainable agriculture program. They have had draft horses on campus since the 1980s.]

I would spend hours at the barn, taking every horse-related class they had to offer. One day, while riding on a cart pulled by draft horses, I realized I wanted to give back to these beautiful animals as they have given back to me, many times. So I began my search and stumbled upon DEFHR. I was so excited. I wasted no time emailing DEFHR’s community outreach director and applying for the internship. When I got that call saying I was in, I screamed. No really, I screamed! I knew what an awesome experience it was going to be.

I started my internship about two weeks prior to the other interns. I spent those first weeks learning all the horses and getting to understand how everything works, and most importantly . . . meeting Tonto. When I arrived at DEFHR, it was only a couple of days after Tonto decided he wanted to be superhorse and leap over a fence—only he went through it, not over it.

I had the honor of cleaning out the wound of a horse that refused to stand still. Did I mention the wound was on Tonto’s gaskin (upper part of his hind leg)? From the moment I started taking care of Tonto, I knew that I wanted to spend more time with him. I worked with him every day, grooming, mucking his stall, walking him in caring for his injuries. On days I was too busy doing my internship duties, I would make sure to see him after hours and just groom and love on him.

I soon learned that Tonto was as accident-prone as I was. I spent a lot of time tending to his fence wound, and my last week there he was bitten by a snapping turtle. While at DEFHR, I hit myself a couple of times with pitch forks, got stepped on by a horse a couple times, and was knocked down by Athena.

As the weeks went by, the other interns came and so did the impounds. Before the impounds, we would COMPLAIN about not having many horses to rehabilitate. Then Banjo came in, followed by 17 horses from 4 different groups. Needless to say, we stopped our complaining.

Many of the horses needed round-the-clock critical care, and we interns were responsible for multiple night checks. We were exhausted. There were times I was pretty sure we were working off pure adrenaline. But through the endless nights and long weeks, I learned more than I ever thought I would. I learned how to do many different things I wouldn’t have if these horses hadn’t come in, such as how to deal with feral horses and care for a foal. To be honest I wouldn’t trade a single day with my time at DEFHR for the world.

Somewhere between the quiet, barn chores, conversations, riding, feeding Ohana at 3am and receiving horse kisses, I knew: this was the path I wanted. This is what I meant about helping. DEFHR didn’t pinpoint what I want to be exactly, but it led me in the right direction.

Today, I am back at Sterling College, working as the clerk in the Equine Department. These past couple months, I have been supporting my teacher, manager and mentor Rick in rehabilitating Cosmo, a 16-year-old Clydesdale/Welsh cross. Cosmo came from a carriage company with injuries to his hoof leading to problems throughout his leg and up to his hip.

It’s great to be able to apply the skills and knowledge I learned at DEFHR to the outside world. When we first got Cosmo, Rick and I worked out a feeding system to help him put on the weight. We started doing some basic stretching to loosen up his hip. We’ve been helping him strengthen and engage his hindquarters by having him pull around a piece of pulp wood and a cart with the help of his partner Molly. He recently pulled a very light plow—very exciting! When we received Cosmo, he was underweight but full of potential. He has been putting on weight, and he is standing correctly. We are hoping he will become our next work horse, helping educate future sustainable farmers.

As for my future? I am still reflecting on my time at DEFHR and all that I still have to learn. It’s a journey I’m looking forward to.
A Volunteer’s Home away from Home

by Matthew McDonald

My journey with Days End started about five years ago, on a dark and dreary March morning. I was attending the mandatory volunteer orientation in the hay barn (before we had the pavilion or Legacy Barn), and I remember it raining so loud on the tin roof that I could barely listen to what information we were being told. Long story short, I was roped in at orientation, started my volunteer experience the next day, and have been with Days End ever since.

I remember walking in on my first day, quite lost and clueless, and being greeted by the most welcoming staff and volunteers. I knew from the beginning when I was looking at the gorgeous green fields that this would be a place I would be for a long time.

