A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Despite the immense challenges of the last year, DEFHR was able to continue to say “yes” to calls for help from regional animal control offices and law enforcement agencies. We took in 53 equines in need, bringing our total equines sheltered to 183 for this year! Because of the generosity of our donors, who have continued to stand by us through all the uncertainties over the last couple of years, we have come out on the other end of this pandemic in a good place and for that we could not be more grateful.

As we move into the next fiscal year, there is a lot of excitement and anticipation building around DEFHR’s future and the future of equine welfare. For the first time, DEFHR has been awarded a Legislative Bond Initiative grant by the State of Maryland to help with the acquisition and renovation of the adjacent property, formerly the Lisbon Volunteer Fire Company property. This expansion is particularly exciting. If it goes through, it will richly complement the work we do for equines that need our help. It will help DEFHR promote agri-tourism and volun-tourism throughout Maryland and the mid-Atlantic region, making DEFHR into a must-visit destination for hands-on, family-friendly, fun, immersive, tactile and experiential learning experiences.

In our 30+ year history we have never asked the state for funding. We have always wanted to be an economically palatable resource for counties and state agencies so our services have been and will continue to be offered free of charge. For the state to recognize our historical efforts and have a willingness to get behind our future endeavors, is humbling and much appreciated.

This year we were able to kick off long awaited renovations to our main barn to further improve the level of care we provide to horses care while also improving the environment in which they are healing and our volunteers and staff are working. We improved ventilation with the addition of louvers and permanent fans. We upgraded the lighting with the addition of energy saving brighter LED lights and replaced siding with sidelights around the whole barn. We mitigated our bird infestation problem once and for all by enclosing the ceiling. While we were at it, we added insulation to help better manage the drastic temperature changes in the barn. Stall fronts were refaced to further improve ventilation and make it easier for visitors, volunteers and staff to view and care for the horses. And last but not least we poured in a concrete floor and added mats so the floor is level with proper drainage - the farriers have already expressed how thrilled they are with this upgrade.

This is just the beginning. Our 5-year strategic plan is ambitious, but necessary to help secure DEFHR’s future and make an even bigger impact in equine welfare. We are excited about what’s to come for DEFHR and the welfare of equines in Maryland and surrounding regions. Thank you for supporting DEFHR and for being a part of our cutting-edge initiatives. We hope that you will continue to join us on this ride. I promise you, you won’t be disappointed!

ERIN CLEMM OCCHOA
DEFHR CEO
MISSION
Ensuring quality care and treatment for horses through intervention, education, and outreach.

VISION
A culture of humane care and compassion for all equines.
IMPACT IN A PANDEMIC

66 animal control officers educated

More than 1,200 people educated at 30 virtual and in-person events

20 educational tours given to 80 people

Provided expert testimony and support for 5 cases in support of 37 horses

556 volunteers donated a total of 17,416 hours of time.

14 in the Guardian Program
55 total adoptions

183 horses sheltered
53 new horses taken in

556 volunteers donated a total of 17,416 hours of time.

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FINANCIALS

We are strategic, efficient and responsible, and do not take your hard earned gifts for granted! Another difficult year is finally behind us and with that we are thrilled to report another year of loyalty and generosity from our amazing donors. You, our donors, make our important work of protecting horses and educating people possible.

Our future is bright, filled with growth and expansion. We remain committed to fiscal conservatism and transparency to ensure stability and sustainability. We strive to continue maintaining the exceptional care and innovative resourcefulness that you, our supporters, have come to expect from us. Thank you for your unwavering support!
The impact journey we are on not only affects the horses in our care, but it also affects the people that have joined us on the trail: an intern, a donor, a Legacy camper, a grooming sponsor, and an adopter.

Because of your support, the myriad of programs we offer, serve to educate and further our mission of ensuring quality care and treatment for all horses. DEFHR's future is filled with big plans, not least of which is the acquisition of the Lisbon Volunteer Fire Company firehouse, which we hope to own by the end of 2021. Because of the state of Maryland and our dedicated supporters, we will be able to turn this facility into a forward-looking, innovative space for humane/experiential education, expanding our reach and allowing us to impact so many more people.

The following pages are a sample of what your support has enabled us to accomplish thus far. Imagine what more we will be able to impact together in the coming years?
I wanted to do an internship that was totally out of my comfort zone and that would also help me develop professional skills. Educating myself in different areas is very important, as I want to spread awareness and prevent animal neglect. The Days End Farm Horse Rescue internship was a perfect fit, and I gained new insights, perspectives, and learned about the amazing horses.

Since my internship in summer 2019, I graduated with honors from the University of Puerto Rico and earned my bachelor degree as an agronomist. In June 2020, I started a job in a dog/cat sanctuary and worked there until July 2021. I made employee of the month twice! I have taken care of a lot of animals since: saving lives, fostering, finding them forever homes, and educating my community. I also volunteered at a horse sanctuary on my island. I was able to get a job in a veterinary clinic where I learned other aspects about animals. Currently, I am on my way to do my Master's in One Health Medicine in Spain.

