

# ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2020

*July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020*

# CEO STATEMENT

This past fiscal year has been one for the books, full of record-breaking triumphs, as well as unforeseen obstacles. The year 2019 marked our 30th anniversary since our founding. Throughout the year, we paid homage to our roots, celebrated our victories (such as over 2,600 equines rescued!), and also shared our plans for the future. We continued to push our education programs, announcing our intention to purchase the firehouse next door to further expand our community outreach efforts. All of this culminated in one of the strongest responses to our year-end giving campaign to date.

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, many of our programs and services came to a halt. But, as always, we at DEFHR have been persevering and thinking outside the box to continue to provide life-saving services to horses who need us, while also providing humane education to our community.

On behalf of the horses, I thank you for your continued support. Together, we will see this through to another successful year!

*Erin Clemm Ochoa*

**ERIN CLEMM OCHOA**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



# MISSION

Our mission is to ensure quality care and treatment of horses through intervention, education and outreach.



*Because of you!*

**94%** → **96%**  
SURVIVED ADOPTED

# IMPACT



31,237

HOURS VOLUNTEERED



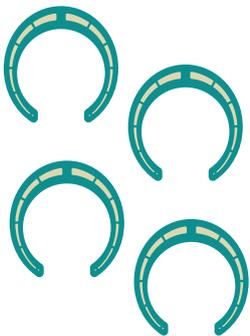
48

HORSES  
REHOMED



6,500

PEOPLE EDUCATED



103

HORSES  
SAVED

130,000

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

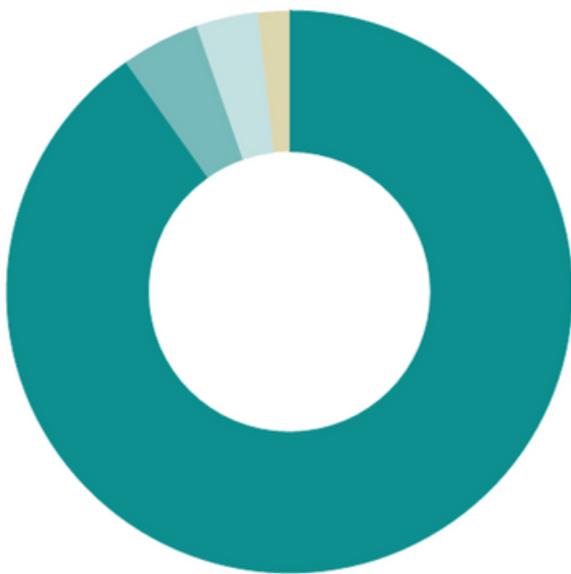


# FINANCIALS

## RESOURCEFUL - STRATEGIC - EFFICIENT

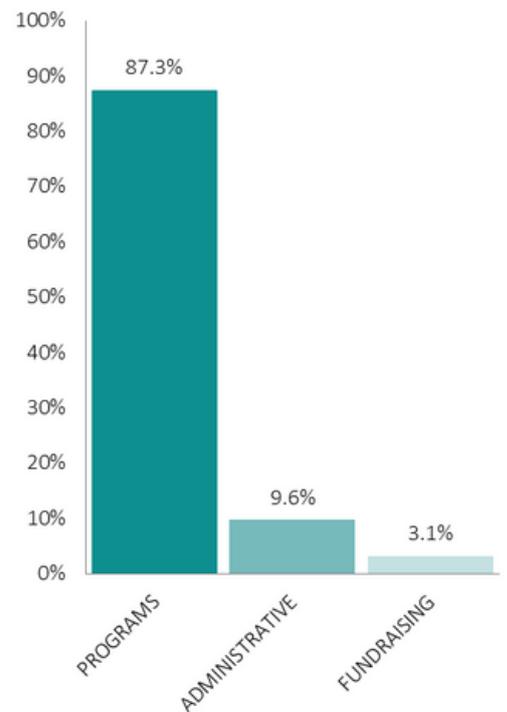
DEFHR is proud to report another year of strong support from our amazing donors who enable us to continue to help horses and educate future advocates for equine welfare. As we look ahead toward growth and expansion, we remain committed to fiscal prudence to ensure sustainability, continuing high-quality care for the horses who need us and providing innovative knowledge resourcing for the people who look to us.

### REVENUE



■ DONATIONS - 90.2%   ■ PROGRAM FEES - 4.4%  
■ SPECIAL EVENTS - 3.5%   ■ SALES/MISC - 1.8%

### EXPENSES



# 60%

more funds received on  
#GivingTuesday 2019.  
Bested all prior years!