I had a basic understanding of how to take care of horses, as I took riding lessons for a few years prior, and I was interested in furthering my horse handling and husbandry skills. The staff at Days End were very helpful in teaching me everything I wanted to know and answering all questions I asked (and yes, there were, and still are, many!).

The first horse I met was Maura, a horse who came in on Saint Patrick’s Day in 2010. She was my first “favorite” at the farm. When I met her, she was nothing but skin and bones, wrapped in many blankets (she had no fat to insulate her skinny body), on IV fluids and living in the Anderson Sling. I loved spending time with her, and I still remember the day she was introduced to the mare grazing herd. I always made a point to groom and love on her and her best friend Persian each time I was at the farm. A farm visit was never complete without loving on those two!!

I was shocked and appalled at the condition she was in when she arrived. I stepped back and questioned how people work or volunteer in such an environment—as her condition was bad enough to bring a tear to your eye.

I only wondered that for a couple of weeks though, as there are many milestones for a horse in rehab: there is the day they are no longer in quarantine, the day they can be walked out of their stall for the first time, the day they are introduced to a big herd, or the day they have to be fed only two times instead of every three hours.

To an onlooker, those may seem like nothing, but when you watch a horse go from a walking skeleton to finally getting to look and act like a real horse again, those occasions mean literally everything! Each and every one of those milestones makes you smile! That is how you can work or volunteer in such an environment—you know that when a horse passes through the red gates on the driveway it is safe and in a better place than it was an hour before. You can rest assured that Days End will do whatever it can to ensure a successful rehab and provide that horse with the love and care it most desperately deserves.

I thought a case like hers must be very rare. Well, I soon learned this was not the case. However, part of what makes the volunteer experience so amazing is the fact that you know you were a part of that horse’s rehab, and you did help that horse get to where he or she is today. You were part of that horse’s story. That is a feeling you cannot get doing anything else!

Not only is volunteering at Days End an extremely rewarding experience, but volunteering provides you with a second family. I have met amazing people whom I am privileged to call some of my closest friends today. You go through thick and thin with staff and other volunteers, and at the end of the day, no matter how rough the day has been, you have each other and always start the next day with a smile. Days End Farm is my home away from home.

Words cannot express how thankful I am for finding Days End Farm. I have learned a ton, from how to handle all sorts of horses to how to handle everyday ailments, and even how to handle a medical emergency. And I have gained the second family of a lifetime.

Matt McDonnell with DEFHR Alumni, Griffin’s Great Glory
2014 Trainers Challenge and Fall Fest

by Marci D’Alessio

The 2014 Trainers Challenge showed us just how resilient rescue horses can be. Each of the 7 horses in the challenge were in various stages of training prior to the competition, and what we saw after just 60/90 days was incredible. This year’s challenge included two divisions. The professional division (those that profit from training horses) had 3 participants and had 60 days to work with their horses. The amateur division (entrants who do not profit from training horses) had 4 participants and had 90 days to work with their horses.

Each horse was judged in two events: a freestyle demonstration and an obstacle course. For the freestyle presentation, the trainers were given 3-5 minutes to showcase their horses and highlight their qualities and talent. Judges looked for creativity, presentation, teamwork as well as completion of certain movements such as backing, correct canter leads in both directions and a square halt. The trainers and horses were then asked to navigate through an obstacle course where they were given 5 minutes to complete as many obstacles as they could and rack up as many points as possible. Each obstacle was scored depending on the level of difficulty.

The high points of the challenge for everyone were the bridleless rides during the freestyle by Polly, Jay Bird and Zurprize; watching Flacco show off his football skills; and seeing PopTart not only overcome his fear of having a rider on his back, but also complete the freestyle and obstacle course.

In the end, there had to be one winner even though each of them had overcome so much! After tallying the scores, the judges chose the winners: in the professional division, Flacco and Lacey Macintosh; in the amateur division, Xavier and Bethany Booher.