Aside from the horses, DEFHR helped me grow personally and gave me confidence. I will never forget all the amazing people I met during my internship. I made friendships that I will treasure forever!

Thank you, DEFHR, for believing in me!

~Andrea
My pony is a humble grade Arab cross rescued by Days End Farm Horse Rescue. I was looking for a new friend to spend my hours in the saddle. My little “Ali” was my saving grace. I’m severely epileptic despite surgery, meds, and prescribed diet (three to seven seizures a week before new meds were prescribed in July 2021), but I can’t stay away from horses. Ali watches out for me.

He lets me know if he senses myself fatiguing or getting weaker and will slow his gait. He listens for people/horses coming up behind us on the trails and will look to tell me to be alert. When I seize and fall, he freezes and waits for me to get back up and get on with our ride. He keeps me safe. He is my diamond in the rough.

On our journey of tackling our first 30-mile ride, I’ve had multiple people compliment him, one person offer to buy him, and I sincerely appreciated the veterinarians celebrate with me as I squealed with joy when he passed his final vet check. I don’t take my “Big Man” (the only name he responds to) for granted. I rely on him wholeheartedly to take care of me out there on the trails as long as I continue to promise to keep him safe and healthy at home. He is my best friend.

~Nicole

GROOMING SPONSOR: GIVING BACK TO HORSES

I’ve been a grooming sponsor for the past several years. I’ve found it is a wonderful way to build a relationship with a specific horse, and I have fallen in love with all of the horses I’ve sponsored. I have had previous horse experience, but with horses, you are always learning new things. They have distinct personalities and when they respond to your aid or show you spontaneous affection, it is a wonderful feeling.

~Vickie

If you’re interested in becoming a grooming sponsor like Vickie, please email adopt@defhr.org.
Legacy camp is DEFHR’s summer camp program offered to children aged 7 to 17.

Thanks to the generosity of Legacy camp families who donated extra funds when they registered, DEFHR is able to offer an Education Financial Assistance Program to families who want their child to take part in the camp experience but for whom the financial requirement would be a burden. Jayde, who attended Legacy in early summer 2021, was able to take advantage of the program, benefiting from kindness of the DEFHR community.

Jayde had never been around horses before, but now she has a favorite: Paints, because “they’re just so beautiful!” Her mother, Ashley, a healthcare worker, says Jayde would come home excited every evening and couldn’t wait to get back to the farm the next day. Their experience with Legacy was so fulfilling, the mother-daughter pair are planning to come back to DEFHR to volunteer.

The DEFHR Education Financial Assistance Program made it possible for Jayde to come to Legacy. So, THANK YOU to the fellow Legacy families who made this possible.

Brigitte and O’Malley

Brigitte Lippmann is a long-time supporter, donor, and volunteer at DEFHR.

As a regular volunteer, Brigitte can see where her money goes. She gets to witness the transformation of the horses from neglected skin and bones into happy, healthy members of the herd. She sees the effort that goes into the personalized care that each horse receives, from quarantine and initial rehab through evaluation, training, and adoption.

If you volunteer here as well as donate, you see the results firsthand."

"It’s one thing to donate to a good cause; it’s another to actually see the results of your donation!"
MAIN BARN OVERHAUL

In summer 2021, Days End Farm Horse Rescue got a head start on our journey toward becoming more of a cornerstone in humane education. When we moved into our Woodbine Road facility more than 10 years ago, the Main Barn was nothing but four walls and a roof. Volunteers pieced together donated stall fronts, making do with the materials on hand.

Now, thanks to the ongoing gifts from our community of supporters, the Main Barn has been given a remarkable overhaul, providing functionality and, dare we say, barn beauty! We were able to bring in more ventilation, more light, and more functionality.

Come on out to the farm and take a look at the impact YOU have had on the lives of DEFHR equines!

ANSWERING THE CALL DURING A PANDEMIC

In the depths of winter during the COVID-19 pandemic, DEFHR assisted with two large impounds: 17 horses from Carroll County in December 2020 and 19 horses from St. Mary's County in January 2021.

The Carroll County case was from a local and long-running trail riding stable. The conditions these horses were forced to live in were deplorable and unsafe: debris, mud, broken fences, hay infested with foxtail, and the remains of dead horses made up the bulk of the environment he lived in.

The St. Mary's County impound consisted of 19 horses who were living on a single half-acre lot with other animals like fowl and goats. What little hay they had access to was moldy, and they were knee-deep in mud and muck.

While the St. Mary's herd's journey to new homes still depends on their case going through court, they are all happy and healthy!
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Thank you
LOOKING AHEAD

The next few years will be an incredibly exciting time at DEFHR. We have started the process of not only expanding our offerings to the equines we rescue and rehabilitate, but are also expanding our impact on the community at large with our ambitious and innovative educational programing enhancements. As we move into this exhilarating phase in DEFHR history (and equine welfare history!), we hope that you will stay with us on this amazing ride that we are on!

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