

# THOROUGHBRED AFTERCARE ALLIANCE

MAGAZINE

2020



**Thoroughbred**  
AFTERCARE ALLIANCE

PUBLISHED BY



*Inside:*

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# CONTENTS

## Welcome

TAA President Mike Meuser says the organization’s mission is about doing it right. **Page 4**

## Get involved with your off-the-track horse

There are numerous competitive and non-competitive activities available for adoptees. **Page 6**

## A lifetime commitment

For one organization, accreditation validates and enhances their mission to help horses. **Page 12**

## Diversity at work

The versatility of the Thoroughbred is showcased for horses placed in aftercare programs. **Page 14**

## Volunteering is a win-win

Many TAA organizations rely on volunteers to help run their operation economically. **Page 16**

## Where TAA-accredited facilities are located

The 74 accredited organizations are in 25 states, plus Canada and Puerto Rico. **Page 20**

## Industry stakeholders

Funding of the TAA comes from a broad and diverse group of supporters. **Page 22**

## How to contribute

Individuals and organizations have a number of way to help provide care for ex-racehorses. **Page 24**

## The TAA in action

TAA representatives and supporters are present at numerous events around the country. **Page 26**



# CONTENTS

## TAA-ACCREDITED ORGANIZATIONS

ACCT Naturally.....	28	Long Run Thoroughbred Retirement Society .....	64
After The Homestretch.....	29	Los Angeles Pet Rescue: Farralone Farm.....	65
After the Races .....	30	Lucky Orphans Horse Rescue.....	66
AFTER the Track .....	31	Maker's Mark Secretariat Center.....	67
Akindale Thoroughbred Rescue.....	32	MidAtlantic Horse Rescue.....	68
Beyond The Roses Equine Rescue & Retirement.....	33	Mitchell Farm.....	69
Blue Bloods.....	34	New Beginnings.....	70
Bright Futures Farm .....	35	New Stride Thoroughbred Adoption Society.....	71
Brook Hill Retirement Center for Horses.....	36	New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program.....	72
CANTER California.....	37	Oklahoma Thoroughbred Retirement Program .....	73
CANTER Michigan.....	38	Old Friends .....	74
Caribbean Thoroughbred Aftercare.....	39	Our Mims Retirement Haven .....	75
Central Kentucky Riding for Hope.....	40	Out Side In .....	76
Days End Farm Horse Rescue.....	41	Peaceful Ridge Rescue.....	77
Down the Stretch Ranch.....	42	R.A.C.E. Fund.....	78
Equestrian .....	43	Racing for Home.....	79
Equine Advocates .....	44	Redwings Horse Sanctuary.....	80
Equine Encore Foundation .....	45	Remember Me Rescue .....	81
Equine Rescue and Adoption Foundation.....	46	ReRun.....	82
Equine Rescue of Aiken .....	47	RVR Horse Rescue.....	83
Final Furlong.....	48	Second Chance Thoroughbreds .....	84
Finger Lakes Thoroughbred Adoption Program.....	49	Second Stride.....	85
Florida Thoroughbred Retirement and Adoptive Care Program .....	50	Second Wind Thoroughbred Project .....	86
Friends of Ferdinand.....	51	South Florida SPCA.....	87
Galloping Out.....	52	Southern California Thoroughbred Rescue.....	88
Glen Ellen Vocational Academy .....	53	Square Peg Foundation.....	89
Harmony and Hope Horse Haven .....	54	Susan S. Donaldson Foundation .....	90
Heart of Phoenix Equine Rescue.....	55	The Exceller Fund .....	91
Hidden Acres Rescue for Thoroughbreds.....	56	The Foxie G Foundation .....	92
Hope After Racing.....	57	Thoroughbred Athletes.....	93
Hope for Horses.....	58	Thoroughbred Placement Resources .....	94
Horse and Hound Rescue Foundation.....	59	Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation .....	95
Illinois Equine Humane Center .....	60	Thoroughbred Retirement Network of Louisiana.....	96
Kentucky Equine Humane Center .....	61	Thoroughbred Retirement of Tampa .....	97
Life Horse.....	62	Tranquility Farm.....	98
LoneStar Outreach to Place Ex-Racers .....	63	United Pegasus Foundation.....	100
		War Horses at Rose Bower.....	102
		Win Place Home .....	104



SUZIE PICOU OLDHAM



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# Welcome

*"Horses teach you patience and how to do things the right way so you can get to the right result."* – Lyle Lovett

At a time when the Thoroughbred industry is under intense scrutiny for the welfare of its athletes, the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance continues to reinforce the foundation for the "positive" in our sport, sustainably funding Thoroughbred aftercare across North America. From its infancy, the TAA has focused not only on doing what is needed financially for aftercare, but just as important, doing it right. This has meant continuing and sometimes extraordinary efforts on the part of staff and volunteers to improve the quality and integrity of aftercare funding.

In 2019, 74 nonprofit organizations with 160 facilities were accredited by the TAA. "Accredited" is not just a label. It is the gold standard. TAA devotes substantial staff and financial resources to the accreditation process. These organizations provide myriad information to the TAA and undergo rigorous scheduled and surprise inspections. Together, these organizations have been steadily raising the bar for the quality of care provided to our retired athletes. And when grant funding from the TAA is awarded, there is intense accountability for the expenditure of those monies.

In the same way, TAA has held itself accountable financially as well. In 2019, 85 cents of every dollar raised by the TAA was redistributed directly into aftercare for grants and direct program support for our accredited organizations. Our sustaining founders, including The Jockey Club, continue to provide money and in-kind support for our work that allows us to keep overhead expenses low.

A total of \$3.4 million in grant funding was awarded to our TAA-accredited organizations, and new initiatives continue to increase the TAA revenue stream. This past year, thanks to the generous efforts of the New York Racing Association, a surcharge on claims at New York racetracks has provided substantial additional funding for the TAA and New York affiliates. Similar proposals are being considered in other states.

The broad-based formula for support of the TAA's mission across the industry has continued to provide steady and positive increases in overall funding. A demonstrably successful effort led by past TAA President John Phillips also has improved industry understanding and knowledge of the TAA and its work. Yet, there is much more work to be done.

None of us wants to lose momentum. We are learning more each day about industry needs. As the number of supported organizations and geographic regions served by the TAA has grown, we have come to recognize the need for systems to transition horses from the racetracks into suitable facilities based upon each individual horse. Many regions have created such triages on their own, and the TAA is currently examining their models as we consider how to improve this aspect of the delivery of aftercare services.

Finally, "doing things the right way to get to the right result" has also been our motto for corporate governance for the TAA. The TAA board of directors is strong and diverse, governed by solid bylaws and conflict-of-interest policies.

The TAA experience for me personally has been most rewarding. The organization has benefited from numerous talented and dedicated staff and volunteers.

If you are not already helping us with our work, I encourage you to do so. It is indeed the "right result."

Mike Meuser  
President, Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance



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# Get involved with your OTTB



SUZIE OLDHAM

There's a world of opportunity waiting if you've adopted an off-the-track Thoroughbred from a TAA-accredited organization.

## By Erin Shea

You've just got your Thoroughbred. So what do you do now?

The off-the-track Thoroughbred community is vibrant and active. No matter your discipline or your skill level, there are numerous competitive and noncompetitive options for activities to do with your off-the-track Thoroughbred (OTTB) to be part of a larger group, earn recognition, and have fun.

Here are a few options to get you started.

### Recreational riding

Local trail-riding groups and hunt clubs can be good places to get your feet wet and let your horse experience a new environment without necessarily entering a compe-

titition. If you're looking for a group to hack out with, check boarding barns (some have weekly trail rides scheduled), Meetup, or grab a couple of horsey friends to start your own.

Of course, all of this can become competitive as well. The North American Trail Ride Conference offers membership for those interested in competitive trail, while the Masters of Foxhounds Association also offers membership, performance trials, and a professional development program for those looking to go further in the sport. The United States Polo Association, and its affiliation with local clubs, has a number of resources for beginners and players at every level. There are also other equine sports, such as polocrosse, with national bodies to get more riders more involved.

And if you are just trail riding around the farm on your Thoroughbred with friends, you can log hours to earn prizes as part of the The Jockey Club's Thoroughbred Recreational Riding Incentive Program.

"Even if you're just riding your horse at this point, anything outside of a lesson or an arena, if you're just hacking around, all of that can start to be recorded for your recreational riding," said Kristin Werner, program administrator for TIP. "If you're not showing yet the recreational riding is probably the place to start."

Keep an eye on local happenings as well. One such event is Canter for the Cause, a charity fundraiser that allows individuals to ride their own horse over historic race-tracks. The annual event at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore in June was so popular



NICOLE MARIE

Participants at the inaugural Canter for a Cause at Gulfstream Park enjoy a day of riding on the South Florida track.

that Gulfstream Park in Hallandale, Fla., launched its own for the first time in 2019. Riders go in groups (for example, walk/trot or walk/trot/canter) and get their photo taken in the winner's circle.

### Thoroughbred-only competition

Local shows and Thoroughbred-only shows can be a great introduction to the larger show world for both rider and horse through a friendly environment.

No matter your discipline, regional associations or state associations are good places to find competitions in your area. If you're not sure what your region or state has to offer, check out the national organization for your discipline, such as United States Hunter Jumper Association, United State Eventing Association, United States Dressage Federation, and the National Barrel Horse Association to point you in the right direction.

Through participants in TIP, Werner sees a lot of riders on Thoroughbreds competing in these local levels.

"I think that goes back to what we know about Thoroughbreds—good or bad," Werner said. "A lot of people buy them because they are inexpensive. More often those people who are willing to buy an expensive or green or unstarted horse or maybe a horse that has had a great show career and is now ready to do walk/trot with a kid, those folks are the ones who are going to those locally or regionally rated events. If they're trying to do 1.2-meter jumpers, they're probably not buying a Thoroughbred right off the track for their kid."

"I think that's just the market in general, that's where our Thoroughbred people are. I think a lot has been happening with USEF and SafeSport being expensive, I think a lot of those smaller shows are seeing a little bit of a resurgence of people showing at them anyway."

While a lot of these associations award annual prizes, you can possibly pick up a few more if you're on a Thoroughbred thanks to the Thoroughbred Incentive Program no matter your level.

"It offers people with a Thoroughbred the extra incentive to get out and do something with their horse, even if it's just a walk-trot class, or if the highest you want to jump is two feet, that's fine, you can still get awards in TIP whether at the horse show or through the performance award program," Werner said. "We try to cover everybody and make sure people who adopt Thoroughbreds can get something back from TIP for making that choice."

"I think we're at the point still with Thoroughbreds where people think that they are the redheaded stepchild, so even if they are just being recognized for being the highest placing Thoroughbred, that's still something because they had to have participated and done well."

Thoroughbred-only shows run the gamut from smaller, one-day events to larger competitions that gain national attention. In addition, many of these shows are hosted by nonprofits, including a number of TAA-accredited organizations, and can be a win-win for competitors who want to earn prizes and know their entry fees are going to further the nonprofit's cause.

One such event is the annual Fair Hill Thoroughbred Show, which is a 501(c)(3) organization in Elkton, Md., that awards money to nonprofit aftercare beneficiaries and scholarships for riders on OTTBs. The organizers keep the environment relaxed and the fees low to make the show more accessible.

"In our area, if you go to a local, unrated show you can expect to pay \$20 to 25 per entry, as opposed to our \$15, and that \$5 to 10 difference seems to mean something to our competitors," said Lisa Demars, president of the Fair Hill Thoroughbred Show. "The Thoroughbred is the bargain horse right now compared to the warmblood, so the people who are buying them tend to be people who don't have unlimited resources.

"This was part of the reason why we created our mission statement as we did – to support the riders of Thoroughbred sport horses. We want to give them reasons to choose the Thoroughbred and reward them for having done so. In my mind, the best motivator is money, so if you can keep things inexpensive and give them financial incentives, people are going to gravitate toward the direction you want them to and I think that they have."

Another draw for Fair Hill and similar events is the welcoming atmosphere for the beginner rider or horse.

"I think that the atmosphere makes the difference," Demars said. "We keep ours to one ring so people can get a chance to enjoy the horse that is competing, whether they are riding or watching. And to cut down on some of the frenzy. We want to provide a show where people feel welcome regardless of their experience level, and if things aren't going well for them that day, that we can make some adjustments to make it easier for a particular horse or rider.

"It's like we're all in this together. You don't get to see it at the rated shows, but everybody has a day when things aren't going well, as they and their horse are learning. You can either make it unpleasant for people, send them out of the ring feeling



SUZIE OLDHAM

### Thoroughbred-only shows can offer competitors a friendly atmosphere before moving into open competition.

ashamed, or you can give them something positive, so we take the time to do that."

On the other side of the spectrum in the Thoroughbred-only shows is the Retired Racehorse Project's Thoroughbred Makeover, which is held at the Kentucky Horse Park and has risen to national prominence, is loaded with prize money (more than \$135,000 in 2019), and is working to raise the value of Thoroughbreds off the track.

"We collect a tremendous amount of data on the horses that compete in the Thoroughbred Makeover, and we've seen the average price people pay to acquire their horse after racing rise steadily each year," said Jen Roytz, Retired Racehorse Project's executive director.

"One of the best forms of protection an ex-racehorse can have is a solid foundation of retraining in their first year after racing. Our competitors report spending an average of \$8,000 on their horses' care and retraining in the 10 months leading up to our competition, which has translated into more than \$21 million invested in the retraining of more than 2,500 Thoroughbreds after racing."

The TIP Championships, which runs concurrently with the New Vocations All-Thoroughbred Charity Horse Show, is also on the larger scale of Thoroughbred-only shows, rivaling the size of the Makeover. However, it's more the draw of the championship titles and numerous awards than prize money.

"If we were offering prize money equivalent to say Land Rover (Kentucky Three Day Event at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington), I'm sure there would be plenty of people who would decide to go get a Thoroughbred," TIP's Werner said. "I don't think it's necessarily the right goal to have in mind to get the money. I'm okay with people not being all that excited about it. We have some people come to (TIP) Championships for the prize money, but then again it's not paying their whole bill. It's not going to make them rich just having a Thoroughbred. There are people happy to get a check and we're happy to give it to them, especially eventing competitors (TIP's largest participation sector) where they're the top-placed Thoroughbred out of 50 horses."

A few other larger Thoroughbred-only events to keep an eye on are the Thoroughbred Classic Horse Show Series and the Florida Thoroughbred Transformation Expo. The Thoroughbred Classic offers the always entertaining jockey-trainer Calcutta at its annual holiday event, and benefits TAA aftercare partner California Retirement Management Account.

As an additional benefit to those riders aboard TAA graduates and accredited organizations, the TAA offers a number of High Point awards for TAA grads at the Thoroughbred Makeover, TIP Championships, Fair Hill Thoroughbred Show, among others.

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SUZIE OLDHAM

No matter your discipline or experience level, there are numerous activities available for riders on OTTBs.

### High performance

Even riders competing at the highest levels can earn additional awards and be eligible for more classes if they're on the back of a Thoroughbred.

With the large number of eventers participating in TIP, awards are offered at the Land Rover Kentucky Three Day Event and the American Eventing Championships, also held at the Kentucky Horse Park, which helps further highlight and reward riders on Thoroughbreds on some of the largest equestrian stages.

For top-level hunter/jumpers, there's the TAKE2 Second Career Thoroughbred Program, which awards prize money and recognition to Thoroughbreds that are able to be registered with The Jockey Club. First starting in 2012 with AA-rated shows in New York, New Jersey, and Texas, the program now includes more than 300 shows

in 23 states. TAKE2's Thoroughbred League offers members the opportunity to earn points at competitions to earn year-end High Score Awards (with \$10,000 distributed to the top 10 finishers) and a spot to compete in the \$20,000 TAKE2 Finals.

Also offered is the Jet Run Award for TAKE2 League members who adopted a horse from an aftercare organization.

"The mission of the TAKE2 program is to highlight the success of our Thoroughbreds in the show ring, and to encourage the hunter and jumper community to look to the Thoroughbred for their next show horse," said Andy Belfiore, executive director of the New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, which sponsors TAKE2 along with New York Thoroughbred Breeders.

"When you join the TAKE2 Thoroughbred League, you support second careers for retired racehorses, and when you partner with a Thoroughbred, you get the ride

### To learn more

Thoroughbred Classic Horse Show:  
[thoroughbredclassic.org](http://thoroughbredclassic.org)

Thoroughbred Incentive Program:  
[tjctip.com](http://tjctip.com)


Thoroughbred Makeover:  
[tbmakeover.org](http://tbmakeover.org)


Canter for the Cause:  
[pimlico.com/events/2019-06-02/canter-cause](http://pimlico.com/events/2019-06-02/canter-cause)

TAKE2:  
[take2tbreds.com](http://take2tbreds.com)

of your life."

Options abound for all riders on Thoroughbreds no matter your experience or goals. If you're looking for a Thoroughbred, find a TAA-accredited adoption organization near you by skimming through the following pages.



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# A life's work



KATHLEEN HEARNE

Acacia Courtney's mother, Sherrie (above), is a skilled horsewoman and an instrumental member of the Racing for Home team.

## By Acacia Courtney

Growing up, I was a typical horse-crazy girl and started riding at a young age. We always watched the broadcast of the Kentucky Derby as a family, and I remember the first live horse races I saw were at the Northampton Fair, in Massachusetts, where I'll never forget watching a filly named Get My Glitter, whose name and pink saddle towel with the number 8 were incredibly appealing to a young girl.

In the lesson program at my barn, there was an off-the-track Thoroughbred (OTTB), a dark bay mare named Syren, whom many of the kids were afraid to ride because she was so fast. I loved her, and we won ribbons together in horse shows, but what stuck

with me was her eagerness to please, her tremendous heart, and her pure athleticism and fluid movements. After her, a Thoroughbred was the only kind of horse I wanted to ride.

I was 16 when I first became aware of the concept of Thoroughbred aftercare. When I learned that some horses ended up in bad situations when their racing days were over, all I wanted was to do something to help. My mother, Sherrie, is an excellent rider and skilled horsewoman, and she encouraged me. We had been talking about getting a horse, and decided that it would be a Thoroughbred off the track.

We went to the Suffolk Downs backside in 2009 and, while a chestnut filly was the last thing we were looking for, that's what we

left with. Palace Diva (I've never met a more aptly named horse, by the way) was our first OTTB, and turned out to be the catalyst in the formation of our organization, Racing for Home, Inc. My parents encouraged me to do it the right way, and I started the paperwork for 501(c)(3) non-profit status, which we were granted in 2011.

I look back on all that has happened since then, and I am acutely aware of how horses have impacted my life. Horses have given me the most incredible career as a racing analyst and paddock reporter, have brought me wonderful friendships, and have taken me around the world. I feel like the least I can do is give back to those who have given me so much.

Since we started Racing for Home, nearly

30 OTTBs have gone through our program: retrained and re-homed, rehabilitated after racing or training injuries, or given forever sanctuary at one of our two facilities in Connecticut (Palace Diva among them, now 14 years old).

In the 10 years since I first became involved, aftercare has become a much bigger conversation in and outside of the racing industry, and the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance is a huge part of that. I greatly value the relationships I and my organization have with owners and horsemen and horsewomen in the industry, and that respect and credibility is a huge part of why earning TAA accreditation was such a big deal for me. We are incredibly honored to be recognized by the TAA for the work that we have done with OTTBs, and excited to have the ability to give even more horses a future after their racing days are over.