We want to send a special thank you to each of our trainers: professional division: Lacey Macintosh (Flacco), Kate Samuels (Polly), Cindy Jewart (PopTart); amateur division: David Taylor (Jaybird), Courtney Garber (Zuprize), Bethany Booher (Xavier) and Emily Carter (Cruise). Without their donation of time and resources, these horses would not be where they are now.

Also thank you to our judges, Betsy Ayers, owner of Tombetsthefarm Stables; Jacquie Cowan; Ross Peddicord, Executive Director of the Maryland Horse Industry Board; and Tina Snyder, Owner of Safe Haven Equine Learning Center.

We are extremely happy to announce that Zuprize was adopted by his trainer and DEFHR staff member, Courtney Garber. All of the other horses in the challenge are available for adoption!

We are starting to plan next year’s challenge that will take place on a new date, June 6, 2015, so mark your calendars now! If you are a trainer and interested in participating, please email programassistant@defhr.org.

Tina Snyder, Betsy Ayers, Lacey Mackintosh, Bethany Booher, Jacquie Cowan, and Ross Peddicord. Both amateur and professional trainers won leather halters; pros also got a gift card to Dover Saddlery.

Xavier and Bethany Booher, Trainer Challenge winners, amateur division
Trainers Challenge and Fall Fest Photos

Costume Contest winners: Arwen Ferro and her dad Marcus with Jinx as a horseradish

Fall Fest drew about 2,000 guests to the farm and raised close to $10,000. It was a beautiful fall day. Kudos to the almost 200 volunteers who helped before, during and after!
Adopting a Diamond in the Rough: Creating Your Perfect Match in a Rescue Horse

by Caroline Eckstrom

I did not spend $30,000-plus to buy my amazing horse. I am lucky to own Natalie, a.k.a. Miss Perfection, a now 11-year-old Thoroughbred mare with an amazing pedigree. Natalie is 16-plus hands and beautiful. She has a perfect diamond on her forehead and two perfectly matching socks. Natalie is also talented. She is an amazing mover and a quick learner. Trainers and horse show judges have frequently told me how much they like my horse. Natalie can do anything, and I have boxes of ribbons and trophies that prove her ability. With training, Natalie went from winning local schooling shows to successfully showing at USEF-rated shows, competing equally in the hunter ring with the imported warmbloods and other high-end purebreds.

I adopted Natalie from Days End Farm Horse Rescue. Natalie looks nothing like she did when she was impounded. Natalie arrived at DEFHR on July 7, 2006, with a 15.1 frame weighing under 800 pounds, and still wearing her fancy halter with the brass plaques that identified her sire and dam. Natalie was not tattooed, but after we adopted her, we found that she had been registered with the Jockey Club when she was born. With a little research, we learned her all-too-familiar story. She was bought at a racehorse agent auction by a man who owned several racehorses for investment purposes. When she proved too stubborn and too smart to do what people tried to force her to do, Natalie was thrown away.

Natalie’s adoption fee of $850 was a terrific bargain, but she had some significant issues to overcome. Her fear of people had made her aggressive, and for a big, high-spirited Thoroughbred, this is not the best trait. Truth be told, Natalie would not be anyone’s idea of a starter horse.

Within a year of our adopting her, Natalie stopped biting, kicking, trying to squash people, or using her giant horsehead as an anvil. Strangers can now pet Natalie without having a finger harmed. Small children and beginners can ride Natalie without fear. Learning with Natalie has made me a better rider than I could have hoped, and she has made me a better person.

What are the advantages of adopting a horse as opposed to buying a horse? Almost every competitive rider has owned several horses before finding the horse for them. Adopting a horse makes finding a match easier and faster. First, before you adopt a horse, it is important that you get to know more about the horse’s personality and health from the visits to the rescue facility than you can learn from a vet check. Basically, you learn as much as possible about the horse as if you already owned it.

