A YEAR OF

Protecting Horses

Changing Lives

Educating People

Because of You

2015 Annual Report
QUEST came to DEFHR in August 2015. He had been kept in a dark dank stall for over 10 years, standing on 4 feet of his own manure and carrying over 20 pounds of severely overgrown hooves. He had the worst hoof neglect DEFHR and our vet and farrier had ever seen (3 feet of overgrowth on each hoof, rendering him practically immobile). He was underweight, full of parasites, and his long teeth had hooks and points that prevented him from chewing properly and getting the vital nutrients he needed. DEFHR was hopeful that he could be rehabilitated but believed he would only be pasture sound.

After many months of almost weekly vet/farrier visits and regular x-rays to correct his hoof angles, along with de-worming, teeth filing and careful refeeding, a miracle began to take place. QUEST gained weight, his legs and ligaments got stronger, and his hooves began to look like a normal horse’s. Today he rolls safely to his hearts content. He gallops through our pastures and after 10+ years of solitude he has been introduced to new horse friends and basks in feeling like a real horse.

The miracle continued when the vet and farrier cleared him for training. QUEST has proven to be a bright, curious pony who enjoys all aspects of work, even accepting a rider! QUEST has truly made a miraculous recovery—making him 2015’s miracle horse—ALL made possible by YOUR support!

QUEST: The Pony No One Thought Would Ever Walk Normally Again!
After retiring from the Police Department’s Mounted Police Unit in Baltimore, where he helped fight crime and quell riots, BARNEY joined the DEFHR “staff.” As an Equine Ambassador, he helps make friends, build young people’s confidence, educate and raise awareness, touching many hearts, including this youthful volunteer, Scarlett (see her poem at top of page 4).

**DEFHR FAMILY FOREVER PROGRAM...**

The DEFHR Family Forever program, where supporters sponsor a horse financially and sometimes give them TLC in person, grew 105% over the previous year. Recurring donations enable us to better forecast and budget for the horses.

DAREDEVIL (right) is almost completely blind, but he loves being groomed by volunteer/DFF sponsor, Elayne Bond Hyman. She in turn cherishes her time with him. Time for quiet meditation while learning how to be a herd leader. “In order to become lead horse, I have to earn it, put aside my fear of his size and strength, let go of doubt about my physical limitations, and overcome insecurities concerning learning a new skill at this stage of life. Do I DARE?”

**TRAINING & ADOPTION PROGRAM...**

When GWEN (left) first came to us she was emaciated, pregnant and feral. In one year she had a healthy foal, received 90 days of training and participated in a Trainers Challenge. She was adopted in September, and her foal OHANA was adopted in October.

In April, two of our rescue horses, POPTART and LOLA (above) and their volunteer trainers took part in a one-day training clinic with Stuart Rybak.

**EDUCATION/OUTREACH PROGRAM...**

Equine Ambassadors, ISAAC and JINX, are two of the most patient and kind teachers at DEFHR. They stand quietly while a group of homeschoolers learn how to groom a horse.

Five Eagle Scouts completed projects here at the farm this year including building a feed bucket storage shed, two hay storage bins and a goat jungle gym, and renovating two run-in sheds.
Miracles DO happen at DEFHR!

Five-year-old Eden had been battling brain cancer for over a year when FOX 5 DC, Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic and DEFHR teamed up to make her wish of riding a unicorn come true. DEFHR horse KABOOM made a charming unicorn. Kaboom came to DEFHR in January 2015 underweight and from poor living conditions. With proper care and feeding he rehabbed quickly. Because of YOUR support Kaboom was able to pay it forward and make the dreams of a little girl come true. Miracles really do come true and YOU make them happen at DEFHR!