The TAA holds each of their accredited organizations to very high standards, and gives prospective donors the assurance that they are giving to a group that is doing things the right way for their horses. To be held in that high esteem has been a long-time goal for us, and is very meaningful. With the backing and guidance of the TAA, my mother and I will be able to continue to grow and expand Racing for Home.

Thoroughbreds take us on an incredible ride when they cross the finish line, and now it's our turn to give back to them.



KATHLEEN HEARNE

Acacia Courney is the founder and CEO of TAA-accredited Racing for Home.



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# Thoroughbred versatility showcased in TAA-accredited organizations

By Erin Shea

As the aftercare movement grows, Thoroughbreds are further proving that they aren't just one-trick ponies. Five-star eventers, champion show hunters, lightning-fast barrel runners, sensitive therapy companions. You name it, Thoroughbreds are doing it.

With 74 accredited organizations now under its umbrella in the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico, the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance has assisted more than 10,300 Thoroughbreds find a new life off the track. As you'll see in the pages ahead, TAA-accredited organizations showcase the variety of careers available for Thoroughbreds after their racing or breeding days are over.

Many organizations retrain and adopt out former runners. Pairing their natural athletic abilities with their strong work ethic, Thoroughbreds excel in a variety of equestrian disciplines – everything from eventing, hunter-jumpers, and dressage to barrel racing, competitive trail, and driving.

And thanks to initiatives such as the Retired Racehorse Project's Thoroughbred Makeover, The Jockey Club Thoroughbred Incentive Program, and many Thoroughbred horse shows across the country, these off-the-track Thoroughbreds have been given many avenues to launch successful competitive careers off the track.

Occasionally lost in the shuffle of adoption is the rehabilitation that some Thoroughbreds need before embarking on a new career. Whether it was an old racing injury or recovery after receiving substandard care, TAA-accredited organizations are leading the way in helping horses recover, recuperate, and start a new chapter.

This often expensive and taxing endeavor is a testament to the dedication these organizations have to the well-being of their horses.

But what about the ones who can't be adopted to a riding home? TAA-accredited sanctuary facilities are taking their missions to a new level and, in the process, are reaffirming that these horses have value. In addition to providing a gold standard of care to their herds, many organizations are giving back to their communities through various equine-assisted programs. A growing area, equine-human therapy programs are using Thoroughbreds more and more due to the breed's incredible sensitivity. TAA-accredited organizations again are leaders in providing a variety of equine-human therapy programs, including those that work with veterans, inmates, and individuals with special needs, among others.

Across the majority of TAA-accredited organizations, whether they are adoption or sanctuary in nature, is the mission of not only caring for horses but educating the public on the various facets of equine care and responsible horse ownership. Sometimes TAA-accredited organizations are places where people meet a horse for the first time. Sometimes they are the place where an experienced horseman or woman sharpens their skills in clinics. Sometimes they are home to student interns looking to jump-start an equine career.

Regardless of whether an official education program exists, TAA-accredited organizations are doing their part to carry the banner for the breed, the industry, and the individual horses they serve by showcasing the talent and versatility of off-the-track Thoroughbreds.

## JANUARY

- Accreditation application opens online for eligible organizations
- Reinspections of accredited organizations begin

## FEBRUARY-APRIL

- New applicants complete and submit accreditation application by April 1 deadline
- Review of applications begins on a rolling basis

## APRIL-SEPTEMBER

- Review of all applications completed:
  - Cursory review for completeness and minimum requirements
  - Three separate application reviews completed
  - Separate financial review
- Inspections of applicants' facilities completed

## OCTOBER-NOVEMBER

- Applicants reviewed a final time after inspections completed
- Applicants recommended for accreditation or denial by Accreditation Committee
- Executive Board and Board of Directors review and give final approval for accreditation
- Approved applicants notified of accreditation
- Grant applications reviewed by Grants Committee
- Grant agreement completed by all accredited organizations to receive grants

## DECEMBER

- First installment of grants sent to newly accredited organizations, along with previously accredited organizations. Second installment sent in May



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# Volunteering is a win-win



**Rick Geary, a volunteer at Equine Rescue of Aiken, said he was looking for meaningful work to occupy his time after retiring.**

## **By Melissa Bauer-Herzog**

In an era where owning a horse can be too expensive as a hobby for many people, it may seem like interacting with the lovable creatures is out of reach for most. But with the rise of equine organizations helping re-home retired racehorses, there is a way horse lovers can interact with horses as often as they want – without spending any money.

Many Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance-accredited organizations rely on volunteers to keep their operations running smoothly, with facilities having volunteers do everything from office work to cleaning stalls.

“We survive almost solely on volunteers,” said Caroline Mulstay of the TAA-accredited Equine Rescue of Aiken, in South Carolina. “With only three paid staff members it would be impossible to care for this many horses and run all of our various program without volunteers.

“Volunteers help us with daily chores, including mucking paddocks, cleaning waters, and grooming horses. They also help with holding horses for the vet and farrier, tours for visitors, staffing events, and extra hands and support for when we have big groups like home school programs, the juvenile justice program, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, veterans’ programs, and other

groups that come to the farm.”

In addition to helping the organizations, volunteering and working with horses benefits volunteers as well. Horses are often used in various therapies to help both mental and physical issues – such as TAA-accredited Square Peg Foundation – with various studies showing that just interacting with horses has benefits for all humans.

“I absolutely love [volunteering],” Equine Rescue of Aiken volunteer Rick Geary said. “I have always loved animals and horses even though I have never owned one or really been around them. I also love being out in the fresh air and have found the staff and other volunteers to be enjoyable to be

around. I have learned a lot about horses and enjoy giving them some much needed love and affection.”

Geary isn't the only one Mulstay has seen benefit from working at the farm, with one specific volunteer conquering her fears on the farm.

“My favorite volunteer story is about a volunteer named Chris,” she said. “When she first started volunteering with us she was actually scared of horses. Now, about eight years later, she is comfortable handling a lot of the horses on the farm and helps new volunteers learn the ins and outs. She even takes riding lessons at another barn in Aiken.”

When Geary moved to the area, he immediately fell in love with the organization while on a tour. Volunteering was the perfect fit for the retiree, whose background in nonprofit work had showed him how important an organization like the Equine Rescue of Aiken can be.

“Being retired I was looking for something meaningful to occupy my time and this just clicked,” Geary explained. “The facility is only five minutes from my home and there is no specific commitment to volunteer. You can come any time from Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“I generally go twice a week for about six to eight hours. In addition, I volunteer to help with fundraising activities and community events selling T-shirts. Last spring, we parked cars prior to the Aiken Steeplechase and earned over \$2,000 for the Rescue.”

For Old Friends Farm volunteer Laura Battles, volunteering for the Kentucky-based organization is like being a kid in a candy store with all the horses she gets to be around. Originally tagging along on tours of the farm to take photos, she slowly started taking over hosting the tours herself and is often someone fans will talk to when they visit the farm.

Battles explained that being around the horses is only one of her favorite things about the volunteer work, as she also loves showing people how their favorite race-horses are doing in retirement.

“I love being around these horses and it also gives me a chance to spend time with



TIM WILSON

**Laura Battles leads tours at Old Friends and is an accomplished photographer.**

horses without the responsibility and cost of owning one of my own, not that I don't spend a lot on the fundraiser auctions,” Battles said. “I also love to be able to share these horse's lives with other people through tours and my photos, which give people who can't travel to Kentucky a chance to see how their old favorites are doing in retirement.”

Volunteering also gave Battles a taste of having her own horse when she fell in love with Bint Marscay, an Australian racehorse she had seen run in 1994. Eleven years later, they were reunited at Old Friends and the mare became hers in all but name with their partnership famous on the farm.

“Back in 1994, I went to Australia to see the Melbourne Cup,” she said. “On the Saturday before the race, there was a Group 1 sprint that featured a former champion 2-year-old filly in what would be her last race before retirement and a broodmare career. Fast forward to 2015 when I was starting to fall in love with a mare that had been retired to Old Friends. Bint Marscay became my horse of a lifetime at the farm. I visited her every chance I got and was with her when she took her last breath.”

While volunteering is a great way to help out organizations and allows people to interact with horses when they otherwise wouldn't, Battles does caution that you need to make sure you have the time to

commit to volunteering before jumping in, especially at the retirement farms.

“Make sure you are ready to commit to the horses,” she said. “You may fall in love with them, but they will also return the affection. People who come, get to know a horse and then just disappear, impact the horses, too. Be ready to accept the fact that places like [Old Friends] are basically old-age homes and you are going to lose horses and tears will be shed, but it is so worth it to be with the horses and give them the retirements they deserve.”

Studies have often shown that just volunteering can be a big part in emotional health, no matter the organization. But Mulstay says working with horses provides an even bigger health benefit, even if volunteers don't realize it.

“Everyone, including but not limited to the volunteers, gets something out of being at the farm,” Mulstay said. “Whether it is an interest in learning about horses, getting over a fear of horses, helping the community, meeting new people, or staying fit and busy during retirement. Horses have a therapeutic value to them that is unexplainable.”

If you're interested in volunteering with a TAA-accredited organization, take a look through the pages of this magazine to find an organization in your area.

# Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance

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**63**

**Adoption Programs**

**50**

**Sanctuary**

**63**

**Rehabilitation**

**13**

**Equine-Assisted Programs**

**10.3k**

**Thoroughbreds**

23 Accredited Organizations in 2013  
 42 Accredited Organizations in 2014  
 56 Accredited Organizations in 2015  
 64 Accredited Organizations in 2016  
 64 Accredited Organizations in 2017  
 70 Accredited Organizations in 2018  
 74 Accredited Organizations in 2019

# ACCREDITED ORGANIZATIONS BY REGION

## WEST

CANTER California	Los Gatos, CA
Glen Ellen Vocational Academy	Glen Ellen, CA
Hope for Horses	Galt, CA
Los Angeles Pet Rescue: Farralone Farm	Van Nuys, CA
Redwings Horse Sanctuary	Lockwood, CA
Southern California Thoroughbred Rescue	Norco, CA
Square Peg Foundation	Half Moon Bay, CA
Tranquility Farm	Cottonwood, CA
United Pegasus Foundation	San Jacinto, CA
Win Place Home	Canyon Country, CA

## SOUTHWEST

After the Homestretch	Phoenix, AZ
Equine Encore Foundation	Tucson, AZ
Harmony and Hope Horse Haven	Rodeo, NM
Horse and Hound Rescue Foundation	Guthrie, OK
LoneStar Outreach to Place Ex-Racers	Driftwood, TX
Oklahoma Thoroughbred Retirement Program	Blanchard, OK
Remember Me Rescue	Burleson, TX
Thoroughbred Athletes	Guthrie, OK

## SOUTH

Equestrian Inc.	Tampa, FL
Equine Rescue and Adoption Foundation	Palm City, FL
Equine Rescue of Aiken	Aiken, SC
Final Furlong	Ocala, FL
Florida TRAC	Indiantown, FL
Hidden Acres Rescue for Thoroughbreds	Cocoa, FL
Peaceful Ridge Rescue	Davie, FL
RVR Horse Rescue	Riverview, FL
South Florida SPCA	Homestead, FL
Thoroughbred Retirement of Tampa	Oldsmar, FL
Thoroughbred Retirement Network of Louisiana	Covington, LA

## MIDWEST

Beyond the Roses Equine Rescue & Retirement	Emmett, MI
Central Kentucky Riding For Hope	Lexington, KY
CANTER Michigan	Commerce Twp, MI
Friends of Ferdinand	Indianapolis, IN
Galloping Out	North Riverside, IL
Hope After Racing	Altoona, IA
Illinois Equine Humane Center	Big Rock, IL
Kentucky Equine Humane Center	Lexington, KY
Maker's Mark Secretariat Center	Lexington, KY

New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program	Lexington, KY
Old Friends	Georgetown, KY
Our Mims Retirement Haven	Paris, KY
Out Side In	Grand Haven, MI
Second Stride	Crestwood, KY
Susan Donaldson Foundation/Mereworth Farm	Lexington, KY
The Exceller Fund	Lexington, KY

## MID-ATLANTIC

After the Races	Elkton, MD
Blue Bloods	Blanch, NC
Bright Futures Farm	Cochran, PA
Brook Hill Retirement Center for Horses	Forest, VA
Days End Farm Horse Rescue	Woodbine, MD
Heart of Phoenix Equine Rescue	Shoals, WV
Life Horse Inc.	Thurmont, MD
MidAtlantic Horse Rescue	Chesapeake City, MD
New Beginnings	Howell, NJ
R.A.C.E. Fund	Harrisburg, PA
Second Wind TB Project	Boyce, VA
The Fokie G Foundation	Libertytown, MD
Thoroughbred Placement Resources	Upper Marlboro, MD
War Horses at Rose Bower	Appomattox, VA

## NORTHEAST

ACTT Naturally	Greenwich, NY
AFTER the Track	Heinesburg, VT
Akindale Thoroughbred Rescue	Pawling, NY
Equine Advocates	Chatham, NY
Finger Lakes Thoroughbred Adoption Program	Farmington, NY
Lucky Orphans Horse Rescue	Dover Plains, NY
Mitchell Farm Equine Retirement	Salem, CT
Racing for Home	Ellington, CT
ReRun Inc.	East Greenbush, NY
Second Chance Thoroughbreds	Spencer, NY
Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation	Saratoga Springs, NY

## NORTHWEST

Down The Stretch Ranch	Creston, WA
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Updated through November 2019



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For more information, visit the TAA website or contact the TAA office directly:

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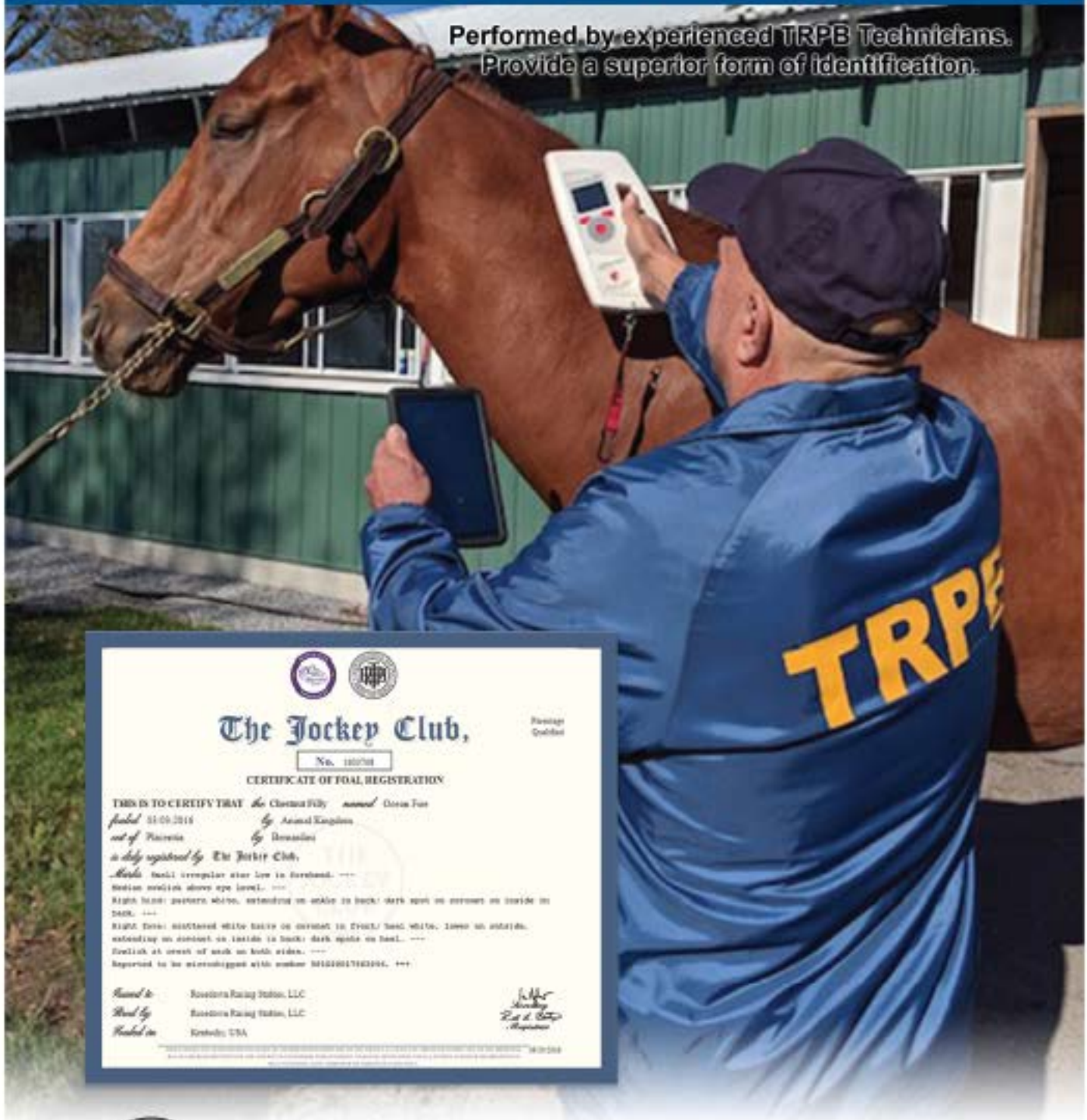
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John Phillips  
TAA past president

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# TAA in action



JIM McCUE/MARYLAND JOCKEY CLUB



1. Stacie Clark Rogers and Centennial Farms' Don Little Jr. present the Best Turned Out Horse Award sponsored by Centennial Farms to groom Santo Salazar for True Timber for the Pegasus World Cup Invitational Stakes.
2. On a trip to Keeneland, actor Bill Murray asked if horses hit the nightclubs after they leave the racetrack. Erin Shea and Alex Kokka took a moment to tell him about the work of the TAA and accredited organizations.
3. The TAA was honored with the Special Award of Merit at the 2019 Alibi Breakfast at Pimlico Race Course. Accepting the award were Ashton Moynihan, TAA founding board member Jack Wolf, Erin Shea, Stacie Clark Rogers, and Alex Kokka.
4. The Earle I. Mack Foundation awarded a generous contribution on Preakness Day to the TAA and the Man o' War Project, which works to find the effectiveness of equine therapy to treat veterans with PTSD.
5. TAA-supporting trainer Liz Elder and Stacie Clark Rogers (far left and far right, respectively) present the Best Turned Out Horse Award with StableDuel's Chris Brothers (second from right) and Ravens offensive tackle Ronnie Stanley (second from left) to groom Rodrigo Barajas (center) for Real Story at Pimlico Race Course.
6. The TAA team on a lunch outing at TAA-accredited Old Friends at Dream Chase Farm in Georgetown, Ky. Little Silver Charm joined in on the fun.



7. Alex Kokka, Erin Shea, Beyond the Wire's Jessica Hammond, TAA-accredited Akindale Thoroughbred Rescue's Chris Andrews, Stacie Clark Rogers, Akindale's Marlene Peavey, and Ashton Moynihan after accepting TAA's Special Award of Merit.
8. Emily Dresen, Stacie Clark Rogers, and Erin Shea at TAA's table at Saratoga Race Course's community booth.
9. Stacie Clark Rogers and Suzie Oldham participate in Canter for the Cause at Pimlico Race Course to benefit the TAA.
10. The TAA was a nonprofit partner of the inaugural Railbird Festival at Keeneland. Alex Kokka, Emily Dresen, and Erin Shea were ready to get the festival started alongside the team from TAA-accredited Central Kentucky Riding for Hope.
11. The TAA presented the Best Turned Out Horse Awards, sponsored by the Virginia HBPA, on Virginia Derby Day at Colonial Downs. Here, guest judge Donna Dennehy and Erin Shea (center and right, respectively) present the award to groom James Darjean for Doc Boy.
12. After the Races's Bonnie McRae congratulates Lindsey Partridge aboard Fairly Obvious, from TAA-accredited After the Races, on winning the TAA High Point Award at the 2019 Thoroughbred Makeover.
13. TAA and CARMA representatives made a presentation to the connections of Itsinthepost after the gelding won the Grade 2 Marathon Stakes Presented by the TAA during the Breeders' Cup at Santa Anita Park.