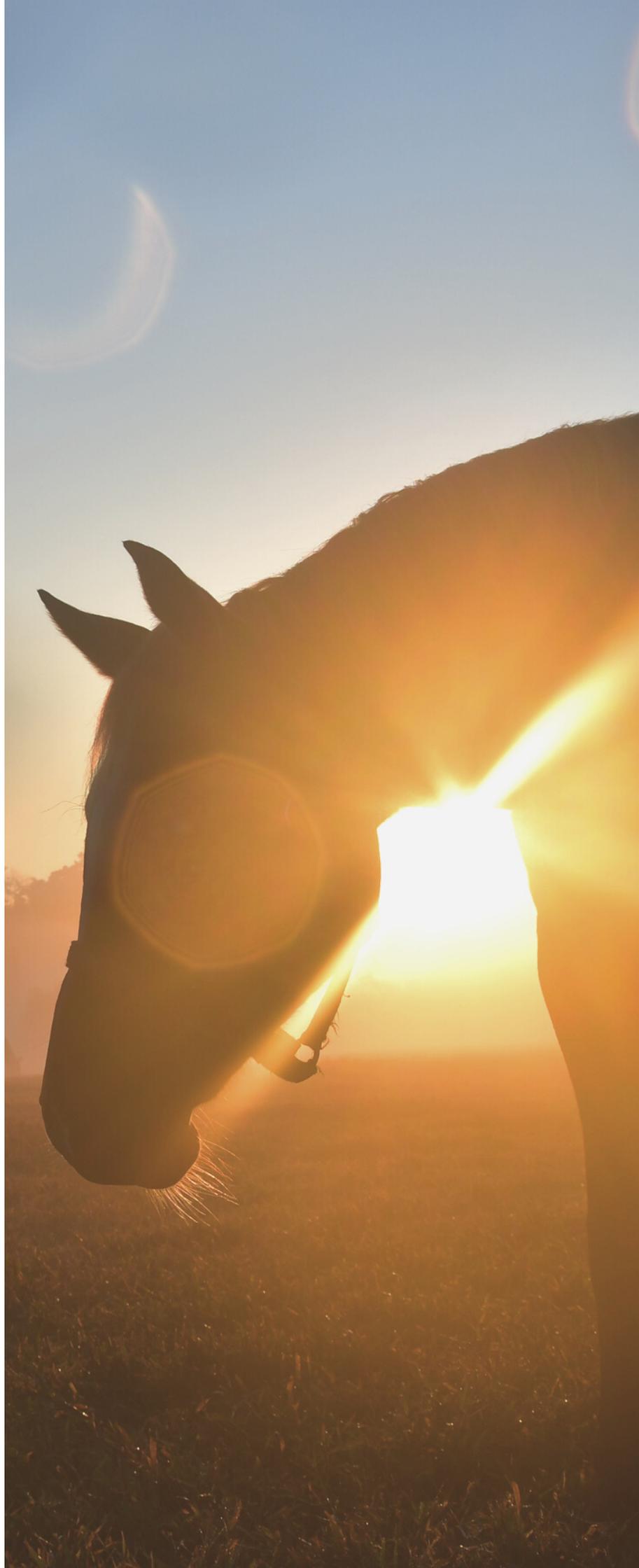
# STORIES OF US

Since our founding DEFHR has strived to be an accessible resource for horses in need as well as for people looking to connect with them.

Together we are expanding our impact by sharing our experiences and expertise with others, educating future equine advocates, giving the horses a voice and collaborating with our network of supporters. Through these collective efforts, we are able to amplify our impact beyond the lives of the horses in our care to equine welfare across the industry.

YOU are part of this community of change makers. Through all the diverse avenues that each of you choose to support, YOU are helping to ensure that our impact is felt on a broader scale.

The following inspiring stories are a small sampling of how our impact is making a difference and how bringing together supporters like YOU affirms that we ARE better together!



## DEFHR HEAD TRAINER GIVES PERSPECTIVE

Our Head Trainer, Sara Strauss, was featured in the November 2019 issue of *Sidelines Magazine*. The article reviewed not only what Sara has accomplished during her time at DEFHR, but also how she approaches our mission as a whole. Our trainers have a unique job in that they are one of the few people get to work directly with our horses from start to finish, from loading them onto a trailer at a seizure all the way to loading them onto a trailer to their new homes. The time that they spend evaluating and building a strong foundation with our horses is key to their success in providing rescue horses with a second chance. Sara also speaks of the lessons she's learned while working at DEFHR. The horses are willing to forgive the humans who failed them in the past and trust in humans now to care for and teach them. She says that this is also something that can translate to how we treat others in our daily lives. Seeing the transformation that these horses make, and the lessons that they teach us, is what keeps her going in her work for the horses, and the mission, of DEFHR.