For example, we knew Natalie was an easy keeper and not accident prone. We also knew the effort and expense that would be involved for Natalie. When you buy a horse, even if you buy privately after a trial, you really do not know if the horse is truly sound, has hidden health issues, or if you and the horse are a good fit. If you volunteer at the rescue as I did and work with your horse, you will learn a lot more about whether the horse will meet your needs. You get to know your horse when you volunteer and you have the time to make sure that your choice is right for you.

What is the formula for ending up with the perfect horse from a rescue? Like any other horse, training Natalie required persistent determination, love and lots of patience. Natalie is the horse today that she was meant to be because I had a lot of help from our blacksmiths, our vet and our trainers, as well as from the barns where we boarded, and even from the horse-show organizers. Natalie’s success is due to a group effort by many caring and dedicated horse people.

Thus, an adopter must have skilled professionals as resources even if you have prior horse experience. At a minimum, you need a vet that is willing to work with your horse and a blacksmith. Be selective in choosing who works with your horse. Our finding a vet was easy because our vet volunteered to be part of the team as soon as we expressed interest in Natalie. We were fortunate that Javier Donatelli, DVM, was not afraid of Natalie at her worst and was willing to show her affection even when at risk of injury. Natalie’s personality got her in several fights, so she needed occasional emergency care as well as routine care. Dr. Donatelli made a connection with Natalie at DEFHR, knowing that her adopters would need his help. He has kept Natalie healthy at a reasonable cost. Finding a good farrier was not as simple, but we Luckily found two who were excellent.

Finding the right trainers is necessary too. Most importantly, you have to be willing to seek professional problem solvers having experience with the precise problem confronting you. Be flexible in trying different solutions, such as with farriers. My mother is an experienced horsewoman, and she was willing to get help for problems she could not solve.

Don’t be cheap. If you bought a trained show horse, you would still spend money on training. Adopting a horse is no different. You need to make an investment in your adopted horse and you have to be adaptable. If your horse fails to progress, you have to be willing to try other trainers and methods. For example, when Natalie would not willingly go on the trailer, Scott Purdum came to our rescue. In the last six years, we used different trainers...
Natalie needed to master. If you are interested in a rescue horse because you think that you can get a fully trained horse on the cheap, then you may not find the horse that you want. If you are willing to make the same investment that you would for a horse that you would buy, then you will find your own perfect match as I found in my Natalie.

Having Natalie has been a wonderful education and has made many of my horse-owning dreams a reality. Natalie’s story shows that rescue animals are diamonds in the rough.

It is my hope that Natalie’s transformation and my experience will make potential adoptees realize the benefits of getting a rescue horse.

UPDATE: Caroline is now in college at Virginia Tech, hoping to graduate early and go to vet school, following in the footsteps of her mentor and Natalie’s dear friend, Dr. Donatelli. Natalie is keeping busy being ridden on the trails and playing with her human and horse friends at the boarding farm that is her home.

Waiting for Adoption

Twilight arrived in 2009 from St. Mary’s County as an emaciation case. On arrival, she was dealing with a severe impaction colic, so we took her to our vet’s clinic for intense intravenous-fluid therapy and round-the-clock care. She made a smooth recovery, returned to our farm two days later, after which she rehabilitated quickly and easily. Twilight has been adopted twice, but she has had to return to DEFHR through no fault of her own. She has been waiting for her new, forever home now for a couple of years. This mare is one of the most experienced horses we have currently at DEFHR. She’s been ridden indoors, outdoors, on cross-country courses, on the trail, at fairs, expos, clinics and more! She would be an amazing horse for just about anyone of an intermediate riding level. Check her out on our website under Adoption!

York is a 30-plus-year-old Appaloosa gelding who came to us in 2011 as an emaciation case out of Prince George’s County. His advanced age and lack of good teeth didn’t slow down his rehab, and he gained the weight back within 3-4 months. This gentle old boy is looking for a quiet, relaxing home where he can live out the rest of his days without a worry in the world. He does require a bit of extra care, but he is absolutely worth the effort. He would make a great companion for another horse, so check him out today and consider giving him a forever home.