WILL WONG



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# ACTT Naturally

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION

EQUINE-ASSISTED PROGRAM



ASHLEY NIZOKEK PHOTOGRAPHY

**ACTT Naturally's off-the-track Thoroughbreds, Harlem Rocker and Three Lions, with participants from the Saratoga Springs Regional YMCA Lend-A-Hand Camp.**

After 28 years as an exercise rider and assistant in top stables of the Thoroughbred racing industry, ACTT Naturally's founder, Valerie Buck, has taken the same patient touch that she used to guide many champions through their morning workouts to helping off-the-track Thoroughbreds toward bright futures through retraining and thoughtful adoption.

We believe in the philosophy of working with horses based on the horse's natural instincts and methods of communication. The result is confident horses that are better adapted to life after the track and with a wider scope of opportunities available to them.

Through our adoption process, horses are carefully matched with human partners to create lifelong partnerships.

ACTT Naturally's Hearts in Harmony programs are geared toward helping humans, with the participation of our Thoroughbreds. Sensitive by nature, these horses enable self-reflection of our own energy. While the focus

on these programs is toward veterans and their families, first responders, and teens, we believe that everyone can benefit. Mutual respect, healthy boundaries, self-confidence, empathy, and compassion are among the benefits gained from time spent working on the ground with our equine partners.

"ACTT Naturally and Valerie Buck truly care not only about the racehorses that come through their doors, but the bonds that potential adopters have with those horses," said Jackie Sears-Zaleski, who adopted Tiz Risky from the organization. "Valerie's expertise and compassion for both horses and humans alike is second to none. She truly understands relationships and understands that they are paramount in animal care.

"I will be forever grateful to Tiz Risky, ACTT Naturally, and specifically Valerie Buck for making this all happen and for giving racehorses a more-than-fighting chance after the track."

## TESTIMONIAL:

"The support of the TAA will enable our organization to grow, which will lead to helping more horses and humans through our programs and our adoptions. This accreditation ensures to those who donate horses to us, those who financially support us, those who volunteer for us, and our adopters, that we hold the highest standard of excellence in caring for our horses."

**FOUNDED:** 2013

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## PHONE:

(570) 578-6377


## MAIN CONTACT:


Valerie Buck

## WEB ADDRESS:

[www.acttnaturally.org](http://www.acttnaturally.org)

## SOCIAL:

 ACTT-Naturally-  
424478317642702

 @Actt\_Naturally

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**

15-20

# After The Homestretch

REHABILITATION  
RETRAINING/ADOPTION



**Shashanmahaganrand (Sasha) achieving calm confidence on the trail with Jody Swink of No Sweat Natural Horsemanship and training adviser to After The Homestretch.**

After The Homestretch-Arizona was founded in 2011 to fulfill a critical need for Thoroughbred aftercare. Our local racetrack draws horses from all over North America, and with a seven-month racing season and as many as 2,100 horses stabled at the track at any given time, it's inevitable that many of these runners will be in need of a new home by meet's end. Some horses will sustain recoverable injuries, while others won't be fast enough to compete, yet they still have the rest of their lives ahead of them.

Since these horses were bred for athleticism, heart, and intelligence, they are still very athletic and can excel in other disciplines. They just need a chance to find that second career and a new home . . . "after the homestretch."

This is where After The Homestretch steps in. Its mission is protecting the legacy of former racehorses through education, reconditioning, retraining, and re-homing. As an all-volunteer 501(c)3 organization, it relies solely upon the generous support of donors, grant partners like TAA, and a team of dedicated volunteers to help carry out its mission. Governance is over-

seen by an active volunteer board of directors and supported by an advisory board of industry professionals.

Horses at the facility have included stakes winners, a granddaughter of Secretariat, and a track record-setting winner of \$200,000. They have ranged in age from 2 to 24 and have been available as companions, for riding, and for showing.

In the past eight years, the organization has taken in 73 horses and adopted out 55 into permanent homes. To continue strengthening and improving the program, After The Homestretch has partnered with Jody Swink of No Sweat Natural Horse and Mulemanship to implement a training program for transitioning the horses into their second careers and teaching volunteers about horse handling.

Monthly horsemanship clinics are held to teach volunteers valuable groundwork skills. Swink also works individually with the horses on desert trails, where they learn to navigate difficult terrain and gain confidence in new surroundings.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"Our TAA accreditation has provided validation that we offer the gold standard in aftercare. We greatly appreciate the generous financial support that has helped us care for our horses and has strengthened our training programs to prepare the horses for their second careers and new homes. Our primary goal is always the health and well-being of the horses in our care, and TAA helps make that possible."

**FOUNDED:** 2011

## ADDRESS:

1328 E. Maddock Rd.  
Phoenix, AZ 85086

**PHONE:** (623) 205-8528

## MAIN CONTACT:

Dannielle Marturana

## WEB ADDRESS:

[afterthehomestretchaz.org](http://afterthehomestretchaz.org)

## SOCIAL:

AfterTheHomestretchArizona  
 @homestretchAZ  
 @afterthehomestretchaz

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**

24

# After the Races



MKM PHOTOGRAPHY

**Slippery Slew, a winner of three races on the track, took right to his retraining at After the Races upon completing rehab for a bowed tendon. He now shows in low-level hunters.**

After the Races is a rehabilitation and re-homing facility for Thoroughbred racehorses. Its mission is to rehabilitate and place racehorses into appropriate, long-term homes while promoting the versatility of the breed beyond racing.

Since 2011, After the Races has re-homed more than 350 racehorses, having served horses retiring from tracks in Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and Kentucky. Its doors are open to racehorses across the country in need of a safe place to rehabilitate and a chance at a new career.

After the Races, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization located in Elkton, Md., takes in retiring Thoroughbreds and combines the horse's history on the track with a thorough vetting on the farm to come up with a rehabilitation plan that fits each individual horse's needs. As the horse is rehabilitated, time is spent evaluating the horse's temperament and physical capabilities.

When the horse is deemed ready, the retraining process begins, with the goal of seeking to match the horse with an adopter who is suitable and can provide a long-term home for the horse.

Horses come to After the Races through various backstretch programs initiated by local race-tracks dedicated to finding good homes for horses in their care. It also receives horses from private owners and trainers who are looking to ensure their horses get a chance at a second career.

Since its inception, After the Races has found an increasing desire among racing professionals to see their horses get a second chance, and the organization is excited to work with these individuals to fulfill that goal.

As a nonprofit organization, After the Races relies on the wonderful help of volunteers and donations from fellow horse enthusiasts. Every dollar goes directly toward feeding and caring for these amazing animals.

**TESTIMONIAL:**

"Having the accreditation of the TAA has added to our reputation in the aftercare industry and enabled us to better serve the Thoroughbreds in our care through their financial support."

**FOUNDED:** 2011

**ADDRESS:**

3168 Telegraph Rd.  
Elkton, MD 21921

**PHONE:** (919) 741-9819

**MAIN CONTACT:**

Bonnie Hutton

**WEB ADDRESS:**

aftertheraces.org

**SOCIAL:**

- AfterTheRaces
- @Aftertheraces
- @Aftertheraces

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**

16

# AFTER the Track

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION

EQUINE-ASSISTED PROGRAM



MOLLIE HORAN

**Aspen successfully completed his first event seven months after his arrival at AFTER the Track.**

AFTER the Track – Assuring Futures for Thoroughbred Ex Racehorses – was founded in 2008 by Ginny Iverson in Hinesburg, Vt. Iverson, who has decades of equestrian experience, including eventing, breeding and owning, and operating a boarding facility, became concerned about the number of racehorses that needed help when their racing careers ended, so she decided to stop breeding and focus on helping Thoroughbreds transition from the racetrack.

The Holistic Retraining Program is the hallmark of AFTER the Track. Most horses spend at least one year training in dressage, jumping, trail riding, and eventing. Each horse is regularly exposed to new situations, including off-farm schooling sessions, clinics, and competitions. When horses are deemed ready and prepared for their new careers, they become available for adoption. AFTER the Track takes its adoption process very seriously to ensure that each placement is successful and lasting.

As a professional educator, Iverson was inspired to start a robust educational outreach

program designed to promote OTTBs and teach others to replicate the organization's program. Educational internships are provided in horsemanship, farm management, and business innovations through partnerships with several high schools and colleges, including the University of Vermont. This includes extensive educational activities, presentations, farm tours, demonstrations, and television and radio appearances.

Although being located in northern New England presents unique challenges, AFTER the Track has been successful due to good old Yankee ingenuity. Though far from any racetracks, its ongoing collaborations with racing personnel connect it with horses suitable for its program. When the snow flies, snow hacks build muscle and grit, while the indoor arena becomes a playground for green horses. Despite a small pool of potential adopters, its network of professionals helps us identify and support qualified homes.

Above all, AFTER the Track thrives in northern Vermont thanks to the outpouring of support it receives from volunteers, interns, and friends.

## TESTIMONIAL:

“TAA accreditation exemplifies the gold standard in Thoroughbred aftercare, and AFTER the Track is honored to receive confirmation that our work is of the highest quality. The TAA's generous support will enable us to give more OTTBs homes in Vermont and New England and expand our educational outreach program.”

**FOUNDED:** 2008

### ADDRESS:

3364 Silver St.  
Hinesburg, VT 05461

**PHONE:** (802) 355-5449

### MAIN CONTACT:

Ginny Iverson

### WEB ADDRESS:

[www.afterthetrack.org](http://www.afterthetrack.org)

### SOCIAL:

 AFTERtheTrackInc

 @afterthetrack

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**  
5

# Akindale Thoroughbred Rescue

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



Starwest and Tactical Gold are best friends and retirees at Akindale Thoroughbred Rescue.

“I never met a horse I didn’t like.”

Those words were spoken by our founder, the late businessman and philanthropist John Hettinger, a noted racehorse owner and breeder, winner of the Eclipse Award of Merit, and an activist against equine slaughter, fighting successfully for legislation that banned U.S. slaughterhouses.

“He is the modern father of Thoroughbred aftercare,” said D.G. Van Clief, president of Akindale Thoroughbred Aftercare. “We owe its existence to John for making this a top-of-consciousness issue. He said he was going to do something and he put his money where his mouth was. He was a champion for retired racehorses.”

In 2019, Hettinger was inducted into the National Museum of Racing Hall of Fame for his contributions to the industry and to horses.

Hettinger founded Akindale Thoroughbred Aftercare in 2006, two years before his death. He left 300 acres of the family farm in Pawling, N.Y., to carry on his mission and care for the animals he called his “best friends.” The property is

deeded and dedicated in perpetuity to the care of retired racehorses and continues to successfully transition Thoroughbreds to second careers.

Akindale operates a “Reinventing Racehorses” program that has rehabilitated, retrained, and re-homed hundreds of Thoroughbreds. The program’s emphasis is on working directly with the racing industry to be sure Thoroughbreds get the best opportunity for a second career. Once a horse enters the Akindale program, they are guaranteed a safe haven for life. Horses are prepared for a second career and the right home is found for them. If anything goes wrong in the horse’s lifetime, they can come back and retire in our sanctuary and live out their years peacefully.

Akindale is a non-profit organization that accepts tax-deductible donations to help cover the costs of care for the 160-plus Thoroughbreds in its care. Every dollar makes a difference in the lives of our horses, whether it is a one-time cash donation, material donation, or a long-term sponsorship of one of the 130 retirees living in our sanctuary.

## TESTIMONIAL:

“The TAA has not only given Akindale Thoroughbred Rescue funding, it has given us a lot more exposure. Before accreditation, it seems we were just known on the East Coast. We are now known wherever the TAA is, and that is all over the country.”

**FOUNDED:** 2006

## ADDRESS:

77 Cox Rd.  
Pawling, NY 12564

**PHONE:** (845) 493-0315

## MAIN CONTACT:

Chris Andrews

## WEB ADDRESS:

[akindalehorserescue.org](http://akindalehorserescue.org)

## SOCIAL:

 Akindale  
 @Akindalehorse  
 @akindaletbrescue

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:

150

# Beyond The Roses Equine Rescue & Retirement

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



MARTHA DENVER

**Athletica with her trainer Tricia Sawdon preparing for the Retired Racehorse Project's Thoroughbred Makeover. Athletica was adopted from Beyond the Roses during the Makeover.**

The 8-year-old, full-service rescue organization Beyond the Roses was established in Michigan by current executive director Gail Hirt to provide sanctuary, rehab, retraining, and adoption placement for horses in need.

Early focus was on locating aging racehorses whose useful track careers were over or nearing an end – competitors who ran long and hard and had more than paid their dues – then acquiring them to repurpose and adopt out to loving forever homes.

The organization now works with Thoroughbreds of any racing background. “Helping OTTBs one at a time,” is a motto adhered to by Beyond the Roses’s volunteer staff, to the lasting benefit of ex-racehorses fortunate enough to pass through this organization.

The ultimate mission of Beyond the Roses is to rescue and provide positive alternatives to slaughter or abandonment. There is no age restriction for horses admitted to the program.

Beyond the Roses typically houses about a dozen permanent sanctuary horses, with approximately another 14 available to adopt. Full-time residents include Canadian stakes winners Nyuk Nyuk Nyuk and Twisted Wit, both 19-year-old geldings who during their racing careers earned \$813,953 and \$944,699, respectively.

Tax-deductible donations for this 501(c)(3) non-profit organization are needed to maintain upkeep of Beyond the Roses residents, whose care averages around \$8.50 per day, per horse.

Full or partial sponsorships are available for full-time sanctuary residents such as Nyuk Nyuk Nyuk and Twisted Wit, when injury, age, or temperament has rendered them unsuitable for future sporting careers.

Beyond the Roses’s wish list from donors includes bandages, wormers, fly spray, halters, blankets, and bedding, as well as gift cards to local feed and lumber stores.

## TESTIMONIAL:

“We are honored to be accredited by TAA. It has made the work that we do easier and allowed us to help more Thoroughbreds with the aftercare that is needed to transition them into their new careers. The TAA aids in our mission of helping OTTBs one at a time.”

**FOUNDED:** 2012

## ADDRESS:

11621 Bryce Rd.  
Emmett, MI 48022

**PHONE:** (586) 321-6780

## MAIN CONTACT:

Gail Hirt

## WEB ADDRESS:

[beyondtherosesequine.org](http://beyondtherosesequine.org)

## SOCIAL:

BTERRR  
 @BTREGail

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**

15-25

# Blue Bloods

REHABILITATION  
RETRAINING/ADOPTION



About 20 horses call Blue Bloods' 200-acre facility in North Carolina home at any given time.

Blue Bloods Thoroughbred Adoption and Placement in Yanceyville, N.C., was founded to transition former racehorses from the Northeast into new homes. A secondary mission is to rescue select Thoroughbreds from the slaughter pipeline through trusted agents. Elizabeth Macdonald founded the volunteer-run, 501(c)(3) organization after serving as the North Carolina director for New Jersey-based ReRun for eight years.

At any given time, about 20 Thoroughbreds call the 200-acre facility home while letting down from track life, learning new jobs, hacking out on the trails, foxhunting, and awaiting adoption.

For the horses' original owners, Blue Bloods provides a valuable service and new channels to create awareness and place their horses with approved adopters in the Southeast.

"We evaluate the horses' abilities and temperaments and seek to pair the right person with the right horse," Macdonald said. "We want it to be a happy home with a good match."

The rolling fields of the Caswell County farm host surprisingly well-bred horses, thanks to

Macdonald's relationships with top owners and tracks in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. First-generation pedigrees of the facility's horses include such names as Quality Road, Pioneer of the Nile, Bodemeister, Posse, Storm Cat, Unbridled, and Burning Roma.

Some of the adoptable Thoroughbreds are high-octane athletes best suited for advanced riders to take to the upper levels of horse sports. Some are workmanlike prospects for riders who want to hunt or show at the local levels. Others are retired broodmares ideal for beginner riders, "husband horses," and therapeutic riding programs.

A unique aspect of Blue Bloods is the collaboration with the equestrian studies program at nearby Averett University in Danville, Va., to make the horses as marketable as possible. In a class on retraining former racehorses, students are assigned an adoptable Blue Bloods horse to ride all semester and then present at a showcase open to the public. Every year, the horses in the Averett program have been quickly adopted, some by their student riders.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"TAA accreditation assures our owners that Blue Bloods upholds the highest standards in horse management, facility operations, and adoption screening. And, it shows donors that we are upholding best practices for fiscal prudence, transparency, and sustainability."

**FOUNDED:** 2013

## ADDRESS:

2305 NC Hwy 62 North  
Blanch, NC 27212

## PHONE:

(336) 694-1737


## MAIN CONTACT:

Elizabeth Macdonald

## WEB ADDRESS:

[bluebloodstb.org](http://bluebloodstb.org)

## SOCIAL:

 [bluebloodstb](https://www.facebook.com/bluebloodstb)

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF

## THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:

30

# Bright Futures Farm



BEV DEE PHOTOS

**Bright Futures Farm provides rehabilitation and retraining to off-the-track Thoroughbreds prior to adoption, and lifetime sanctuary to those that cannot be adopted due to age or disability.**

Twenty years ago, Bev Dee encountered a bay Thoroughbred named Brite Decision. He was sick, lame, and headed for euthanasia when she discovered and fell in love with him, not knowing how the sweet-natured fellow would change her life – and she his. The stakes-placed gelding became the inspiration for Dee’s Bright Futures Farm in northwest Pennsylvania, where he will always be the heart and soul of an enterprise devoted to rescuing, rehabilitating, and finding homes for horses in need.

Dee founded Bright Futures in 2000 and has since rescued dozens of horses from undesirable situations. It also is one of the few facilities that will accept aged stallions at its sanctuary.

While providing rehab, reschooling, and veterinary care to potential adoptees and lifetime sanctuary for others, Bright Futures is dependent upon tax-deductible donations and sponsorships.

“We reschool both for high-end disciplines and for everyday riders,” Dee said.

Graduates are placed in pre-screened homes matching their temperaments and ability.

“And we are willing to take back any horse at any time for any reason – no questions asked.”

Bright Futures microchips all of its adoptees. Once a horse is adopted, Bright Futures continues to monitor its status, requiring periodic updates from new owners.

Although adoption is the goal of the organization, Dee recognizes that some horses – due to old age or infirmity – are largely unadoptable. These horses become permanent residents of the sanctuary where their individual needs are met, including special meals, chiropractic care, and acupuncture when necessary.

Bright Futures’ permanent residents include Trusted Company, a 31-year-old daughter of Triple Crown winner Secretariat.

Permanent residents can be sponsored by donations of any size.

For more information, visit our website, [brightfuturesfarm.org](http://brightfuturesfarm.org).

## TESTIMONIAL:

“The TAA has helped us with the cost of reschooling more Thoroughbreds for new careers. It is an expensive undertaking but also a necessity to provide these horses with a good foundation prior to adoption. With TAA’s help, we are able to help more Thoroughbreds coming off the track each year than ever before.”