"WE CAN JUDGE THE HEART OF A MAN BY HIS TREATMENT OF ANIMALS"

Immanuel Kant

SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS

- 32 Horses Adopted
- 103 Horses Sheltered
- 1,325 Volunteers
- 3,943 People Educated*
- 49,765 Volunteer Hours Served
- 52,000+ People Reached**

** Via programs, seminars, clinics and presentations
** Via tours, events and community outreach

BARNEY, the HUGE Horse and Me
by Scarlett Nielsen (9-year-old volunteer)

When I stand next to Barney, I feel like I am a bug. He makes me feel so small, but I like hugs. He is such a big horse, I'm glad to say. I know this won't happen, but I wish to ride him someday. He is stronger than an ox, and cute as a fox, even though his mane is as coarse as a rock. I still love BARNEY, and I never will not. His feet are so big, I have to watch out, but I still love Barney without a doubt.

YOUR $$$'S AT WORK!

REVENUE

- PROGRAM SERVICE FEES 7%
- SPECIAL EVENTS 2%
- SALES AND MISC. REVENUE 2%
- PUBLIC SUPPORT & DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS 89%

EXPENSES

- PROGRAMS (INCLUDING RESCUE & REHAB) 85%
- ADMINISTRATIVE 4%
- FUNDRAISING 11%

Immanuel Kant
Each horse that sets hoof on DEFHR’s farm is a unique animal, with its own individual conformation, mindset, personality and history. Every person who is in some way involved with this organization is also unique. The extraordinary experiences they shared in 2015 show what a very special place DEFHR is. You made this possible.

When Quest came to us in August, his chance for rehab looked bleak. We had never seen hooves as long and curled as his and Rio’s who came from the same farm. However, almost miraculous healing took place because of the people and resources available. Our Facebook videos showing Quest and Rio’s impound and rehab went viral, worldwide, with up to 21,000 views apiece. One person commented, "It makes my WEEK when I open my mailbox and see an update about Rio. I am so glad he’s getting the love and dignity that he deserves!" Clearly, we are making an impact.

Miracles happened throughout the year for humans, too. Five-year-old Eden, a cancer survivor, got to ride a unicorn (rescue horse Kaboom) when DEFHR teamed up with FOX 5 and Make-A-Wish Mid-Atlantic.

Our new Equine Ambassador, Officer Barney, so inspired young Scarlett that she wrote a heart-warming poem dedicated to him.

As the horses heal, bonds and friendships form between them and their caretakers. The work of caring for these wounded animals makes compassion take root and spread beyond our gates to the community beyond. Sometimes people heal in the process, too. Gregory Vince Moore, who has cystic fibrosis, comes to DEFHR for “horse therapy.” He wrote in an article for our newsletter: "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."

And leaders are made here at the farm. Leigha Schrader had no horse experience when she began volunteering at DEFHR in 2009 at the age of 12. Through the years, she has grown and learned, joining the volunteer training team and logging 7,195 hours! Leigha worked closely with rescue horse Slick in 2015, helping prepare him for adoption. In a DEFHR “HorseTalk” article she wrote, "It is hard to describe how much Slick means to me, but just know that he is a very special little pony that will always have a huge place in my heart."

This is truly a very special place, made possible by donors like you.

Gratefully yours,

Erin Ochoa
Executive Director
Make 2016 Extraordinary!

- RAISE FUNDS, RAISE HOPE: Create your own fundraising page or put on your own fundraiser and become the ultimate advocate for DEFHR!
- EVERYONE LOVES A GET-TOGETHER: Invite friends to DEFHR annual events.
- IT’S COOL TO BE "TRENDING": Be sure to "Like" DEFHR's Facebook page and share the great work that DEFHR does. Use hashtags #DEFHR & #4thehorses.
- COME ON DOWN TO THE FARM: Schedule a tour or group activity at DEFHR and have friends, colleagues or loved ones join you.
- THERE IS ALWAYS A WAY: Check out the many ways you can make an impact at DEFHR and for the horses at www.defhr.org/ways-to-givel.
- JOIN THE DEFHR FAMILY FOREVER: Help continue to grow DEFHR’s supporters by encouraging your network to give a recurring gift.