He’s been patiently waiting for 3 years, so let’s not keep him waiting any longer! Check York out on our website under S.O.S. (Save Our Seniors) for more information.
Raising Awareness through Education and Outreach

In August, officers from six Maryland agencies and the Prince William County Police Department came to DEFHR’s Equine Cruelty Investigators class to learn more about horse handling.

Volunteer June hosted a DEFHR booth at Prince George’s County Animal Shelter's Fall Fest.

On September 6 & 7, 2014, Kenny Harlow (“Training with Trust”) hosted an ACTHA competitive Trail Ride benefiting DEFHR. Adoptable DEFHR horses Country and Eloise placed 2nd and 4th in their division respectively. A big THANK YOU to the amazing Harlow team for inviting us and to the DEFHR volunteers who sweated out the weekend!

Our Rescue Riders drill team participated in the Equine Wine Festival at Timberleigh Springs in Woodbine on October 11. Pictured horses left to right: Banjo, Isaac, Eloise, Tonto, Cruise, Adelaide and Country.

September 10, 2014, animal protection agents from across Maryland spent their day receiving an introduction to Large Animal Rescue Training. DEFHR was proud to offer this course along with Da Vinci Equine Emergency Transport LLC.
From left to right: East of Eden, Emily O’Brien, Ulani, Samantha Brooks, Lauren Baker, Valentino, Courtney Garber, Lola, Brittnay Carow, Paloma Paige, Gwen, Emma Krakoff, Ohana and Arielle Orem.

Foals at DEFHR are rare, but in this Year of the Horse, three entered the DEFHR family: Ulani, Valentino and Ohana, pictured above with our summer interns and staff.

At the end of 2013, East of Eden (far left) came to DEFHR from Baltimore City. When she was found to be pregnant, Dr. Linda Molesworth at Bay Equine Service agreed to foster her through the pregnancy, for which we are profoundly grateful. Ulani entered the world May 10, right before Mother’s Day. Mother and filly are now back at DEFHR and will be available for adoption soon.

Ohana and Valentino were foaled at DEFHR after their mothers were seized by animal protection authorities in Prince George’s County, Maryland. They are both thriving and will make wonderful additions to adoptive families, hopefully in the not-too-distant future.

Don’t you just love Valentino’s heart-shaped star?

Update: All three were weaned at the same time on October 27 and are becoming fast buddies.
VOLUNTEERING
at Days End Farm Horse Rescue

DEFHR volunteers are very generous with the amount of time, energy and support they donate to the farm. We couldn’t help so many horses if it weren’t for YOU!

Here are a few fun facts about our DEFHR volunteers . . .

10,924 total number of DEFHR volunteers.

60-65% of DEFHR volunteers are under the age of 18.

518,696 hours donated over the last 25 years!

54,000 hours donated annually!

Why volunteer at DEFHR?

Help the horses
“By volunteering at events, I help spread awareness.”
“Spend time with my family while making a difference
“... To teach my son the value of being charitable.”
“Earn community service hours for school
“I love working alongside the staff.”
“Help animals in need
“Keep active/ spend time outside
“Help the horses
“Improve job opportunities
“I love mucking!”
“Make new friends
“Gain confidence around horses
“Serve my community/the world
“Accelerate my career path
“Learn more about horses
“DEFHR is heaven on earth!”
WE WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING GRANTS

Received 5/20/14-11/20/14

- Mary Jo and Hank Greenberg Animal Welfare Foundation
- Thoroughbred Charities of America
- Prince Charitable Trusts
- Pennsylvania Horse Show Foundation
- One Horse at a Time
- Maryland Horse Industry Foundation
- Mars Foundation
- Farvue Foundation
- EQUUS Foundation
- Blue Horse Charities
- Brennan Equine Welfare Fund/Greater Cincinnati Foundation
- ASPCA Equine Fund: Anti-Cruelty Seizures
- Unwanted Horse Veterinary Relief Campaign
- ASPCA Grant in Honor of Nicky Ratliff
- Tony Stewart Foundation