**FOUNDED:** 2000

### ADDRESS:

238 Old Franklin Pike  
 Cochran, PA 16314

**PHONE:** (724) 496-4960

### MAIN CONTACT:

Bev Dee

### WEB ADDRESS:

[brightfuturesfarm.org](http://brightfuturesfarm.org)

### SOCIAL:

BrightFuturesFarm

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**

15

# Brook Hill Retirement Center for Horses

**SANCTUARY**  
**REHABILITATION**  
**RETRAINING/ADOPTION**  
**EQUINE-ASSISTED PROGRAM**



**Devil's Passion spent 20 years as a racehorse and as a pony horse. At Brook Hill Retirement Center for Horses, he has freedom in his 60-acre retirement field among 39 other friends, but best of all he has his own little girl.**

Since its inception in 2001, Brook Hill Retirement Center for Horses has been unique in its focus on working with lame horses.

Fully accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries and the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance, the nonprofit organization is a rescue, rehabilitation, and retirement center that utilizes an experienced team of veterinarians to create individual rehabilitation plans for each horse that comes into its program.

The plan begins in an on-site lab where horses can receive physical therapy, radiographs, wound care, medications, farrier and chiropractic work, and whatever else is necessary to aid in their recovery.

Well-screened volunteers of all ages help with the Brook Hill mission in handling basic equine care, farm maintenance, and office work, while college interns earn academic credit assisting in rehab efforts. The average stay for a Brook Hill horse is 12 months, during which time most residents recover from their injuries and are retrained for new jobs.

Along the way, Brook Hill began pairing

rescue horses with disadvantaged, at-risk, or disabled teens. They found that an almost magical, mutually beneficial relationship often developed, wherein the at-risk teens helped care for the horses, and in turn, the horses helped the teens develop life skills. These life skills learned, combined with traditional tutoring offered at the farm, has led the teens to improve their academic performance.

Because of the success of the equine therapy programs, the farm has earned the designation of a PATH Premier Therapeutic Riding Center. In 2017, Brook Hill collaborated with the local school system to bring the benefits of equine therapy with rescue horses to at-risk teens in alternative education.

Many Brook Hill horses have been leased free of charge to pony clubs or 4-H members, and when they can no longer do performance jobs, those that can be retrained for use in therapeutic riding programs. Still others find permanent sanctuary at the farm.

To date, Brook Hill has rehabilitated and placed close to 500 horses.

## TESTIMONIAL:

“We are so proud to see the TAA leading the way in the industry. Their generosity makes our work caring for and retraining Thoroughbreds so much easier, helps adopters and donors identify reputable aftercare programs, and enables us to help so many more!”

**FOUNDED:** 2001

**ADDRESS:**  
7291 Bellevue Rd.  
Forest, VA 24551

**PHONE:** (540) 586-0207

**MAIN CONTACT:**  
Jo Anne Miller, Executive Director

**WEB ADDRESS:**  
brookhillfarm.org

**SOCIAL:**  
f BHRCHorse  
@brookhillfarm

# CANTER California



GRC PHOTO

**Charlie Monkey competing at the Retired Racehorse Project's Thoroughbred Makeover.**

California's division of CANTER – The Communication Alliance to Network Thoroughbred Ex-Racehorses – provides retiring Thoroughbreds with opportunities for new careers. The organization accepts horses directly from the track into its adoption program, providing rehabilitation and training for new disciplines, with the goal of finding each horse a loving, permanent home.

CANTER also offers free public classified ads to trainers for retiring horses. Volunteer photographers visit tracks in Northern and Southern California weekly, and the organization promotes available horses through its social media and website. Since its inception, CANTER's trainer listings have helped to place approximately 1,000 horses.

Thoroughbreds come to CANTER through owners, trainers, or partner placement programs. Many have racetrack injuries, ranging from minor to significant. Upon arrival at a CANTER facility – well-equipped private farms in both Northern and Southern California –

horses are given a minimum of six weeks to let down from the track. A veterinary team evaluates each horse and oversees rehabilitation when needed. CANTER also will cover surgery costs when necessary. Volunteer professional trainers prepare all horses – depending on their suitability, temperament, and lameness history– for second careers as competitive sport horses, pleasure mounts, trail horses, therapeutic riding horses, or companion horses.

CANTER covers all costs during this retraining process, and there is no limit to how long a horse can be in the program.

Adoption fees, typically ranging from \$1,000 to \$4,000, are set according to soundness, temperament, training level, and long-term potential. These fees help subsidize veterinary care, farrier work, feed, and board.

Horses adopted or sold through CANTER are monitored for two years and are always placed with a lifetime guarantee to be accepted back into the program if the owner can no longer care for the horse.

## TESTIMONIAL:

“The TAA accreditation process has helped us ensure the quality and integrity of our aftercare program through the highest possible care standards. Accreditation ensures a certain level of excellence and professionalism, and encourages us – and all aftercare partners – to offer the best services possible to our clients and horses.”

**FOUNDED:** 2008

### ADDRESS:

260 Las Miradas Dr.  
Los Gatos, CA 95032

**PHONE:** (408) 313-1965

### MAIN CONTACT:

Alison Dacher

### WEB ADDRESS:

[canterusa.org/california](http://canterusa.org/california)

### SOCIAL:

CANTERCA

@canterca

@Canterca

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**

15

# CANTER Michigan



Alex Tyson and CANTER Michigan graduate Gold Room Scotty competing in Ranch Work in the 2018 Retired Racehorse Project's Thoroughbred Makeover.

CANTER – the Communication Alliance to Network Thoroughbred Ex-Racehorses – was created following the 1998 closure of Detroit Race Course, which left about 200 racehorses with uncertain futures. Organizers aggressively spread the word through a public-relations campaign and eventually found homes for each of those Thoroughbreds. Realizing the problem did not end there, CANTER has grown beyond Michigan and is now a national program with affiliates across the country.

The goal of the organization is to retire, rehab, retrain, and re-home non-competitive racehorses. This is achieved two ways:

- CANTER assists owners who are selling retiring Thoroughbreds by connecting buyers with sellers through trainer horse listings on CANTER's website and social media.
- CANTER takes ownership of donated Thoroughbreds, provides vet and farrier care, retraining for new careers, and markets them for adoption on its website and social media.

Online listings include photos and descriptions of available horses, along with specifics as to training level, potential career, and any athletic restrictions. CANTER utilizes TAA-accredited boarding and training facilities. Approximately 30 to 40 Thoroughbreds are transitioned annually. All horses are available for modest adoption fees.

Adopters must go through an approval process by filling out an adoption form assessing experience level with horses, riding ability, and specifics as to the new home. Upon approval, a horse can be adopted through any affiliate.

Since 1999, CANTER has partnered with Michigan State University's school of veterinary medicine to provide injured ex-racehorses with surgery, while giving students invaluable experience as they assist with all aspects of arthroscopic surgery.

CANTER has no paid staff and is all volunteer. Every dollar donated goes toward the support and transition of off-the-track Thoroughbreds into approved new homes and careers.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"TAA's accreditation of CANTER Michigan provides nationwide acknowledgement of our successful program of retraining non-competitive racehorses for new careers, healing injured Thoroughbreds through arthroscopic surgery, and providing advanced education to Michigan State students as they assist with all aspects of surgery. TAA accreditation opens doors, generating additional support."

**FOUNDED:** 1998

**ADDRESS:**  
8619 Edgewood Park Dr.  
Commerce Township, MI 48382

**MAIN CONTACT:**  
Robbie Timmons

**EMAIL ADDRESS:**  
cantermichigan@canterusa.org

**WEB ADDRESS:**  
canterusa.org/michigan

**SOCIAL:**  
 CanterMI  
 @CANTERMichigan  
 @cantermichigan

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**  
30

# Caribbean Thoroughbred Aftercare

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



CARLOS MANCHEGO

**Meuser, a Kentucky-bred gelding who made 77 starts during his racing career, before his departure from Puerto Rico to his forever home in Illinois.**

Caribbean Thoroughbred Aftercare has been helping Thoroughbreds in Puerto Rico transition to good lives off the track since 2008. More than 1,200 U.S.-bred Thoroughbreds race annually in Puerto Rico after being imported.

CTA's farm, located in the foothills of the El Yunque national rainforest region of Puerto Rico, has been developed into a tropical haven for horses. It has 10 acres of large paddocks with shady shelters in each, and a seven-stall barn.

Since CTA incorporated in late 2016, assuming the work of predecessor Save The Horse, 113 horses have been retired. In 2019, CTA retired 35 horses and adopted 32 horses (23 of which were returned to the U.S. mainland). Currently, it has 17 horses in its program, with a perpetual wait list.

The challenges of finding good homes for off-track Thoroughbreds in the islands are many, including being 1,000 miles from the U.S. mainland, lack of resources, a tropical environment, poverty, and lack of qualified homes. Fortunately, CTA has formed good working partnerships with several other TAA-accredited

organizations on the mainland, as well as with breeders and former connections, creating a "bridge" for some horses to return to the U.S.

Looking forward to 2020, CTA is focused on increasing the number of Thoroughbreds it retires. Due to myriad factors, this will necessitate garnering a funding stream to pay for the required weeklong USDA quarantine and flight back to the United States.

CTA is proud of its positive working relationship with the Puerto Rico and mainland racing industry. CTA has continued with its "Caballo Mas Vistoso" (best looking horse) award at the monthly "CTA Day At The Races." During this day, volunteers and board members of CTA educate both the industry and public about aftercare, its process and challenges, and the incredible qualities of Thoroughbreds.

The Caribbean is beautiful, but also can be unforgiving and very challenging for Thoroughbreds both on and off the track. Caribbean Thoroughbred Aftercare is grateful to all the individuals who have helped provide funding and/or homes for its horses.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"Being accredited by the TAA gives Caribbean Thoroughbred Aftercare much needed validation so that our organization, in its daily endeavors, can meet the gold standard in aftercare. We anticipate this status will help open doors and present greater opportunities that will benefit the horses racing in Puerto Rico."

## FOUNDED: 2008

**ADDRESS:** PO Box 43001  
PMB 372  
Rio Grande, Puerto Rico 00745

## PHONES:

(787) 426-0845 (Puerto Rico)  
(561) 308-2185 (Florida)

## MAIN CONTACTS:

Kelley Stobie, Puerto Rico  
Shelley Blodgett, Florida

## WEB ADDRESS:

[www.ctahorse.com](http://www.ctahorse.com)

## SOCIAL:

horserescue  
 @CaribbeanOTTB  
 @Caribbean\_ottb

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:

40-plus

# Central Kentucky Riding for Hope

SANCTUARY

EQUINE-ASSISTED PROGRAM



MARK MAHAN

Here's something you don't see every day – two Thoroughbreds under Western saddle maneuvering through the equine therapy center's obstacle course at the Kentucky Horse Park.

Central Kentucky Riding for Hope, based at the Kentucky Horse Park, is dedicated to enriching the community by improving the quality of life and health of individuals with special needs through therapeutic activities with the horse.

CKRH offers services in the following areas:

**Physical/cognitive/developmental disabilities:** A program for individuals challenged by mild to severe medical conditions such as autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, multiple sclerosis, or stroke. Therapeutic Riding and Horsemanship, CKRH's flagship service, includes mounted activities designed to improve fine/gross motor skills, balance, strength, coordination, response to verbal commands, and elementary problem solving. Specialty programs include HorseAbility summer programming for special-needs youth, and Horse Tales, a memory-recall program for seniors with dementia.

**Mental health:** A program for individuals with emotional, social, or behavioral challenges. Mounted and unmounted group activities are designed to improve emotional awareness and regulation, tolerance for stress, decision-making skills, and connection with others. Specialty

programs include Operation Remount (for veterans and military service members with combat injuries or resiliency issues such as PTSD), a partnership with the Kentucky National Guard; I RIDE (for youths living in at-risk households), a partnership with child-welfare organizations and the Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice; and EASTT (for survivors of sexual trauma), a partnership with Ampersand Resource Center.

**Learning Disabilities:** A program for individuals with academic or vocational challenges. Unmounted activities are designed to improve basic educational elements (i.e., reading, spelling, math) and tangential skills, such as organizing, sequencing, and memory retention. Specialty programs include STABLES, a year-round alternate educational program of the Fayette County Public Schools for approximately 60 students in grades 7-12, and Vocational Training, for individuals with mild disabilities who are developing employment skills in horsemanship or facilities/farm maintenance.

CKRH serves more than 1,100 participants annually through the efforts of 300-plus volunteers and 29 equine therapists.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"In our continuing efforts to change the lives of some of our community's most vulnerable citizens, we have found the alertness and intelligence of our Thoroughbreds to be excellent therapy partners as their high energy levels and general inquisitiveness require participants to fully engage in their treatment sessions. Without the support of organizations like TAA, it would be much harder to provide these valuable services."

**FOUNDED:** 1981

**ADDRESS:** P.O. Box 13155  
Lexington, KY 40583

**PHONE:** (859) 231-7066

**MAIN CONTACT:** Pat Kline

**WEB ADDRESS:** [www.CKRH.org](http://www.CKRH.org)

## SOCIAL:

CKyRH  
 @CKyRH  
 @CKyRH

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:** 8

# Days End Farm Horse Rescue

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



SARAH K. ANDREWS

**A Days End intern with Remington, an off-the-track Thoroughbred who has been a fan favorite at the farm due to his kind temperament.**

Days End Farm Horse Rescue is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization founded in 1989 to ensure quality care and treatment of horses through intervention, education, and outreach.

Days End is an all-breed rescue, supporting animal-protection authorities in rescuing horses in Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and surrounding areas. Many of its intakes have been off-the-track Thoroughbreds.

It is a unique facility on the East Coast in that it accepts only horses that animal-protection officers have determined to be abused or neglected. It assists in collecting evidence and preparing documentation so that organization representatives can testify in court on behalf of the horses, and Days End is an expert in rehabilitating critically ill animals, training, and seeking second-chance homes for them.

Because education is vital to preventing animal abuse, educating animal enthusiasts and the general public is at the heart of the Days End mission. It offers many educational programs at

the farm and off-site while working with community-based groups such as schools, camps, scouts, and churches to educate on standards of equine care, horse psychology, and more. It also supports the training of animal-protection authorities and law enforcers in large-animal rescue techniques and equine-cruelty investigation.

When needed, Days End deploys its resources across the country and even internationally to lend assistance with emergency post-disaster management and herd rescues.

The organization is proud to be a Horse Discovery Center certified by the Maryland Horse Industry Board. As such, it welcomes visitors to its Howard County facilities. This provides an opportunity for people who may otherwise never interact with horses to visit a farm, see horses up close, and learn about healthy farm management and horse husbandry.

Days End particularly focuses on reaching young people so that they gain an appreciation and sense of compassion for animals at an early age.

## TESTIMONIAL:

“The TAA has helped fund ongoing maintenance costs for Thoroughbreds that are thoroughly rehabilitated. Some of our Thoroughbreds take longer to place, and it is comforting to know that TAA is helping to underwrite the cost of their care and training while helping spread the word about the value of these majestic animals.”

**FOUNDED:** 1989

## ADDRESS:

1372 Woodbine Rd.  
Woodbine, MD 21797

## PHONE:

(301) 854-5037

## MAIN CONTACT:

Caroline Robertson

## WEB ADDRESS:

defhr.org

## SOCIAL:

Facebook: DEFHR  
Twitter: @DEFHR  
Instagram: @daysendfarmhorserescue

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF

## THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:

10

# Down the Stretch Ranch

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION

EQUINE-ASSISTED PROGRAM



SFC Eric Buechler, who retired from the Army with more than 20 years of combat service, with the Thoroughbred mare Guilty at Down the Stretch Ranch.

Down the Stretch Ranch was founded in 2015 by Hall of Fame trainer Jerry Hollendorfer, his wife, Janet Hollendorfer, and Boone McCanna. The 501(c)(3) organization uses ex-racehorses to provide therapeutic rehabilitation for military veterans.

As these equine athletes offer comfort and companionship to the veterans, the organization provides a situation for the horses and humans to thrive. In this form of equine therapy, there are parallels and connections to be made between the veterans and equine athletes as they were both highly trained in their peak-performance days.

When a veteran arrives at the Washington-based ranch, McCanna offers a tour of the facility, which includes an area for the main herd to

roam over 100 acres. Just as each veteran has his own story, so does every member of the herd at Down the Stretch Ranch.

Once the veterans select a horse, they are told the story of that horse and shown race replays to understand the animal's background. Then horse and veteran get the chance to spend time together in a round pen. If both are comfortable, the veteran is given the opportunity to ride around the ranch to spend more time with the off-the-track Thoroughbred.

The ranch also offers housing for attending veterans, with many choosing to extend their stay or return to the ranch later.

While the ranch operates mostly as a sanctuary for Thoroughbreds, the organization also adopts out sound horses to qualified homes.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"What the TAA does is incredible. Being accredited by the TAA is important to ensure these horses are properly cared for. The accreditation process helped us see ways to make our organization even better."

## FOUNDED: 2015

## ADDRESS:

27700 Miles Creston Rd. N.  
Creston, WA 99117

## PHONE:

(253) 350-0160

## MAIN CONTACT:

Boone McCanna

## WEB ADDRESS:

[downthestretch.org](http://downthestretch.org)

## SOCIAL:

[f downthestretchranch](https://www.facebook.com/downthestretchranch)

[t @DownTheStretchR](https://twitter.com/DownTheStretchR)

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:

25

# Equestrian Inc.

SANCTUARY  
REHABILITATION  
RETRAINING/ADOPTION



Fort Astoria, a grandson of Deputy Minister, enjoys his retirement at Equestrian Inc. in Florida.

Established in 1985 as a sanctuary for horses looking for a new lease on life, Equestrian Inc. currently has 10 registered Thoroughbreds and three other breeds. Some of the horses are permanent residents due to age or injuries, and others are in the process of being retrained or are recovering from a racing injury.

Equestrian Inc. provides ex-racehorses a chance for a productive second career in a variety of disciplines, such as jumping, dressage, eventing, and pleasure or companion.

Its adoption process involves an interview with the potential adopter to gauge their knowledge and ability to care for the horse. The next step is the adopter spending time with the horse so that they can get to know one another. The adopter must be at least 21 years old and financially able to care for the horse. The adoption fee is from \$500 and up depending on the soundness, training, level and potential of the horse.

Equestrian Inc. has no paid staff. It is run solely by volunteers who are the heart of the organization. A team of dedicated people performs such tasks as feeding, grooming, exercising, turnout, stall cleaning, and general farm maintenance.

Equestrian Inc. offers Bright Futures hours to high school students and participates in the Hillsborough County Community Service Program. It hosts groups from area high schools, the University of South Florida, and the University of Tampa. At these events, the students are shown how to care for horses and are given hands-on demonstrations. In addition, it has a strong working relationship with Tampa Bay Downs race-track.

Our late founder, Glenda Smith, said, "Those involved are paid via love given them from the animals, not with money."

That still sums up how we feel about our great volunteers.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"The recognition and prestige associated with TAA has opened up a broader spectrum of donor avenues that otherwise were not available to us. We are honored to be accredited by TAA and appreciate their support so that we may continue to help the off-the-track Thoroughbred."