# SARA STRAUSS

GIVES HORSES A  
NEW LEASE ON LIFE  
AT DAYS END FARM  
HORSE RESCUE

*Story and photos by Emily Riden*



## INTERNS ARE MAKING AN IMPACT

**Alex True:** After his internship, Alex graduated from Tufts University with a degree in Community Health and Biology. He is excited to have started veterinary school at UC Davis in the fall. He has no idea what type of veterinarian he wants to be, although equine veterinarian is high on the list.

**Marissa Howard:** “My time at DEFHR had such a strong influence on my decision to pursue veterinary medicine. During my rehabilitation internship, I worked with a diverse group of women who were so knowledgeable and passionate in helping horses. I had the opportunity to work closely with DEFHR staff on equine nutrition, handling, husbandry and training. I was able to work with veterinarians when they came to the farm. I also learned about the legalities of working with animal control and animal seizures. Overall, DEFHR’s internship exposed me to so many aspects of animal care and inspired me to pursue a career in veterinary medicine.”

**Taylor Williams:** “As an undergrad I was a biology major at Wingate North Carolina, but returned home to Maryland during the summers. I was planning to apply to vet school and knew that I would need a lot of animal handling hours as well as some experience working with veterinarians. In my junior year I applied and was accepted into DEFHR's internship program which launched an entire summer of learning something new every single day. The experiences I had that summer largely impacted where I am today. I am currently in my first year of Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary of Medicine. It is difficult and I am challenged every day, but I carry so much additional knowledge from this internship than I realized. Having to go over equine handling was a breeze for me after spending a summer learning how to socialize timid and feral horses. Understanding why we deworm horses and what we use to deworm them was something I was very confident in as well. Learning about nutrition and blood draws and diseases in horses was very simple because of what I was exposed to at DEFHR.”



## TRANSFORMING LIVES ONE HORSE AT A TIME

Jemi's Junebug Jara came to DEFHR in November 2019 as a neglect case from Prince George's County. This 18 year old mare was emaciated and suffering from both hoof and dental neglect. After making a successful and complete recovery, Jemi was started in our training program under our Assistant Trainer, Leigha Schrader.

Jemi came along quickly in her training and has become the poster pony for showing the value of the senior horse. She loves to show off her beautiful jump and has plenty of spunk to go around. She may now be 19 years old, but she has many years left as a riding horse and would love to find a riding partner of any discipline. Jemi rides English or Western, she is jumping 2' courses, has been cross-country schooling, and loves trail rides! With her bold and humorous personality, she is always the talk of the farm!

It is our hope that soon Jemi will have a home of her own. This mare has been through and overcome a lot over the past year and deserves to find a loving adopter who will cherish her for the rest of her days. Until then, we will continue to love and care for her daily, and work hard at finding her special someone!



## FINDING NEW HOPE IN A SURREAL AND CHALLENGING TIME

In December 2019, a little pony mare arrived to us as a stray and heavily pregnant. We named her Oodles of Opals. Our vet estimated that she would foal in the spring of 2020. Just a few months later, the COVID-19 pandemic hit and our farm had to shut its doors to everyone in the barn but staff. Oodles' due date was fast-approaching and we did not have the resources to handle foal watch 24 hours/day. We called on Dr. Linda Molesworth with Bay Equine Service to help us with the foaling.

On April 15th, a spunky little filly was born into the world, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Her birth represented the *hope* that we all had for a return to normalcy, where we could start our *new* lives in a post-pandemic world. We wanted her name to reflect these things. Hence, she was named "New Hope."

Hope has since grown into a beautiful and feisty little filly who fills the barn with smiles and laughter each and every day. She loves to explore new things, but not quite as much as she loves scratches! Hope has been weaned and is enjoying spending her days with the other shorter statured animals at our farm reminding us during this challenging year that "HOPE is the ability to see that there is light despite all of the darkness" ~Desmond Tutu



## DEFHR IN THE NEWS



### "Days End Farm Horse Rescue Celebrates 30 Years"

WMAR News Baltimore  
September 19, 2019



### "Kathleen Howe Helps Horses Heal"

Frederick Lifestyle Magazine  
December 28, 2019



### "From Starvation To Show Ring"

Horse Network  
January 7, 2020



### "Not Just A One-Trick Pony"

Horse Network  
February 10, 2020



### "A Dressage Horse Rescued From Darkness"

Dressage Today  
February 21, 2020



### "Unbridled: Discovering A Horse Of A Lifetime"

Horse Network  
March 11, 2020



### "HRN Interview with Erin Clemm Ochoa, CEO"

Horse Radio Network - Facebook Live  
April 2, 2020



### "Never Count Out A Rescue Horse"

Practical Horseman Magazine  
May 20, 2020

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## YOUR SUPPORT IS SO IMPORTANT!

To continue offering life saving services and important programs, we need your support. Whether it is a monthly financial gift, a bequest or a gift of time through volunteerism - it is all vitally important to our success. As you can see together we ARE making an impact. Stay with us on this journey - the future is bright!

Thank you