EXECUTIVE MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

It warms the heart looking back at all we accomplished together at Days End Farm Horse Rescue in 2012. When we’re in the trenches, deliberating with animal protection officials, tending to sick horses, cultivating prospective adopters, team building with volunteers, and working to educate and increase awareness of equine cruelty and neglect, it’s easy to forget the big picture. And it is important to step back, remember our mission and reflect on how we’re doing.

The truth is we accomplished so much. Royal (featured inside) is only one example of the magic that happens here to suffering horses. You wouldn’t recognize him from the skinny mud-caked horse he was when he first came in. He made it through rehab and has been adopted, like so many other of our rescued horses. The horses are the reason so many people come to volunteer here, and we couldn’t have accomplished what we did without them.

Two new programs this year that we’re most proud of are the Legacy Program for youth volunteers and the Trainers Challenge for our adoption horses. We also expanded our adoption radius, working to get more horses adopted sooner.

I hope that you will continue to support our vital work, and that you will spread the word about our services and outcomes, encouraging others to visit us, attend one of our on- or off-site events, read about us on the web, follow us on Facebook or support us in other ways.

Together we will continue to work toward a world where horses and humans work, play and thrive!

Executive Director, Days End Farm Horse Rescue
What We Did

1,834 horses have been rescued since 1989, 94% of which have been adopted!

Deepened Our Impact

- Responded to Humane Society International’s request to educate veterinarians and pack animal owners in Haiti
- Helped a rescue in Virginia get off the ground
- Reached more than 52,000 individuals nationally through trainings, seminars, clinics, farm programs, tours, special events, expo presentations and social media
- Surpassed 12,000 Facebook fans

Developed New Programs and Initiatives

- Inspired young volunteers with our new summer Legacy Program, achieving 100% enrollment the first year
- Launched the Trainers Challenge at our Fall Festival, which enhanced our rescue horses’ chance of adoption
- Expanded our adoption radius into Virginia
- Testified at a Hearing of House Bill 336, aimed at holding owners accountable for animal cruelty

Earned Recognition

- Won 4-star rating from Charity Navigator for the 7th year in a row; only 7% of charities rated have received at least 4 consecutive 4-star ratings
- Earned a spot in The Week Volume 12, Issue 598-599 as Charity of the Week

Upgraded Our Farm

- Brought comfort to our horses with new footing in the outdoor arena and automatic waterers in the fields (funded through a Department of Ag grant)
- Enhanced our ability to hold education programs and meetings by turning a former machine shed into a beautiful Meeting Barn

Why We Did It

TO INTERVENE for HORSES

Throughout the year, we get calls from animal protection officials about horses suffering from abuse or neglect. Despite best efforts to work with the owner, the officials deem it in the animal’s best interest to be seized and taken to a safe place—Days End Farm. In 2012 we sheltered 110 horses, including 17 from the 133-horse Queen Anne’s County impound and 4 “Arabber” horses that were returned to us once again from unsanitary and neglectful living conditions in Baltimore.

A Miraculous Recovery

When Royal was rescued he had been locked in a stall for months or years. A ramp had to be built so he could climb over the manure to get out. Under his filth, he was emaciated and his hooves were so overgrown they looked like “slipper feet.” After several months of intensive care, Royal’s condition and comfort slowly improved until he no longer had to spend most of his time lying down to rest his sore feet. He started eating and drinking well and enjoying daily turnout.

After a year of rehab Royal was ready for adoption, and has found a new home.

TO PROVIDE REWARDING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

1,347 volunteers gave 57,223 hours of service to Days End Farm Horse Rescue assisting with horse and farm chores, educational programs, exhibitions and community events. Results of a volunteer survey provided invaluable feedback on high satisfaction rates plus areas where we can work to enhance the volunteer experience.

We pride ourselves in holding volunteer orientations twice a month year round, training Volunteer Mentors to help make new volunteers feel welcome, and keeping volunteers engaged during their time with us through initiatives such as Volunteer Continuing Education Classes and
An Atypical Teen

Matt McDonald is a teen who seemingly spends most of his free time at DEFHR where he has made a big impact. He uses his horse experience to ease the work load for the barn staff and to compassionately meet the needs of the horses he cares so dearly for.

In 2012 Matt organized a community yard sale at a local park which helped raise awareness and money for abused/neglected horses. Throughout the summer Matt spent countless hours at Days End serving as a Legacy crew leader where he worked alongside staff leading youth volunteers in tasks and activities. Matt's leadership was vital in the success of the program and his ideas were instrumental in the planning process.

His kind heart and consideration for others are clearly seen every time he comes to volunteer. These are some of the reasons Matt was chosen by his peers to receive the Ron Dorman Exceptional Volunteer Award for extraordinary and outstanding service.

Days End has amazing horses, staff and volunteers. It's a fun place to be and definitely very rewarding!