**FOUNDED:** 1985

## ADDRESS:

4902 Timberlan St.  
Tampa, FL 33549

**PHONE:** (813) 410-9982




## MAIN CONTACT:

DeeAnn Smith

## WEB ADDRESS:

[equestrianinc.org](http://equestrianinc.org)

## SOCIAL:

 [equestrianinctampa](https://www.facebook.com/equestrianinctampa)  
 [@glendas12967972](https://twitter.com/glendas12967972)  
 [@equestrianinctampa](https://www.instagram.com/equestrianinctampa)

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:

25

# Equine Advocates



ELLEN LYNCH

**Ceci Divine, who was a winner on the racetrack under the name Royal Citadel, arrived at her forever home at Equine Advocates Rescue & Sanctuary in New York in May 2018.**

Equine Advocates is a national, nonprofit rescue, educational, and advocacy organization founded in 1996 in response to the issue of horse slaughter. Structured initially as a rescue operation, the organization expanded in 2004 to include a 140-acre sanctuary in upstate New York, where some 80 horses of all breeds and backgrounds – including off-the-track Thoroughbreds – currently reside. Founder and president Susan Wagner estimates that thousands of equines have been transitioned into better situations through the efforts of those involved with Equine Advocates.

Currently, some 80 horses, donkeys, ponies, and mules reside at the sanctuary near Chatham, which Wagner describes as “an equine village where they live out their lives in a natural environment, allowing them to socialize with one other.” Many residents have old injuries and special needs.

In 2006, Equine Advocates opened its Humane Education Center, where classes and seminars are conducted and where visitors can learn about equine issues and responsible horse guardianship. The group has participated in cruelty investigations and held symposiums for law enforcement in dealing with such cases.

Equine Advocates has been recognized by Thoroughbred Charities of America and the New York State Humane Association for its work, in addition to being accredited by both the TAA and the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries.

“We combine our rescue efforts with advocacy in order to effect change, educate people, and promote humane treatment of horses,” Wagner said. “In addition to providing sanctuary and a loving home for our rescued horses, we focus on teaching people how to become better, more responsible horse guardians.”

## TESTIMONIAL:

“We are grateful to TAA for its generous support. As a sanctuary, horses who come in remain here for life; many have special needs that require more veterinary services. It is wonderful to have TAA funding to help pay for their maintenance as well as for many of their medical needs.”

**FOUNDED:** 1996

## ADDRESS:

P. O. Box 354  
Chatham, N.Y. 12037

**PHONE:** (518) 392-0175




## MAIN CONTACT:

Susan Wagner

## WEB ADDRESS:

[equineadvocates.org](http://equineadvocates.org)

## SOCIAL:

-  [equineadvocates.org](http://equineadvocates.org)
-  [@EquineAdvocates](https://twitter.com/EquineAdvocates)
-  [@equineadvocates](https://www.instagram.com/equineadvocates)

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF

## THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:

15

# Equine Encore Foundation

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

ADOPTION



WENDY DAVIS

Equine Encore's late executive director Patti Shirley gives treats to a couple of off-the-track Thoroughbreds at the Arizona sanctuary.

"We're living a dream," Dale Shirley told his wife, Patti, during their years of racing and breeding. That dream ended in 2002, when Dale died, leaving Patti Shirley, a noted Southwest-based conditioner, on her own with a 120-acre Arizona farm. Over time, Shirley's goals changed, and another dream was born. By 2005, she had transitioned her Tucson property from a breeding and training facility into an aftercare farm, and Equine Encore Foundation began as a "Social Security system" for ex-racehorses.

The "birth announcement" of Equine Encore was made in the winner's circle at Sunland Park, and within 24 hours, it had acquired Oh Gracie, a Thoroughbred with a slab-fractured knee. He arrived at the farm in 2005 and the now-25-year-old gelding remains there today.

"Racing is a business," Shirley said, "and in business, when machinery no longer functions, you get rid of it. Here, we're dealing with living creatures who have given us so much and ask so little in return. We need to step up and take

care of our athletes."

Shirley did so in a big way. Today, approximately 80 former racehorses reside in dignified retirement at Equine Encore Foundation. Better-known residents include 2003 Sapling Stakes winner Dashboard Drummer, 11-time stakes winner Wind Water, and Del Mar stakes winner Raetodandty.

Unlike many aftercare organizations, Equine Encore's focus is strictly on retirement and adoption. Many residents suffered career-ending injuries – bowed tendons, fractured sesamoids – that likely prohibit them from second careers.

Equine Encore is funded through private, tax-deductible donations. Support can be given on a one-time basis or as regular monthly support.

"These athletes did their jobs, paid their dues," Shirley said. "They deserve a dignified retirement."

Shirley died in September 2019 at age 74. Her passion and legacy live on through Equine Encore.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"TAA allows us to provide for the 'wounded warriors' whose grit and determination left them with large earnings but nagging injuries. This accreditation makes it possible for us to provide a '401k retirement plan' for our approximately 80 permanent residents with big fields, safe fences, and full feeders."

**FOUNDED:** 2005

## MAILING ADDRESS:

3225 N. El Burrito Ave.  
Tucson, AZ 85705

**PHONE:** (520) 349-6008

## MAIN CONTACT:

Burt Kinerk  
bkinerk@kinerklaw.com

## WEB ADDRESS:

[equineencorefoundation.org](http://equineencorefoundation.org)

## SOCIAL:

[EquineEncoreFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/EquineEncoreFoundation)

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**

80

# Equine Rescue and Adoption Foundation

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



Luv My Country came to Equine Rescue and Adoption after a brief career on the racetrack.

The Equine Rescue and Adoption Foundation (ERAF) in Palm City, Fla., has been an important resource for aftercare in Martin County since 2000.

Our mission is simple: We rescue horses facing a bleak future through no fault of their own. They have been neglected, abandoned, abused, or slaughter-bound. Many have had wonderful careers as performance horses and racehorses. Many can simply no longer be cared for by their owners.

When these horses arrive at our gates, it is the beginning of a new life for them. We rehabilitate, retrain, and determine an appropriate new career for them in an adoptive home. Our rescues have excelled in performance arenas, as pleasure horses, on the trail, and as pasture pals.

The 17 acres upon which ERAF conducts its rescue activities include a 23-stall barn, a hay-

storage barn, and a beautiful educational center for volunteer training, community service groups, and special programs. All pastures and paddocks have three-sided shelters and a direct water source.

ERAF is in the process of developing the adjoining 8.5 acres to its barn facility and constructing fencing, shelters, and additional pastures to accommodate more horses in need of new homes and new lives.

ERAF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with an annual operational budget nearing \$500,000 and is totally dependent on individual donations, fundraisers, grants, and private foundations.

Its seven-member staff and dedicated core of more than 50 volunteers make this magic happen in South Florida.

## TESTIMONIAL:

“Our board places great importance on maintaining high standards and being financially responsible and transparent. Being accredited by the TAA reinforces our goals and reassures our donors that we respect their contributions.”

**FOUNDED:** 2000

**ADDRESS:**  
6400 SW Martin Hwy.  
Palm City, FL 34990

**PHONE:**  
(772) 220-0150

**MAIN CONTACT:**  
Denise LeClair-Robbins

**WEB ADDRESS:** [eraf.org](http://eraf.org)

**SOCIAL:**  
f Equine-Rescue-and-Adoption-Foundation-ERAF-Horse-Rescue-Palm-City-FL-346614929349  
t @ERAFHorseRescue  
i @erafhorserescue

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**  
12

# Equine Rescue of Aiken

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION

EQUINE-ASSISTED PROGRAM



EQUINE RESCUE OF AIKEN

**Flashmans Papers, Four Cross Roads, Tie and Tails, and Lumbee Bayou collectively earned \$333,141 on the racetrack before being accepted by Equine Rescue of Aiken.**

Located in the heart of Aiken, South Carolina's famed horse country, Equine Rescue of Aiken is a pastoral sanctuary for unwanted horses. Established in 2006, the mostly volunteer-run operation has adopted out approximately 700 horses, many of them at risk and in need of a new home.

Equine Rescue of Aiken also works with racetracks to identify and acquire horses that are no longer competitive, to repurpose them for second careers in forever homes, and the organization accepts horses from owners no longer able to care for them.

Equine Rescue of Aiken is the largest horse-rescue center in the southeastern United States. Its 90 acres include rehab/quarantine paddocks, stalls, pastures, and paddocks with spacious run-in sheds. At any given time, the organization is home to 60 to 70 equines of all breeds – from ex-racehorses, draft crosses, former polo ponies, and even a feral mustang.

About a dozen horses are available for adoption at any given time. Several horses are permanent sanctuary residents.

In addition to adoption and rehab, Equine Rescue of Aiken is a contributing member to its community, hosting educational workshops, volunteer youth days, and school visits.

Uniquely, the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization supports the local county Pre-Trial Intervention Program, in which first-time offenders may fulfill required community service hours by working at the facility. It also partners with the Saratoga War Horse program to assist war veterans suffering from PTSD by using horses as therapy to heal emotional wounds.

Annual operating costs are approximately \$500,000, which pays for veterinary and farrier care, tack, feed, bedding, and grooming supplies. Volunteers do most of the hands-on chores, as well as assisting at events, communicating via social media, coordinating mailings, and producing e-newsletters. Fundraisers have included a pancake breakfast and a barn and tack sale.

Tax-deductible donations may be made to Equine Rescue of Aiken.

## TESTIMONIAL:

“Accreditation by a national organization such as the TAA shows the community that we operate with the best interest of our horses and reassures them that their donations are going to a responsible organization. The assistance allows us to continue our mission of repurposing and rehoming off-the-track Thoroughbreds.”

**FOUNDED:** 2006

**ADDRESS:**  
532 Glenwood Dr.  
Aiken, SC 29803

**PHONE:** (803) 643-1850

**MAIN CONTACT:**  
Jim Rhodes

**WEB ADDRESS:**  
[aikenequinerescue.org](http://aikenequinerescue.org)

**SOCIAL:**  
f AikenEquineRescue  
t @AikenEquineResc  
i @aikenequinerescue

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**

30

# Final Furlong



**Final Furlong serves as a sanctuary, plus retrains and places ex-racehorses in new homes.**

Final Furlong, founded in 2009 by Stephanie Brennan, has placed dozens of ex-racehorses into new homes or safe and secure retirement while establishing itself as a leader in Thoroughbred aftercare.

The Final Furlong team, comprised of Brennan and volunteers, scans entries for at-risk runners that are heading down in class. Using funds garnered through donations and grants, the organization acquires targeted racehorses and brings them to its Ocala, Fla., base, where they remain for rehab and evaluation until deemed ready to move forward.

There are no adoption fees, though prospective new owners are thoroughly screened. A contract must be completed, accompanied by a letter from an industry professional indicating their ability to care for an off-the-track Thoroughbred. An additional letter from the veterinarian who will care for the horse also is required, along with

photos of the new home.

Brennan has worked alongside her husband, trainer Niall Brennan, developing some of America's top racehorses, including 2013 Kentucky Derby winner Orb, 2013 Belmont winner Palace Malice, and champion Dayatthespa. Many of Final Furlong's graduates came through that program, including Gunpowder Creek and Canaan Land, retrained as a dressage competitor and pony horse, respectively. Others have gone on to careers as eventers, hunter/jumpers, trail horses, and companion animals. Horses such as stakes-placed Hammock and royally bred Indian Key successfully transitioned from the racetrack to the show ring. Several remain permanent retirees at Final Furlong.

According to Stephanie Brennan, "Final Furlong simply wants to give the horses who have given so much to us an opportunity to excel at another career."

**TESTIMONIAL:**

"TAA has allowed Final Furlong an opportunity to provide a safe retirement to our (lifers) – those who have soundness issues that make placement impossible. They now can live out their lives with the care and comfort they deserve."

**FOUNDED:** 2009

**ADDRESS:**  
 9119 NW Hwy 225A  
 Ocala, FL 34482

**PHONE:** (352) 427-8540

**MAIN CONTACT:**  
 Stephanie Brennan

**WEB ADDRESS:**  
[niallbrennan.com/ffhr.html](http://niallbrennan.com/ffhr.html)

**SOCIAL:**  
 f NiallBrennanStables  
 @niallbrennanstb  
 @niallbrennanstbls

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**

15

# Finger Lakes Thoroughbred Adoption Program

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



Old Army, a 2011 graduate of the Finger Lakes program, shows in dressage.

## TESTIMONIAL:

“The accreditation of FLTAP by the TAA is a significant endorsement of our efforts as the first ontrack Thoroughbred adoption program in North America. Its ongoing support of our program is paramount to our success.”

**FOUNDED:** 2006

## ADDRESS:

5757 NYS Route 96,  
Farmington, NY 14425

**PHONE:** (585) 500-5333

## MAIN CONTACT:

Julie Smith

## WEB ADDRESS:

[fltap.org](http://fltap.org)

## SOCIAL:

 FLTAPAdoption

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:

35

“Giving horses a second chance to be winners” is the noble credo that the Finger Lakes Thoroughbred Adoption Program lives by.

FLTAP was founded in 2006 when Finger Lakes racetrack management and the local Horsemen’s Benevolent and Protective Association division decided something must be done to protect at-risk runners, most notably those headed down the claiming ladder. This award-winning retraining and adoption program has helped more than 400 horses find new homes.

FLTAP was the first adoption organization located on racetrack grounds. Delaware North, the parent of Finger Lakes Gaming and Race-track, donated the two-acre site upon which a 10,000-square-foot, 16-stall barn now stands, built with state funding, a grant from the American Humane Association, and contributions from donors such as Wanda Polisseni, for whose Purple Haze Stables the center is named. The facility also includes a riding arena, turnout paddocks, and round pens.

Local horsemen help fund the program by contributing \$2 for every start a horse makes, an amount matched by the Finger Lakes Racing Association. FLTAP also hosts fundraising dinners, polo matches, benefit horse shows, golf tournaments, and holiday events, with money going directly to the program. Volunteers donate time, talent, and product in addition to cash.

Horses entering FLTAP must be reasonably sound and have the potential for a second career, whether in the show ring or for pleasure riding. Successful adoptions have included I B a Babydoll (aka “Pepper,” jumper), Five Aces (“Ace,” trail riding), and City Mint (barrel racing). Most FLTAP horses ended their racing careers in lower-level claiming races at Finger Lakes.

Prospective adopters undergo an in-depth screening process, including an interview, to determine if they are able to provide a good home for an ex-racehorse. When accepted, they are matched with horses appropriate for their skill level, experience, and goals.

# Florida Thoroughbred Retirement and Adoptive Care Program

**SANCTUARY**  
**REHABILITATION**  
**RETRAINING/ADOPTION**



FLORIDA TRAC

## TESTIMONIAL:

“The appreciated collaborative efforts and support provided by the TAA are vital to assist Florida TRAC in obtaining our goals of excellence in the transition of off-the-track Thoroughbreds from their racing careers in South Florida to their new careers. The TAA funding ensures our high level of expectation to provide excellent care, nutrition, and training is met.”

**Florida TRAC’s retraining process includes fundamentals to prepare horses for a new career.**

The Florida Thoroughbred Retirement and Adoptive Care Program was established in 2010 with a focus on providing rest, rehabilitation, retraining, and adoptive services to horses that previously competed at Gulfstream Park and Gulfstream Park West. Part of Florida TRAC’s primary purpose is to start the retraining process to allow as many horses as possible to find a loving forever home.

Graduates of Florida TRAC have been retrained for a wide range of second careers, including the show ring, trail riding, eventing, therapy for children and veterans, police work, pasture companions, and much more. Adoption fees vary, depending on the level of training and the potential of each individual.

Florida TRAC keeps an open line of communication with adopters throughout the lifetime of their adoptee.

Florida TRAC’s success stories include such horses as Tizrobertcharles, who after seven

starts and one win is now thriving as a member of the Davie Police Department Mounted Unit, and Charming Kid, who after eight career starts and one win is now training for a career in the eventing discipline.

Florida TRAC places about a horse per week, so many of our retired Thoroughbreds are now enjoying leisurely lives as trail horses or flourishing in new competitive careers.

“We are so appreciative of every volunteer and staff member who make Florida TRAC a thriving resource for off-the-track Thoroughbreds,” said Jena Antonucci, vice president of Florida TRAC.

“Watching our retired racing athletes thrive in their new adoptive homes is not only meaningful but necessary as the Thoroughbred industry continues to evolve.

“Having the support of horsemen and jockeys continues to show the united message of how important proper retirement is for our athletes.”

**FOUNDED:** 2010

## ADDRESS:

6650 Kanner Hwy.  
Indiantown, FL 34956

**PHONE:** (833) 352-8722

## MAIN CONTACTS:

Katie Schmit, Jena Antonucci

## WEB ADDRESS:

[fltrac.org](http://fltrac.org)

## SOCIAL:

[floridatrac](https://www.facebook.com/floridatrac)  
 [@FloridaTrac](https://twitter.com/FloridaTrac)  
 [@floridatrac](https://www.instagram.com/floridatrac)

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION

# Friends of Ferdinand



JPH PHOTOGRAPHY

**Friends of Ferdinand has an internship program that allows volunteers the opportunity to work with horses that are being retrained to transition to new careers.**

Friends of Ferdinand Inc. (FFI) is an Indiana-based nonprofit dedicated to promoting responsible retirement for racehorses in Indiana and the Midwest with options for second careers.

Established in 2005, Friends of Ferdinand took its name from the famed racehorse Ferdinand, a Kentucky Derby winner who earned millions on the track but was ultimately sent to slaughter. To honor his memory, FFI has established a very successful retraining and adoption program. Additionally, FFI offers an internship program that affords young people who are interested in a horse-industry career the opportunity to work with horses in aftercare or preparing for adoption.

Each horse receives a thorough vet check to identify any physical limitations and generally stays a minimum of 90 days for evaluation and retraining. Once ready to begin work, Friends of Ferdinand's retraining philosophy is: "Let the horse set the pace." Whether it takes three

months or six, Friends of Ferdinand horses are ready for new careers with amateur riders.

The goal of Friends of Ferdinand is to work closely with adopters to find the right home for each horse the first time. The adoption process begins with an application that includes veterinarian, farrier, and personal references. Potential adopters are required to visit and ride their potential horses with FFI's head trainer. In addition, adopters are offered a 30-day trial so that they may take their new horse home for a prepurchase exam and evaluations by their own veterinarian, farrier, and trainer.

These adoption and match-making processes have proved effective, with an almost 100 percent year-over-year successful adoption rate. FFI grads have become trail and dressage horses, such as Logan Township, a gelding who raced 78 times, and Right to War, who raced three times. Others have transitioned into hunter/jumpers, eventers, and pleasure horses.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"TAA provides a consistent, stable, and reliable funding source for equine programs that does not exist elsewhere. With that, we are able to confidently plan and implement strategies for sustainable growth in order to better meet the needs of the horses and horsemen in Indiana and the Midwest. The horses benefit when we all work together."

**FOUNDED:** 2005

## ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 1784  
Indianapolis, IN 46206

## EMAIL:

[contact@friendsofferdinand.com](mailto:contact@friendsofferdinand.com)

## MAIN CONTACT:

Sara Busbice

## WEB ADDRESS:

[friendsofferdinand.com](http://friendsofferdinand.com)

## SOCIAL:

- OTTBsforFFI
- @Ferdinators
- @friendsofferdinandinc

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**  
30

# Galloping Out



EVA ORLANDO

Winston, a son of Dynaformer who raced as Gold Former and earned nearly \$150,000, is being ridden by 12-year-old Eva at the Lamplight Equestrian Center in Wayne, Ill.

Gallop Out is the on-track adoption program serving the two Chicago-area Thoroughbred racetracks, Arlington Park and Hawthorne Race Course.

Gallop Out began accepting horses in spring 2010. What began with three horses has grown to accommodate as many as 30 at one time, with some 250 successful adoptions.