WISH LIST

For the Horses
- Ivermectin paste
- Panacur paste
- Breakaway halters

For the Barn/Facility
- Plastic pitchforks
- Wheelbarrows
- 8-liter feed buckets with handles
- Cosequin
- Corn oil
- Mineral bricks and blocks

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

For the Office
- Copy paper
- Forever stamps
- Expandable file folders
- 3-hole punch

UPCOMING EVENTS

2014
Dec 13  Holiday Party

2015
Jan 16-18  Maryland Horse World Expo
Mar 5-8  Pennsylvania Horse World Expo
Mar 28  Grapes of Hooves Fundraiser

BARN NEWS

New Arrivals
Winchester, Xaria, Yasmine, Zelda, Anastasia’s Ally, Beautiful Blanca, Charming Chester, Double Dutch, Eddie’s Eldorado, Frequent Flyer

Returned
Bindi, Eli’s Encounter, Hoedown, Junebug, Mamma Mia, Tobias, Walker, Yukon, DareDevil, Sugar, Velvet Valentine

Off-site Training/Foster
Buildmeup Buttercup Baby, Candy Crush, Carrie’s Cowboy Casanova, Celebrity Cruise, Dunkin Donuts, Eloise, Flacco, Jaybird, Polly, Poptart, Qutie, Xavier, U-Haul, Zuprize

Adopted
Auburn Alister, Bali, Elsa, Ona, Qcumber, Zuprize, Mika

RIP
Ilana, Yasmine, Eli’s Encounter, Dunkin Donuts, Mamma Mia, Bindi

Special thanks to:
Rebecca Gaffney, Contributing Editor
and
Bette Dolan, THE OUTER OFFICE,
for printing this issue of “Horse Talk”
Good News! Our adoption radius has been expanded to include all of Virginia!

SAY “Cheers!” to our 25 years

DAYS END FARM
HORSE RESCUE

Holiday Celebration
Delicious food and beverages, fun live music, exciting silent auction

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2014
6:00-11:00PM
TURF VALLEY, ELICOTT CITY, MD

For more info and to purchase tickets visit defhr.org

Volunteers needed at Woodbine and Rohrersville Facilities!

Skilled and Unskilled Volunteers are needed to help with the care, rehabilitation and training of abused and neglected horses, humane education and community outreach programs, as well as office work, data entry, public relations, marketing, bookkeeping, grant writing, and fundraising. Community Service hours needed for graduation may be completed at Days End Farm Horse Rescue. Make it a family project! Everyone is welcome to apply!

For information on DEFHR volunteering or making a tax-deductible donation please contact us at 410-442-1554 or 301-854-8037

Volunteers are needed 7 days a week from 8 am to 5 pm. Please help!

www.defhr.org, programassistant@defhr.org
1372 Woodbine Rd, Woodbine, MD 21797

CALL NOW!
301-854-5037
Athena won this year’s calendar contest, which means she will be on the cover of the 2015 calendar. At only $10.00, the DEFHR calendar makes a great gift. Order yours TODAY!
**Contribution Form**

**YES! I want to help the horses!**

___Please contact me: I would like to pledge a multi-year donation of $_______ for ___ years.

___Please contact me: I am interested in **monthly horse sponsorship opportunities**.

I am enclosing my tax-deductible contribution of:

| Amount | $5000 | $1000 | $500 | $250 | $150 | Other $_______ |

Charge my gift to: Visa / Mastercard / Discover (please circle)

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We promise not to share your contact information with others. Donations are tax-deductible under section 501c(3) of the IRS code.

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I love me some scratches!

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

**DAYS END FARM HORSE RESCUE**

1372 Woodbine Road, Woodbine, MD 21797

(Mail) P.O. Box 309, Lisbon, MD 21765-0309

(301) 854-5037, (410) 442-1564; www.defhr.org, info@defhr.org