— Matt McDonald, Volunteer

TO SUPPORT LOCAL HUMANE OFFICIALS

At the request of Baltimore City Animal Control, in October we picked up 4 horses from a stable on Bruce Street, where they were being kept in deplorable living conditions. The horses were signed over to animal protection officials and taken to Days End Farm for care. Initial evaluation showed that they had severely overgrown hooves and were showing signs of dehydration. One was covered in urine and feces. One of the horses was Miller's Microbrew, who had come to DEFHR in 2009 for similar noncompliance with city ordinances. At that time, he was with us for 6 months when, as part of an agreement reached with Baltimore City officials, he was returned to his owner. We were sad/happy to see him again in 2012, but started his and the other horses’ rehabilitation right away. All 4 are now doing well and are waiting for adoption.

TO ENRICH COMMUNITY

DEFHR reached out to the community in several ways in 2012. We attended expos in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia where we had information booths and demonstrations highlighting our rescue horses for adoption. We participated in more off-site events like Puppypalooza in Lilypons MD and the Lisbon Parade, and hosted a Fall Festival here at the farm that broke all records for attendance. We offered on- and off-site educational clinics for rescuers, animal cruelty investigators, horse trainers and horse owners.

This was the 2nd year the Brenda Curry Distinguished Equine Citizen Award was given, this time to Elizabeth Tate Winters of Paradise Stables. Because Elizabeth was a key collaborator in the Queen Anne’s County impound of 133 horses, she was selected as one who exemplifies DEFHR’s vision of a world where humans care for horses with respect, compassion and love.

One community initiative we’re very proud of is our Legacy Program, a summer volunteer/educational experience for teens. We were able to offer this enrichment program to 100 youths in 2012.

Inspired Legacy Kids & Happy Legacy Families

Every day that my son has come home from the Legacy Program he talks non-stop! I feel like I know every horse, volunteer and staff member that he has worked with. It has been great to hear how excited he is and how much he’s learning.

My child has a lot of riding experience, but this taught her about the behind-the-scenes of caring for horses that she doesn’t get at her riding barn.

It’s hard to find a program for teens where they aren’t just being entertained but are actually learning. I love that my child was learning new information, being active, and helping others.

My daughter has made friends and has fallen in love with helping these horses. Her younger sister is now counting down the days until she is 12 and can volunteer without me and be a part of the Legacy summer program. What you all are doing is terrific.

— Quotes from Legacy Parents

A Passionate Protector of Animals

Days End is a godsend to those of us that enforce the state cruelty and neglect laws.— Nicky Ratliff, Humane Official

Carolyn “Nicky” Ratliff has been a tireless supporter of Days End almost since its beginning—about 20 years. She is Executive Director of the Humane Society of Carroll County, and Vice President of PAWS, Maryland’s association of animal care agencies and humane organizations.

In 2012 when the Humane Society of Carroll County needed to seize 26 starving horses (10 of which were stallions) Days End sent 6 horse trailers, 17 volunteers and 2 experienced staff to assist them. Our facility was at capacity and we couldn’t take the horses, but we could help transport and document each horse’s condition.

My staff, Days End volunteers and staff worked like a well-oiled machine. As a result, we won our case in court and took possession of the horses for rehoming. DEFHR is an equine rescue like no other—a jewel and leader of equine protection in Maryland and the surrounding states. — Nicky Ratliff, Humane Official
SUPPORT US!

The work of Days End is supported entirely by the donations of individuals like you. Together we can save suffering horses and prevent animal abuse and neglect. We can work together to create a world not only free of abuse and neglect, but one where horses and humans work, play and thrive in each other’s company.

CONNECT WITH US!

Days End Farm Horse Rescue uses social media tools, including Facebook and Twitter, to connect with our friends, donors and community. We also send out a biannual e-newsletter, “Horse Talk,” with information on all that’s new and inspiring at DEFHR.

SUBSCRIBE to our e-newsletter via our website, www.defhr.org
LIKE US on Facebook, www.facebook.com/defhr
FOLLOW US on Twitter, www.twitter.com/defhr
DROP BY for a visit, 1372 Woodbine Road, Woodbine, MD 21797 (Directions on our web site!)
GIVE US A CALL, 301.854.5037

THANKS to OUR SUPPORTERS

Thanks to our generous donors and sponsors, Days End Farm Horse Rescue was able to reach many of our goals for 2012 and uphold our mission to ensure quality care and treatment of horses through intervention, education and outreach.

Big thanks to all our Grapes of Hooves, Fall Festival and Holiday Party sponsors, donors and volunteers. They were wonderful events full of entertainment and fun. The best surprise of all was exceeding our event fundraising goal.

A huge shout out goes to over 11,700 individuals, businesses and organizations who supported DEFHR in 2012 through donations, grants and gifts in-kind, and to our 1,347 volunteers who gifted us with 57,223 hours of service. We couldn’t have done it without you!

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