Gallop Out partners with seven private farms for rest and rehabilitation, retraining, and eventual adoptions. These farms include professional Thoroughbred farms, hunter/jumper barns, and an eventing facility. Several have youth programs, and the kids learn old-school horsemanship working with these retired racehorses.

Gallop Out requires an application for an individual to be considered as a potential adopter. Not only are references checked, but as often as possible someone will visit the stable or farm where the horse is going to live. Adopters

must ride for the farm trainers to guarantee a good fit. Gallop Out follows up with pictures of the horse at six months and one year, and retains the right to do a physical inspection at any time. It tries to stay in touch with the adopters, such as via Facebook, and has found that these new owners can't wait to share pictures and videos of their horse's accomplishments.

Gallop Out is in the fortunate position to have the support of both Chicago-area racetracks. In addition, owners contribute with an optional per-start fee.

Gallop Out has been rewarded with a grant from Thoroughbred Charities of America for three consecutive years. It is generously supported by the owners and trainers in Chicago, as well as several private foundations.

Racing fans take a keen interest in the program. Gallop Out also hosts fundraising events throughout the year and does community outreach.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"Becoming accredited by the TAA was a benchmark for Gallop Out. For as much as the funding has helped us maintain additional horses, the honor of accreditation has lifted the program in the eyes of the Chicago racing community and has translated into additional donations."

**FOUNDED:** 2010

**ADDRESS:**  
7301 W. 25th St., Suite 321  
North Riverside, IL 60546

**PHONE:** (708) 652- 2201

**MAIN CONTACT:** Janice Ely

**WEBSITE:**  
[www.gallopingout.org](http://www.gallopingout.org)

**SOCIAL:**  
 [itharacing](https://www.facebook.com/itharacing)  
 [@itharacing](https://twitter.com/itharacing)  
 [@itharacing](https://www.instagram.com/itharacing)

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**  
24

# Glen Ellen Vocational Academy

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



Glen Ellen Vocational Academy, located in the wine country of Sonoma Valley, is one of America's oldest rescue organizations and has provided safe haven for hundreds of horses.

Glen Ellen Vocational Academy (GEVA) is one of America's oldest rescue organizations, founded in California 25 years ago by former racetrack steward Pam Berg. The foundation has rehabilitated, placed, and provided safe haven for hundreds of Thoroughbreds, for which Berg has been honored with the Dogwood Dominion Award as one of racing's "unsung heroes." She was also inducted into the Equus Hall of Fame of the Sonoma Horse Council.

"GEVA was founded for injured, retired, and abused horses or those just in need of a home," Berg said. "GEVA is dedicated to preventing slaughter, needless euthanasia, and abuse of horses in any way."

Most horses become permanent pensioners at the sanctuary since they don't have the option of a second career. "There is so much emphasis on second careers nowadays that those who can't have a second career need to be assured of a comfortable retirement," Berg said.

GEVA, also accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, focuses on the rehabilitation and retirement of the sport's noble racetrack warriors, from the lowest claimer

to the stakes winners. GEVA's mission is to be the best friend and advocate for each individual horse.

GEVA has an established relationship with Santa Rosa Junior College, with Berg being on its Equine Advisory Committee. UC-Davis Veterinary Medicine Club members come to GEVA for their dental wet labs twice a year, and many Sonoma State University students do their volunteer hours at the farm. Clinics and seminars can be arranged upon request, as well as farm tours. Through fundraising and informational efforts, GEVA attempts to educate the public about horse racing, as well as the inherent responsibility in the ownership and care of horses.

GEVA is fortunate to have many supporters, including Ridgeway Ranch, the home of the famous Seabiscuit.

GEVA is currently located among the vineyards in beautiful Sonoma Valley. However, a 136-acre farm has been purchased in Oregon to which the farm will eventually move.

GEVA is an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization totally dependent upon the generous grants and tax-deductible charitable donations.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"TAA grants have provided much-needed funding to provide for these noble Thoroughbreds, who have given their lives to the racing industry and need a comfortable sanctuary in which to retire. Some go on to second careers, but others have a well-earned retirement and just enjoy being horses."

**FOUNDED:** 1995

## ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 2101  
Glen Ellen, CA 95442

## PHONE:

(707) 527-8092

## MAIN CONTACT:

Pam Berg

## WEB ADDRESS:

[glenellenfarms.com/geva](http://glenellenfarms.com/geva)

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:

30

# Harmony and Hope Horse Haven

SANCTUARY



Ruth Plenty of Harmony and Hope Horse Haven with F W Pirate, a New Mexico-bred gelding who won just one of 16 lifetime starts, earning \$2,982, and now lives happily in a sanctuary.

During the mid-1990s, owner and breeder Ruth Plenty observed a disturbing trend – that injured, old, or unsuccessful racehorses were loaded onto trailers and sent to auction. It didn't seem right, so she decided to do something to stem that heart-breaking tide.

Plenty and her husband, Dennis, began rescuing horses whenever and wherever they could, absorbing the cost largely out of pocket, and eventually setting up Harmony and Hope Horse Haven as a sanctuary for ex-racehorses.

"This is the best job I've ever had," said Ruth Plenty, who performs many of the daily tasks at the 40-acre Pile of Old Rocks Ranch, the home base of Harmony and Hope. "All of our horses are success stories. They came off the track unwanted, with no place to go – but did not end up abandoned or at feedlot auctions. Instead, they spend their days eating, sleeping, and being groomed. They know they have a home – they

know contentment."

At any given time, some 35 horses live in permanent retirement on Plenty's property, located 2 1/2 hours outside of Tucson, Ariz.; most of them are Thoroughbreds, and several are stallions. According to Plenty, about 90 percent of Harmony and Hope's lifetime residents earned less than \$45,000, many after racing for years.

The current herd ranges in age from 5 to 36, with earnings up to \$175,000, the horses having raced in New York, Florida, Washington, California, and Canada. Regardless of racing career, medical issues, or personalities, the horses are provided a lifetime home at Harmony and Hope.

All incoming horses are placed in three-week quarantine, during which they are thoroughly evaluated and any health issues are addressed.

Harmony and Hope has been recognized by Thoroughbred Charities of America, CARMA, and After the Finish Line, as well as being accredited by the TAA.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"TAA requirements for the care of Thoroughbreds are highly approved and recognized by other organizations and individuals; to be recognized as meeting these standards is an honor. To meet TAA standards for documentation, my 'paperwork' had to become organized. Accomplished TAA staff were so helpful and patient. Thank you, TAA."

**FOUNDED:** 2005

**LOCATION:**  
Portal, AZ

**MAILING ADDRESS:**  
P.O. Box 173  
Rodeo, NM 88056

**PHONE:** (520) 558-1950 (land)  
(602) 540-9413 (cell)

**MAIN CONTACT:**  
Ruth Plenty

**WEB ADDRESS:**  
harmonyandhopehorsehaven.org

**SOCIAL:**  
f harmonyandhopehorsehaven

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**  
35

# Heart of Phoenix Equine Rescue

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



Heart of Phoenix team with Lord Shamrock (right), the first horse helped by the organization.

Heart of Phoenix Equine Rescue is West Virginia's largest and most effective equine advocacy organization. Founded at a time when there were no active organizations in the area, Heart of Phoenix works throughout Appalachia with a united group of volunteers and partners to improve the outlook for horses in the region.

The organization assists local animal control and law enforcement officers, educates the public, and has become a leader in the local equine industry, creating lasting and positive change. As an advocate for all horses in Appalachia, where poverty is rife, the nonprofit knows the need for education and assistance in the region.

Heart of Phoenix strives to work at the root of

area issues through clinics, educational events, blogs, and other in-person services to be advocates for good horsemanship and a strong equine industry in the region.

The organization's focus is to improve the outlook for horses, not only the horses currently in its care but for the long term. Horses in its care receive the rehab and training they need to become awesome equine partners for adopters.

Heart of Phoenix also strives to create more good horsemen and horsewomen, so there are more suitable homes and fewer horses in need of rescue and assistance. The horses of this region have a valuable voice thanks to Heart of Phoenix's supporters.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"We felt TAA accreditation was the highest seal of approval possible in the equine rescue world. It lets our donors and supporters know that we operate in a transparent, honest, and excellent manner for the horses in our care."

**FOUNDED:** 2009

## ADDRESS:

P.O. BOX 81  
Shoals, WV 25562

## PHONE:

(304) 784-4061




## MAIN CONTACT:

Tinia Creamer

## WEB ADDRESS:

[www.WVhorserescue.org](http://www.WVhorserescue.org).

## SOCIAL:

-  [HeartofPhoenixEquinerescue](https://www.facebook.com/HeartofPhoenixEquinerescue)
-  [@WVhorserescue](https://twitter.com/WVhorserescue)
-  [@heart\\_of\\_phoenix\\_equine\\_rescue](https://www.instagram.com/heart_of_phoenix_equine_rescue)

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**

8

# Hidden Acres Rescue for Thoroughbreds

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



Florida-based Hidden Acres focuses on helping ex-racehorses find a new home or second career.

Founded in September 2011, Hidden Acres Rescue for Thoroughbreds (HART for Horses) is committed to being the voice for off-the-track Thoroughbreds on Florida's Space Coast. Nestled on seven serene acres between a national wildlife refuge on its western border, and a recreational area to its south, HART provides miles of riding trails through to the Canaveral Groves.

The main barn is well-ventilated for the summer heat and rated for winds up to 150 mph to withstand the hurricane season of Florida's eastern coastline. With 15 turn-out pastures, a large jumping and schooling arena, and a standard dressage arena, HART offers a full array of facilities and services geared toward rehabilitation and re-homing. It also offers traditional lessons, boarding, and a growing interest in equine therapy.

Built on a belief that education and outreach improve the lives of those in their community, as well as the lives of the equine athletes they rescue, HART regularly opens its barn doors to the local community.

Speaking about one such event, Suzanna

Norris, HART founder and executive director, said, "The ASPCA Help A Horse Day contest is a wonderful opportunity for our team to welcome the residents and businesses of Brevard County into our barn and help spread awareness about the at-risk horses in our community who are in need of loving homes. Horses are majestic, loving animals, and we hope our local supporters will come out to help us so we can continue our life-saving efforts for years to come."

To date, HART has helped more than 150 retired racehorses find success in their new careers, including three who qualified for the American Eventing Championship in 2017, and several who are working as therapy horses to serve the local community.

Those people who live in the area or are planning to visit the Cocoa/Cocoa Beach area can help by volunteering their time. As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, HART offers a variety of ways to provide financial support, from sponsoring a horse, business sponsorships, traditional donations, and even shopping online via the Amazon Smile program.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"The benefits of TAA accreditation started the moment we began filling out the application, allowing us to more effectively establish our foundation and set standards for success. Since accreditation, HART has additional funds to grow, and allow us to help more horses. We hold the backing of the TAA in high regard and ensure daily that we uphold the standards expected by accreditation."

**YEAR FOUNDED:** 2011

**ADDRESS:** 6360 Arborwood Ave.  
Cocoa, FL 32927

**PHONE:** (321) 543-2924

**MAIN CONTACT:** Suzanna Norris

**WEB ADDRESS:**  
hartforhorses.org

## SOCIAL:

 hartforhorses  
 @HARTforHORSES  
 @hartforhorses

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**  
10

# Hope After Racing Thoroughbreds

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



DERITH VOGT

Hope After Racing graduate Italian Monarch is now successfully training in dressage.

Hope After Racing Thoroughbreds (HART) was created to provide rehabilitation, retraining, and ultimately adoption for Thoroughbreds training and/or racing in Iowa. Our mission is to ensure a safe, temporary home for injured or noncompetitive Thoroughbred racehorses with uncertain futures that had raced at Prairie Meadows Racetrack.

HART provides a peaceful environment and experienced care for each horse's individual recuperative needs with adequate time to transition from the racetrack environment. Once they are ready, horses begin retraining with the goal to prepare them for second careers and/or homes.

HART has been active since 2010 and has placed more than 50 horses. HART puts the needs of the horse first and endeavors to address any injuries, followed by adequate rehabilitation as we get to know each horse and their potential for a second career.

We believe that every horse benefits from daily handling and being taught solid ground manners, so they are a good citizen in their next career.

HART is a lean organization staffed by volunteers striving to find the perfect adoptive

situation for every horse in our care, with the goal of placing each in a forever home. We are available to help adopters with any problems that arise. In the event an adoptive horse must be returned for any reason, we take the horse back and facilitate the readoption process.

HART is the only rehabilitation, retraining, and adoption organization recognized by all racing organizations in Iowa. In fact, HART's board is constructed to include a representative of each group, specifically the Iowa Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association, Iowa Thoroughbred Breeders and Owners Associations, Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino, and the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission.

Along with these groups from racing, HART also incorporates board members from the overall horse industry.

We pride ourselves in bringing the two worlds together to create the best possible solution for the horses placed in our care.

HART has three veterinarians serving on the volunteer board, and has an excellent working relationship with Iowa State University Veterinarian College to assist with our most challenging cases.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"Obtaining accreditation has been a process in the works for some time, and we are proud to have finally achieved that goal. Along the way of becoming accredited, we have identified some areas of improvement that we believe will enhance our abilities to help place Thoroughbreds coming off the track and finding new careers and homes."

**FOUNDED:** 2010

**ADDRESS:**  
1 Prairie Meadows Dr.  
Altoona, IA 50009

**PHONE:** (515) 967-4804

**MAIN CONTACT:**  
Jon Moss

**EMAIL ADDRESS:**  
info@iahart.org

**WEB ADDRESS:**  
iahart.org

**SOCIAL:**  
f hopeafterracingthoroughbreds

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**

20

# Hope for Horses

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



TERRIE COATES MOON

Team Hope For Horses participates during the 2019 California State Fair in Sacramento.

Better is a never-ending quest. Here at Hope for Horses, we continue to evolve in our efforts to showcase our re-careered Thoroughbreds.

Our goals of transitioning these magnificent animals into other disciplines include providing training and mental/emotional wellness. We believe educating, training, and molding our charges makes them better prepared to find life-long and forever homes.

Anita Markiewicz, president and founder of Hope for Horses, is a Level II Centered Riding instructor, a Certified CHA (Certified Horsemanship Associate) instructor, and has decades of experience in dressage and horsemanship. By offering this experience and continuing to learn and grow, Hope for Horses helps our horses become good equine citizens, ready to go into many different areas of equestrian life.

As an education-based facility, Hope for Horses

offers continued lessons and training to all its adopted horses as well as other horses in the community. Nationally known clinicians are brought in several times a year to broaden staff knowledge. Hope for Horses is part of The Forever Foundation with Trevor Carter, a talented horseman. His online video lessons and challenges give us goals to achieve with each horse, working from where each horse is individually.

Hope for Horses maintains a presence in many venues promoting the greatness of retired racehorses. We are active at our state's horse expos and fairs. As part of the California State Fair, we showcase our teams in quadrilles and performances with several shows daily.

Educating the general public about our horses and how we help them learn a new life has brought many to join the equestrian community, providing more homes for more horses.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"TAA has helped us 'up our game.' Hope for Horses strives to achieve a level of proficiency above the norm, and as stewards of these majestic creatures, it is great to be part of a team that believes in those same principles. A team goal of providing excellent care and training creates a horse well suited to be a forever partner to a new person and home."

**FOUNDED:** 2013

### ADDRESS:

10576 Arno Rd.  
Galt, CA 95632

**PHONE:** (916) 591-2481

### MAIN CONTACT:

Anita Markiewicz

### WEB ADDRESS:

hope4horses.com

### SOCIAL:

hopeforhorsesCA  
 @hopeforhorses22  
 @hopeforhorsesca

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**

32

# Horse and Hound Rescue Foundation

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



**Domain's Rap, a stakes winner and multiple graded stakes-placed earner of \$880,000, and adopter Ciara Bowen.**

Horse and Hound Rescue Foundation is located on 50 acres in Guthrie, Okla. We have a great working relationship with Oklahoma owners and trainers.

When a racehorse is ready to be responsibly retired from the racetrack, either the owner or trainer calls and we accept the racehorse into our program. Just because a horse doesn't do well at the track doesn't mean they will not succeed at another job. We have adopted horses that are now competing in eventing, dressage, jumping, hunting, barrels, search and rescue, trail ranch work, and just being someone's best friend.

Horse and Hound Rescue Foundation gives each horse all the time it needs when it comes into our facility. We slowly introduce each horse to different size pastures so we know they will be safe in their outdoor setting. We

then start on groundwork – some horses pick up on things right away, while others need a little more time and attention. We allow the horses to tell us when they are ready to move on to the next step. We want to make sure we are restarting them at a pace that will help them with their future. Our volunteers work with each individual horse so that we can help pair them with the right adopter and the right experience level for both rider and horse.

To adopt one of these great horses, a potential adopter must complete an adoption application on our website. We verify everything on the application and check references and the location where the horse will be kept. If local, we ask each adopter to come out to meet the horses so we can make sure it is a good pairing. We, of course, love updates and pictures of our adopted horses in their new homes.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"We feel the TAA is needed to provide guidelines so that the owners and trainers responsibly retiring Thoroughbreds and the people looking to adopt can have peace of mind that their horses will be taken care of and adopted to loving, caring homes."

**FOUNDED:** 2016

## ADDRESS:

2350 S. Midwest Blvd.  
Guthrie, OK 73044

## PHONE:

(405) 206-4689

## MAIN CONTACT:

Nelda Kettles

## WEB ADDRESS:

[horseandhoundrescue.com](http://horseandhoundrescue.com)

## SOCIAL:

 [horseandhoundrescue](https://www.facebook.com/horseandhoundrescue)

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF

## THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:

100

# Illinois Equine Humane Center

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



The Illinois Equine Humane Center has been a rescue, rehab, and adoption facility since 2008.

The Illinois Equine Humane Center was founded in 2008 specifically to address the need in Illinois to protect horses from cruelty, neglect, and slaughter. Illinois Equine Humane Center and its founders played a vital role in the closure of the slaughter plant formerly operated in nearby DeKalb, Ill.

Since its inception, Illinois Equine Humane Center has rescued numerous horses of all breeds, including many Thoroughbreds, from undesirable situations, and has served as an outlet for responsible owners looking to place their racehorses into good homes.

While in the care of the Illinois Equine Humane Center, former racehorses receive the rehabilitation needed before being retrained for new careers as pleasure, dressage, trail, or

jumping prospects. Potential homes are thoroughly vetted and inspected prior to adoption, and the Illinois Equine Humane Center contract provides a lifelong safety net for horses adopted through its program. Any horse adopted from Illinois Equine Humane Center can be returned to the organization, no questions asked, at any point during its lifetime.

While the vast majority of horses at Illinois Equine Humane Center are adopted into wonderful homes, the organization also serves as permanent sanctuary to several former runners who, due to special needs, are not suitable for adoption.

In addition to accepting horses relinquished by racing owners, the Illinois Equine Humane Center also works to rescue Thoroughbreds from low-end auctions where horses are in peril.

## TESTIMONIAL:

“The advent of TAA is unequivocally the single greatest advancement toward providing proper aftercare for Thoroughbreds whose racing careers have ended. TAA’s support has made our work to re-home horses far less burdensome than in years past, and also has allowed us to increase the number of Thoroughbreds we are able to help.”

**FOUNDED:** 2008

## ADDRESS:

45W050 Beith Rd.  
Maple Park, IL 60151

## PHONE:


(815) 761-4937


## MAIN CONTACT:

Gail Vacca

**WEB ADDRESS:** [ilehc.org](http://ilehc.org)

## SOCIAL:

 [ILequine](https://www.facebook.com/ILequine)

 [@HumaneCenter](https://twitter.com/HumaneCenter)

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**

20

# Kentucky Equine Adoption Center

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION

EQUINE-ASSISTED PROGRAM



MATTHEW DIXON

Blueblend in the 2018 Retired Racehorse Project's Thoroughbred Makeover with Olivia Dixon.

Some of the biggest names in racing threw their support behind the Kentucky Equine Adoption Center when it was founded in 2007. Among them were Racing Hall of Fame horsemen Chris McCarron and Nick Zito and noted owners and breeders Arthur Hancock and the late Marylou Whitney. It has since provided a much-needed service in finding homes for unwanted horses of all breeds, although half the "herd" is generally Thoroughbreds.

Situated on 70 acres near Nicholasville, Ky., the program offers a peaceful haven where equines can relax, recover, and heal until their forever home is found. Incoming horses receive veterinary care and individualized attention before moving on to retraining, wherein qualified trainers work with them to establish a safe, solid foundation for the future. By contractual agreement, no adopted animal can ever again be used for racing or breeding. Adoption fees range from \$150 to \$1,500.

One of many success stories from KyEAC is that of Winter Leaf, a 1998 granddaughter of Mr. Prospector. Herself a three-time stakes winner, she won or placed in 18 of 24 starts,

earned \$247,989, and finished third to eventual Hall of Famer Xtra Heat. Only able to produce two foals, Winter Leaf eventually arrived at KyEAC, and within four months a much different, happier horse had found a new home.

KyEAC has three programs in addition to the general horse care that it provides: Take the Reins Education Program, geared toward middle school students, teaching responsible horse ownership, how to give back to the community, and become good citizens; Heads Up Hearts Open Equine Growth and Communication, which offers the horses at KyEAC to professionals conducting equine-assisted therapy, and training in leadership and supervision; and an internship program for university level students.

A grant recipient from the ASPCA, the center also has been supported by organizations such as Keeneland, Churchill Downs, Rood & Riddle, Hagyard, Park Equine, the Kentucky Horse Council, Brennan Equine Welfare Fund, Equus Foundation, the Indiana HBPA, and Thoroughbred Charities of America, in addition to the TAA.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"TAA's support has been critical to the Kentucky Equine Adoption Center and has enabled us to continue providing high-quality care to the Thoroughbreds that need our help in preparing for the next phase of their lives."

**FOUNDED:** 2007

## ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 910124  
Lexington, KY 40591

## PHONE:

(859) 881-5849

## MAIN CONTACT:

Karen Gustin

## WEB ADDRESS:

kyehc.org

## SOCIAL:

- Facebook: KentuckyEquineHumaneCenter
- Twitter: @EquineHumane
- Instagram: @kyequinehumancenter

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF

## THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:

30

# Life Horse Inc.

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



Joe Topper, Life Horse president, with Happy Tuesday, the farm's oldest sanctuary resident.

Life Horse Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization located at Breezy Hill Stables in Thurmont, Md. It provides services to all horse breeds, including sanctuary, rehabilitation, and retraining for adoption.

Horses come to Life Horse from area race tracks, auctions, owner surrenders, and undesirable situations. Currently, Life Horse has two dozen Thoroughbreds. Of those, 12 are sanctuary residents.

New arrivals are assessed by a veterinarian, farrier, and dentist. The horse's training level is evaluated by a trainer to ensure the horse has the best chance to find a suitable lifelong partner. The horses are always welcome back for any reason if necessary.

Life Horse welcomes volunteers to visit and pamper our residents. Its oldest sanctuary resident is Happy Tuesday, 33. He made it known that he was very attached to another elderly Thoroughbred, also from a unsatisfactory situation. He and his 25-year-old friend Steel Bulle have found sanctuary together. Rarely do we see one without the other close by. Sanctuary horses

are eligible for monthly sponsorships to help cover the cost of their care.

An open house is held annually where visitors are welcome to meet and greet the horses. Visitors have the opportunity to learn about responsible horse care and ownership. Horses available for adoption are used to show their versatility to anyone considering this option.

For those uncertain or unfamiliar with horse ownership, Life Horse offers an on-site leasing program. This program allows a potential adopter the chance to get to know the horse and determine if adoption is something they want to pursue.

Life Horse president and farm owner Joe Topper has seen an increased need for safe long-term aftercare.

"Being a Thoroughbred owner myself, I just want to do my part to see that these horses are cared for after life on the track," said Topper, who helps oversee the daily operation of the farm. "Being located where we are with several tracks within about an hour's drive, we feel like we're in a good location to help out."

## TESTIMONIAL:

"The support of the TAA allows Life Horse Inc. the means to assist Thoroughbreds to transition to a second career. If a second career is not in their future, they will be provided a safe sanctuary and retirement home at Life Horse."

**FOUNDED:** 1996

**ADDRESS:**  
15117 Mud College Rd.  
Thurmont, MD 21788

**PHONE:**  
(240) 674-3856

**MAIN CONTACT:**  
Joseph Topper

**WEB ADDRESS:**  
lifehorsebreezyhill.com

**SOCIAL:**  
f LifeHorseInc  
@lifehorseinc

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**

23

# LoneStar Outreach to Place Ex-Racers

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



TOM REARDON

**Lone Star Outreach's mission is to help older racing warhorses find second careers, while inspiring youth through horsemanship education.**

"Every racehorse is waiting to be someone's special champion."

With that credo, LoneStar Outreach to Place Ex-Racers (LOPE) has done business in Texas since 2003. Founded by Lynn Reardon, author of the best-selling, award-winning book "Beyond the Homestretch," LOPE is today one of the country's leading organizations working with off-the-track racehorses.

Established on the premise that horses need jobs, not pity, and that many ex-racers still have much to offer – whether as trail horses, show competitors, pets, or pasture companions – LOPE sees to it that they receive the attention required to become "champions" in a post-racing world.

Believing that a better-educated horse is less likely to be at-risk, and that a well-educated rider makes the best adopter, LOPE provides individualized retraining of horses, along with lessons and clinics for people interested in adopting. LOPE also offers vocational training for at-risk youth, and is in an educational partnership with

the American Association of Equine Veterinary Technicians.

Older stock, yearlings/weanlings, and broodmares are not accepted into LOPE, which accepts only off-the-track horses (of any racing breed) voluntarily donated by their owners or trainers. Each is assessed as to its particular needs, then placed either into rehab or the academy (retraining) program. Horses cannot be adopted until their training regimen is complete.

"For us, it's an honor to work with such tremendous athletes," said Reardon, who had little equine background when she first visited a racetrack backside and fell in love with the heart, intelligence, and athleticism of the horses she encountered. "I couldn't believe that such magnificent athletes could ever be at-risk, and I am honored now to help them transition into new lives.

"Every horse is special – and we believe that every horse needs a vocation in order to be happy and true to its nature."

## TESTIMONIAL:

"TAA has been a tremendous help to LOPE! Thanks to its support, LOPE can commit to horses that need longer-term rehab and retraining. We can offer more public education programs to encourage OTTB ownership. As a TAA-accredited organization, LOPE has attracted much support and interest from new supporters."

## FOUNDED: 2003

## ADDRESS:

901 Darden Hill Rd.  
Driftwood, TX 78619

## PHONE:

(512) 565-1824


## MAIN CONTACT:

Lynn Reardon

## WEB ADDRESS:

[lopetx.org](http://lopetx.org)

## SOCIAL:

 LOPETEXAS

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:

12

# LongRun Thoroughbred Retirement Society

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION

EQUINE-ASSISTED PROGRAM



ROBYN MCLEAN

**Impressive Edge was adopted by Lauren Edwards after coming to LongRun in Canada.**

The relationship between Impressive Edge, a graded stakes-placed runner, and Lauren Edwards typifies the close, loving bond that develops between horse and adopter.

Impressive Edge, a 2014 son of Harlan's Holiday, started 11 times, winning twice and placing third in both the Grade 3 Iowa Derby and Grade 3 Peter Pan Stakes. He earned a total of \$160,746 before a minor tendon injury dictated his retirement. He was sent to LongRun courtesy of owner NK Racing and trainer Roger Attfield.

The \$400,000 price he commanded as a 2-year-old at a sale in Florida speaks to both his beauty and talent. A wonderful mover, Impressive Edge impressed our great farm crew while undergoing basic retraining once his rehab was complete, and he quickly caught the eye of young horsewoman Lauren Edwards, of Ottawa, Ontario, who adopted him in January 2019. Edwards reports that he is a barn favorite, loves cuddles, and that she couldn't be happier with him.

Impressive Edge is one of more than 1,000 retired Thoroughbreds that LongRun Thoroughbred Retirement Society has helped enjoy a happy and dignified retirement, either through adoption, rescue, financial assistance, or third-party placements via networking, since being granted charitable status in 2000. LongRun, the

first formal Thoroughbred retirement program in eastern Canada, has been very fortunate in being given generous support from not only Ontario's racing community but also from both the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance and Thoroughbred Charities of America.

LongRun deals mainly with runners recently retired from the racetrack and has its main office conveniently located on the backstretch of Woodbine racetrack near Toronto. LongRun's retirees were initially cared for by a number of sanctioned foster farms in and around the metropolitan Toronto area but, thanks in large part to a very generous bequest from the late Lana Hershelle Sniderman, the bulk of our horses – we generally care for 50 at a time – moved to a beautiful 100-acre, 46-stall farm in Hillsburgh, Ontario. This centralization has made viewing of potential adoptees much easier.

The farm with its large indoor arena enables LongRun to hold equine-assisted therapy and educational programs in partnership with Woodbine and also serves as a public showcase for some of Ontario's racing stars. These programs not only help people experiencing challenges in their lives but also give a sense of purpose to those four-legged retirees whose age or infirmities dictate a life of sanctuary at LongRun.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"We are most thankful to TAA, whose funding enables LongRun to afford more of our deserving Thoroughbreds with a happy life after racing. In addition, TAA funding will help us continue and, hopefully, expand our equine-assisted therapy program HOPE, which we launched in partnership with the Woodbine Entertainment Group."

**FOUNDED:** 2000

## ADDRESS:

555 Rexdale Blvd., P.O. Box 156,  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M9W 5L2

## PHONE:

(416) 675-3993 ext. 1-3440

## MAIN CONTACT:

Wendy Muir

## WEB ADDRESS:

[longrunretirement.com](http://longrunretirement.com)

## SOCIAL:

 LongRunTB  
 @LongRunTB  
 @longrun\_tb

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**

80

# Los Angeles Pet Rescue: Farralone Farm

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



SASKIA CHIESA

**Rumors Ride and Sumthingsgottogive at Farralone Farms, the equine division of LA Pet Rescue.**

Farralone Farms is the equine division of Los Angeles Pet Rescue, an animal-welfare organization that has saved everything from sheep and mules to cats and guinea pigs.

Founded in 2008 by Saskia Chiesa, a longtime dressage competitor from The Netherlands, the farm is a peaceful facility located in Southern California's San Fernando Valley. Farralone Farms deals in all breeds but has had notable success with off-the-track Thoroughbreds. There are 16 horses active in the program.

According to Chiesa, "We are all about the four Rs" – rescue, rehabilitate, retrain, and re-home. Many of Farralone Farms' horses have been plucked directly out of livestock auctions. They are then brought to the Chatsworth-based facility, where they are carefully assessed and rehabilitated, receiving R&R plus veterinary and

farrier care as needed.

Stallions generally will be gelded, teeth floated, and vaccinations updated as these horses are brought back to optimal health with plenty of good food and quality care. When ready, many will be schooled and retrained in preparation for the next phase in their lives.

Horses recently made available through Farralone Farms have included Grand Yule and Cyber Sam, both rescues from a California livestock auction. Grand Yule is a beautiful gray son of Grade 1 winner and sire Grand Slam and is out of a two-time Southern California winner; Cyber Sam is a 25-year-old daughter of champion Capote out of a Mr. Prospector mare. Both Grand Yule and Cyber Sam eventually fell on hard times before being sent to Farralone Farms as future companion horses.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"TAA's grant and accreditation are of tremendous value to us. The grant check is a blessing in doing this beautiful work. Accreditation also serves to reassure potential adopters that we are a bona fide organization. We see TAA as partners with whom we work hand-in-hand to retrain our OTTBs and settle them into new, rewarding careers."

**FOUNDED:** 2008

## ADDRESS:

10856 Farralone Ave.  
Chatsworth, CA 91311

**PHONE:** (310) 466-1185

## MAIN CONTACT:

Saskia Chiesa

## WEB ADDRESS:

farralonefarms.com

## SOCIAL:

farralonefarms

@farralonefarms

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF

## THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:

16

# Lucky Orphans Horse Rescue

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

EQUINE-ASSISTED PROGRAM



JES GREY PHOTOGRAPHY

**Tiger Tap, aka Spike, raced 16 times before being turned into a jumper. When he could no longer jump, he joined the herd of geldings at Lucky Orphans, where he is a visitor favorite.**

Lucky Orphans Horse Rescue was founded in New York in 2008 as a non-breed-specific, no-kill rescue, rehab, and sanctuary.

Its goal is to “provide a haven for unwanted, abused, neglected horses, to improve the relationship between horses and people ... and to properly unite humans and horses in a safe environment.”

Today, the organization is home to more than 50 horses, including 16 off-the-track Thoroughbreds and an assortment of Quarter Horses, Appaloosas, Arabians, Morgans, Welsh and Shetland ponies, minis, Paints, mustangs, and mixed breeds.

The backstories on many of these rescues are heartbreaking. They came to Lucky Orphans in very poor condition and in need of a new start. Lucky Orphans has worked successfully to bring these horses (and even a few goats and sheep) back from their physical and psychological injuries – thus offering them hope for meaningful,

more compassion-filled futures.

The nonprofit organization is accredited with the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance and the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries, as well as being certified with Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Associations. With the latter, Lucky Orphans utilizes its rescue horses in helping those who suffer from mental, emotional, physical, and/or developmental health issues, working with at-risk youth, and dealing with depression, anxiety, addiction, and self-injurious behavior. During the mutually advantageous process, horses and humans help one another.

In addition to its noted horses-as-therapy program, Lucky Orphans hosts a number of summer riding academy sessions and provides year-round riding lessons with individualized attention. Education of adults and children is a key component of the work done at Lucky Orphans.

## TESTIMONIAL:

“Lucky Orphans is a sanctuary that provides lifelong care, and we are beyond grateful for the work of the TAA, which helps provide assistance for 20 percent of our horse population. With the help and support of the TAA, we can promise our OTTBs the security of staying with their new herd as long as they live.”

**FOUNDED:** 2008

## ADDRESS:

2699 Route 22  
Dover Plains, NY 12522

**PHONE:** (845) 416-8583

## MAIN CONTACT:

Deanna Mancuso

## WEB ADDRESS:

[luckyorphanshorserescue.org](http://luckyorphanshorserescue.org)

## SOCIAL:

- Facebook: LuckyOrphans
- Twitter: @Luckyorphans
- Instagram: @Luckyorphanshorses

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**

10

# Maker's Mark Secretariat Center

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



SHAWN MCMILLAN

MMSC graduate Patrick Henry competing in show hunters with Melissa Murphy riding.

The Maker's Mark Secretariat Center (MMSC), which has been hailed as "the gold standard in Thoroughbred reschooling," opened in October 2004.

It uses its location at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington to do three things:

1) Promote the athleticism and versatility of the Thoroughbred in second careers in order to encourage adoptions nationwide; 2) educate the public about Thoroughbreds; and 3) highlight the many good things that the racing industry is doing to support aftercare.

MMSC horses are selected to be ambassadors for the breed and the sport of racing. It is not a rescue facility. Horses are selected based on soundness of body and mind, temperament, and serviceability.

Horses in the program learn new skill sets using the Horse Centered Reschooling Program, a three-tiered system addressing body, spirit, and mind, developed by MMSC executive director Susanna Thomas, that gives them a basic foundation on which to build a new career. Because the campus is small – 16 acres of paddocks and eight stalls – MMSC can only

house 12 to 15 horses at a time and cannot do long-term lay-ups. Once adopted, MMSC horses are tracked for life to ensure their well-being.

Potential adopters are required to fill out applications and supply references and, once approved, must come ride to make sure the fit is a good one. Adoption fees vary based on the length of stay, the extent of a horse's limitations, if any, and the scope of the horse.

MMSC has an off-campus Clean Start Program for horses that need rehabilitation, and a Noble Horse Program that lists horses available for adoption directly from the farms on which they reside.

Keen to be a beacon of information about off-the-track Thoroughbreds and racing, MMSC offers college and high school internships, welcomes volunteers, and regularly hosts tours and demonstrations.

"The Maker's Mark Secretariat Center does everything right," said former jockey Rosie Napravnik, "from horse care, to the horses' new starts, to the staff's amazing ability to find homes for them. The MMSC is all about excellence, honesty and the horse!"

## TESTIMONIAL:

"Hurrah to the TAA! Its inspiring vision, excellent management, and stringent policies have raised awareness about Thoroughbred aftercare and provided invaluable support to organizations which have been going alone in this important work, one horse at a time. The MMSC is proud of its TAA accreditation and very, very grateful for its support!"

**FOUNDED:** 2004

### ADDRESS:

4089 Ironworks Parkway  
Lexington, KY 40511

### PHONE:

(859) 246-3080




### MAIN CONTACT:

Susanna Thomas

### WEB ADDRESS:

secretariatcenter.org

### SOCIAL:

 MakersMarkSecretariatCenter  
 @mmsc04  
 @MakersMarkSecretariatCenter

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**

45

# MidAtlantic Horse Rescue

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



ROUGH COAT PHOTOGRAPHY

Founded in 2002, MidAtlantic Horse Rescue has helped place close to 2,000 former racehorses.

“These horses are so intelligent and intuitive; they have so much to offer in second careers. It is the ultimate betrayal if they are thrown away when their racing careers are over.”

This comes from former Delaware Park trainer Beverly Strauss, who in 2002 cofounded MidAtlantic Horse Rescue with fellow horsewoman Virginia Suarez Cole in response to the concern of slaughter. The pair had saved at-risk Thoroughbreds on their own for years and then set up MAHR in an effort to do even more.

Launched initially with three rescued off-the-track Thoroughbreds and a rented five-acre field, the program today hosts more than 45 horses at its main 158-acre farm in the hills of eastern Maryland, plus three satellite farms in Maryland and South Carolina. This growth has been made possible by the support of the TAA and other groups in the racing industry and has been spurred by MAHR’s stellar reputation and successful retraining and adoption program. The horses are in different stages of rehab and retraining, and available horses can be seen and tried by appointment.

Since its inception, MAHR has helped save, transition, and place close to 2,000 former racehorses of all ages and abilities. In addition to purchasing Thoroughbreds from auctions and

feed lots, MAHR also transitions horses off the track, working closely with Maryland’s Beyond the Wire program, and handling aftercare at Delaware Park in partnership with the track, owners, and trainers, and CANTER Delaware. Horses are rehabbed as needed and all necessary veterinary, farrier, and dental work is provided. Horses are evaluated under saddle and schooled until adopted out as sport or pleasure horses. MAHR also has horses available as pasture pets and companions.

Adoption fees are well below market value, up to approximately \$2,500 for a sound horse with no restrictions, and ownership is transferred upon adoption. Safety and suitability are of the utmost importance when matching horses and adopters. Adopters have ranged in age from 9 to 70 and have included beginners and amateurs as well as top professionals.

MAHR was one of a few programs to be selected to participate in the initial \$1 million ASPCA Rescuing Racers Initiative and has received annual support since.

Tax-deductible donations of any amount are greatly appreciated, while tack, equipment, office supplies, and gift cards are always on the wish list. Visitors are welcome by appointment to tour the farm and meet the horses.

## TESTIMONIAL:

“TAA’s rigorous accreditation process gives legitimacy to reputable aftercare programs. We are honored to partner with TAA and thrilled that our industry has stepped up to support aftercare and ensure safe futures for our Thoroughbreds. It has made our work here a bit easier. It’s all about the horse!”

**FOUNDED:** 2002

### ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 407  
Chesapeake City, MD 21915

### MAIN CONTACT:

Beverly Strauss

### EMAIL:

bev@midatlantichorserescue.org

### WEB ADDRESS:

midatlantichorserescue.org

### SOCIAL:

 MidAtlanticHorseRescue  
 @MidAtlHorseResq

### AVERAGE NUMBER OF

### THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:

120

# Mitchell Farm Equine Retirement

## SANCTUARY



Residents of Mitchell Farm Equine Retirement in Connecticut enjoy an afternoon of grazing.

Mitchell Farm Equine Retirement is a sanctuary for aged equines.

Founded in 2004 by current executive director Dee Doolittle, the organization provides a permanent home for more than 20 older and often infirm horses of all breeds.

The purpose of Mitchell Farm is not to retrain or re-home, as the majority of program members are unrideable due to injury or advanced age. Each Mitchell Farm horse has its own stall and a pasture to graze in Connecticut's gorgeous Salem Valley.

"Our equine retirees have earned their retirement and will never be ridden again," Doolittle said. "Without the pressures of competition or bearing human weight, they are free to remember, or learn, what it means to be a horse."

Horses in the program must be a mare or gelding at least 20 years old, pasture-sound, in veterinarian-verified good health, and current on shots.

One of Mitchell Farm's best resident stories is of

the off-the-track Thoroughbred named Nijinsky Sun (aka "Walter"), a grandson of the great Nijinsky II who was unplaced in several starts during the mid-1980s. Upon leaving the track, Walter served more than 20 years as a beloved lesson and show horse for children until earning his much-deserved retirement at Mitchell Farm, where he lived out the rest of life to the ripe age of 35.

The organization is fully accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries in addition to the TAA and has been recognized by such groups as Thoroughbred Charities of America, the Doris Day Animal Foundation, and the Unwanted Horse Veterinary Relief Campaign.

Mitchell Farm is run largely by volunteers, who feed, groom, and care for the equine senior citizens on a daily basis. The program also strives to educate the public on animal-welfare issues whenever possible.

Mitchell Farm's annual music festival has been a successful early-autumn fund-raiser.

### TESTIMONIAL:

"TAA not only serves as an accrediting body, holding facilities to the highest standards, it also backs up excellence with support. Funding from TAA has allowed Mitchell Farm Equine Retirement to provide OTTBs in our care with the safe, comfortable, permanent sanctuary they so deserve."

### FOUNDED: 2004

### ADDRESS:

300 East Haddam Rd.  
Salem, CT 06420

### PHONE:

(860) 303-8705

### MAIN CONTACT:

Dee Doolittle

### WEB ADDRESS:

[mitchellfarm.org](http://mitchellfarm.org)

### SOCIAL:

[facebook.com/mitchellfarm.org](http://facebook.com/mitchellfarm.org)

[@mitchell\\_farm](https://twitter.com/mitchell_farm)

[@mitchell\\_farm](https://instagram.com/mitchell_farm)

### AVERAGE NUMBER OF

### THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:

5

# New Beginnings

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



DENISE KALFAYAN

**Michelle Horgan on Bionda (left) and Nicole McKinley on Kegger at a local schooling show preparing for the Retired Racehorse Project's Thoroughbred Makeover.**

New Beginnings Thoroughbreds is a nonprofit Thoroughbred adoption program. Our founding members have spent years retraining off-the-track Thoroughbreds for second careers. Our team is all volunteer and unpaid. Our mission is to find loving adoptive homes for our horses once they have retired from racing.

New Beginnings receives horses either directly from trainers or owners at various racetracks or through other adoption programs, working with such organizations as TAA-accredited MidAtlantic Horse Rescue. We strive to retrain the horses for a second career that is best suited for them, working to pair loving adoptive owners with our horses to ensure the best possible outcome for the horse and adopter.

We have a wonderful group of qualified volunteers and board members who work tirelessly to help us with the horses and to make the program run smoothly.

Each horse that comes into New Beginnings is given time to relax and let down. The horses are introduced to turn-out and spend time away from

their stalls. Each horse is different and requires different amounts of time to relax before beginning to work under tack.

New Beginnings has participated in a variety of activities with its adoptable horses to prepare them for their second careers. We have taken some to the Pennsylvania Horse World Expo and ridden them in demonstrations and with clinicians. We also have participated in the Retired Racehorse Project's Thoroughbred Makeover for four years with adoptable horses.

We feel that exposing them to new situations and taking them out to new places helps to prepare and transition them into their second careers. These events are wonderful outlets to showcase the versatility of the Thoroughbred and have been instrumental in helping our organization grow and assist our horses in their adoptions.

New Beginnings relies solely on grants, donations, and fundraising to support the horses in its program. Every dollar received goes directly to the care and feeding of our horses.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"TAA accreditation will allow us to retrain and re-home more horses. Over the past five years, we have built a trustworthy program that racehorse owners and adopters can count on. We want to be a go-to source for those looking for an OTTB and feel that TAA accreditation validates this to help us help more horses."

## FOUNDED:

2014

## ADDRESS:

1064 Maxim Southard Rd.  
Howell, NJ 07731



## MAIN CONTACTS:

Nicole McKinley, co-director  
(732) 216-1364  
Michelle Horgan, co-director  
(732) 406-4036

## WEB ADDRESS:

[www.nbottb.org](http://www.nbottb.org)

## SOCIAL:

 New Beginnings Thoroughbreds  
 @nbottb

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF

## THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:

11

# New Stride Thoroughbred Adoption Society

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



Ti Amo Dora, adopted in August of 2015, with Laura White of Pemberton, British Columbia.

New Stride is a registered charity dedicated to finding adoptive homes and alternative careers for Thoroughbred racehorses no longer able to compete.

The charity was founded in 2002 at Hastings Racecourse in western Canada by a group of concerned owners, breeders, and backstretch workers who sought to provide opportunities for dignified retirement for as many Thoroughbreds as possible.

New Stride has placed 169 Thoroughbreds into adoptive homes and assisted many owners and trainers in connecting horses coming off the track with opportunities for new careers.

New Stride offers assistance to Thoroughbred owners outside the racing community in the form of information, advice, and free advertising of horses for sale on its website.

Horses coming into the program arrive at the main intake farm, where they spend a few days to a few weeks settling in while being assessed.

The experienced, knowledgeable team of volunteers and caregivers get to know the horses before a retraining program begins from the ground up. Manners and control are assessed, then training continues in a program tailored to each horse's needs. Riding also progresses at a pace suited to each individual horse.

Once the horse has mastered basic skills, he is listed on the organization's website as available for adoption.

The adoption process begins with an application. Anyone wishing to adopt must visit and spend time with the horse of his or her choice. Potential adopters are screened through the application and in person. When a match is decided upon, an adoption contract must be signed, three equine-industry references produced, and a farm visit by a New Stride representative must be conducted.

The adopter must stay in touch with New Stride for one year.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"TAA funding has helped us continue our mission to take in and rehabilitate and/or retrain horses on a regular basis. Being accredited by TAA confirms to racehorse owners, breeders, trainers, and the public our high standard of care and dedication to Thoroughbred aftercare and placement. We are grateful to the TAA for its funding."

**FOUNDED:** 2002

## ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 10020 RPO Otter Co-op  
Langley BC V4W 3Z5, Canada

**PHONE:** (778) 985-5673

## MAIN CONTACT:

Carmen Kramer

## WEB ADDRESS:

[newstride.com](http://newstride.com)

## SOCIAL:

[NewStrideThoroughbredAdoptionSociety](https://www.facebook.com/NewStrideThoroughbredAdoptionSociety)

[@NewStride](https://twitter.com/NewStride)

[@2002newstride](https://www.instagram.com/2002newstride)

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**

15

# New Vocations Racehorse Adoption Program

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



New Vocations graduate My Pal Aimee competes at the New Vocations All-Thoroughbred Charity Horse Show at the Kentucky Horse Park. In 2019, over 450 Thoroughbreds came from 23 states and Canada to compete in hunter, jumper, pleasure, dressage, and western competitions.

A pioneer in racehorse aftercare, New Vocations leads the nation in retired racehorse adoptions, having provided new careers and homes for more than 7,000 Thoroughbreds and Standardbreds since its inception in 1992. New Vocations was the first charity to focus solely on adoption rather than retirement as the optimal solution for the large number of racehorses leaving the track each year.

New Vocations works directly with owners and trainers within the racing industry who need a reliable aftercare option. More than half of the horses entering the program have an injury, ranging from minor soreness to fractures in need of repair.

Rehabilitation has become a cornerstone of the program, which focuses on retraining and re-homing ex-racehorses. It has an average of 150 horses in its program at any given time. These horses are in various stages of rehabilitation and retraining and are spread among seven locations in Kentucky, Louisiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York. The program takes in more than 500 horses each year.

Potential adopters undergo a thorough application process, with nearly 1,000 individuals screened annually. All horses are adopted

with a signed contract stating the horse cannot return to a racing career or be sold at a public auction. New Vocations monitors each horse closely during the first year in its new home; the program offers a lifetime return policy to ensure the horse always has a safe place if needed.

The New Vocations Kentucky location includes a state-of-the-art training and adoption facility situated on historic Mereworth Farm in Lexington. New Vocations at Mereworth Farm is part of the Susan S. Donaldson Foundation's 1,200-acre farm, making it the nation's largest racehorse retirement, rehabilitation, retraining, and re-homing facility. Tours are available by appointment.

Over the past 28 years, New Vocations has seen a steady increase in demand for retired racehorses within the equestrian world.

"The homes are out there," program director Anna Ford said. "The more funding we raise, the more horses we can rehabilitate, retrain, and re-home. New Vocations is totally dependent on donations to fulfill its mission. We are deeply grateful to all who have joined our effort to provide these horses with a quality life and career after racing."

## TESTIMONIAL:

"We are extremely grateful for the TAA's support as it has made it possible for us to increase the number of horses we are able to help."

**FOUNDED:** 1992

## ADDRESS:

New Vocations at Mereworth Farm  
719 Dolan Ln.  
Lexington, KY 40511

## PHONE:

(859) 252-9574

## MAIN CONTACT:

Dot Morgan

## WEB ADDRESS:

[www.newvocations.org](http://www.newvocations.org)

## SOCIAL:

- [new.vocations1](https://www.facebook.com/new.vocations1)
- [@NewVocations](https://twitter.com/NewVocations)
- [@newvocationsracehorseadoption](https://www.instagram.com/newvocationsracehorseadoption)

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF

## THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:

320

# Oklahoma Thoroughbred Retirement Program

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



LINDA EARLEY PHOTOGRAPHY

**Oklahoma-bred Loves Bonus, a stakes winner in New Mexico who raced until age 9, enjoys his well-deserved retirement at the Oklahoma Thoroughbred Retirement Program.**

The Oklahoma Thoroughbred Retirement Program was the 2007 brainchild of Royce Clay and Robin Brookins, Oklahoma horsewomen sharing a common concern and sense of responsibility regarding the future of the state's ex-racehorses. Adhering to the philosophy that charity should begin at home, ever since the organization's launch 13 years ago, its focus has largely been on rescuing, rehabilitating, retraining, and adopting out horses with ties to the Sooner State.

An off-the-track Thoroughbred rescue and aftercare operation, Oklahoma Thoroughbred Retirement Program takes in both injured and sound ex-racehorses and offers permanent sanctuary for individuals who cannot be rehabbed for second careers. The organization, which charges a flat \$500 adoption fee, was also active in caring for displaced horses following the deadly 2013 tornado in Moore.

The program's many success stories include Oklahoma-bred Aisle Two, a stakes-placed earner of \$183,062 who had descended to low-

level claiming company before being discovered en route to an auction; and Prospective Kiss, a multiple stakes winner and earner of \$432,956 who ran through age 12 and dropped to a \$2,500 claiming price before being happily reunited with his breeder.

Among current Oklahoma Thoroughbred Retirement Program permanent retirees are 27-year-old Highland Ice, a nine-time Remington Park stakes winner and earner of \$474,909 who serves as the OTRP ambassador and makes regular appearances at Remington; Valid Message, a multiple stakes winner of \$364,167; and No Advance, winner of the 2008 Oklahoma Classics Juvenile Stakes and Remington Park champion 2-year-old male.

"A lot of people assume as a retirement program, we take horses and put them out in a pasture," board member Chris Kirk said. "But many are in new careers as hunter-jumpers, cow horses on working farms ... a little bit of everything."

## TESTIMONIAL:

"Assistance from TAA has enabled the Oklahoma Thoroughbred Retirement Program to take in more horses in need."

## FOUNDED: 2007

## ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 96  
Blanchard, OK 73010

## PHONE:

(405) 590-2594

## MAIN CONTACT:

Royce Clay

## WEB ADDRESS:

[otr.info](http://otr.info)

## SOCIAL:

[f oklahomathoroughbredretirement](https://www.facebook.com/oklahomathoroughbredretirement)

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:

35

# Old Friends

SANCTUARY



LAURA BATTLES

**Fighting City Hall, who made more than 100 career starts while racing on the West Coast, earned a well-deserved retirement home at Old Friends in Georgetown, Kentucky.**

Old Friends, the Thoroughbred retirement facility in Georgetown, Ky., has helped put a new face on the concept of equine aftercare.

Founded in 2003 by former Boston Globe film critic Michael Blowen, the organization has grown into a 236-acre sanctuary caring for more than 200 rescued and retired horses. There's even a satellite facility: Old Friends at Cabin Creek in upstate New York.

Blowen had long believed that horses past their prime could still be valuable – money-earning, even – if the venue was right. And so Old Friends tested the concept by opening its doors to the public, inviting fans to come and visit their turf heroes. And come they did. The farm attracts more than 20,000 visitors annually who come to swoon over such champions as Kentucky Derby and Preakness winners Silver Charm and War Emblem, Belmont Stakes winners Touch Gold and Sarava, three-time Santa Anita Handicap winner Game On Dude, multiple graded-stakes winner Einstein, New York superstar Diversify, and warriors of the turf Hogy and Soi Phet. And while

such rock stars draw crowds, the revenue they raise supports hard-knockers like Easy Grades, a one-time Kentucky Derby contender who ended up struggling in cheap claiming races at the age of 10, and Fighting City Hall, a frequent Portland Meadows and Emerald Downs contender, who made 103 career starts.

In 2014, Old Friends was presented with a Special Eclipse Award to honor extraordinary service in the sport of Thoroughbred racing.

But perhaps the greatest reward of all has been the respect and support of the owners, trainers, and fans who not only donate to the cause of protecting these amazing athletes but come to the farm to pay homage to these beloved horses. Our guests may come to visit a few ex-racehorses, but they leave having been touched by the heart of a Thoroughbred hero.

Old Friends offers guided walking tours daily, plus private tours and a founder's tour are also available (both upon request). Reservations are required and may be made at [www.oldfriends-equine.org](http://www.oldfriends-equine.org) or by calling (502) 863-1775.

## TESTIMONIAL:

“We are proud to be TAA-accredited. Knowing we have passed a rigorous inspection and investigation confirms that we are providing the best possible environment and care for our valued retirees. Obviously, the financial support enables us to maintain those superior standards and allows us to continue providing aftercare for even more horses in need.”

## FOUNDED: 2003

## ADDRESS:

1841 Paynes Depot Rd.  
Georgetown, KY 40324

## PHONE: (502) 863-1775

## MAIN CONTACT:

Michael Blowen,  
[Michael@oldfriendsequine.org](mailto:Michael@oldfriendsequine.org)

## WEB ADDRESS:

[oldfriendsequine.org](http://oldfriendsequine.org)

## SOCIAL:

[f](#) oldfriendsequine  
[t](#) @Oldfriendsfarm  
[i](#) @old\_friends

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:

200

# Our Mims Retirement Haven

SANCTUARY



ERIN SHEA

**Dogwood Patty made 52 starts while racing for four years, earning \$58,825, but now enjoys living with the herd at Our Mims Retirement Haven.**

Fifteen years have passed since the incorporation of Our Mims Retirement Haven as a nonprofit. In that time, Haven creator Jeanne Mirabito has overseen the restoration of health of many mares from disparate backgrounds. No matter where they came from or how they got to the Haven, each mare that arrived has found sanctuary in Paris, Ky., where love and attention is doled out as freely as individualized veterinary and nutritional regimens.

Board members Cheryl Bellucci (also responsible for Haven fundraising) and Laura Fallis work with Mirabito to make sure the needs of the horses are met.

Today, the Haven is home to 10 Thoroughbred mares and one gelding – Elmhurst, the 1997 Breeders' Cup Sprint winner and maternal grandson of Our Mims. He arrived in 2011 and now holds court with fans and visitors. Exciting Bucket is the oldest resident at age 31, with half of the mares at Our Mims being 25 or older.

The Haven always solicits volunteers to feed, groom, assist farriers and vets, mow, and help with general farm maintenance.

Fans have traveled to Our Mims from all 50 states and 20 countries. Visitors are welcome by appointment to see the Haven's residents and walk the cemetery, where almost all of the Haven's past horses have been buried. Each grave is marked with a stone and plaque indicating the horse's name and birth and death dates. In warmer months, beautiful flowers adorn the memorial garden. On May 7, 2017, the ashes of 1986 Eclipse champion older male Turkoman (son of Taba) were interred in the cemetery.

Farm residents have included Australian-born Princess Royale (who died at age 30); champion Turkoman's dam, Taba, who lived to 32; major stakes producer Iza Valentine (33); Grade 1 stakes winner Lotka (30); Alydar's (and Our Mims's) Grade 1-winning sister Sugar and Spice (27); and nine-time stakes winner Bel's Starlet (27).

## TESTIMONIAL:

"The public needs to know that an elder horse is not necessarily a sick or dying horse. Older horses can be vibrant, healthy, and sassy with the proper care. TAA's support allows us to accomplish our mission."

**FOUNDED:** 2004

## ADDRESS:

2810 Millersburg Ruddles Mill Rd.  
Paris, KY 40361

## PHONE:

(859) 227-6304

## MAIN CONTACT:


Jeanne Mirabito

## WEB ADDRESS:

[ourmims.org](http://ourmims.org)

## SOCIAL:

 [OurMimsRetirementHaven](https://www.facebook.com/OurMimsRetirementHaven)

 [@MimsRetirement](https://twitter.com/MimsRetirement)

 [@mimsour](https://www.instagram.com/mimsour)

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:

10

# Out Side In

- SANCTUARY
- REHABILITATION
- RETRAINING/ADOPTION
- EQUINE-ASSISTED PROGRAM



Out Side In provides equine-assisted therapy to individuals of all ages.

Out Side In is a Thoroughbred rescue, rehabilitation, and retraining program, and an outpatient mental health facility that provides equine assisted psychotherapy to individuals, families, couples, and groups.

OSI's licensed clinical therapists use horses to treat people of all ages who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety, and myriad other mental and emotional disorders.

In equine-assisted psychotherapy, horses are used to provide this unique form of treatment. It was during a search for an additional horse for the therapy program that Out Side In encountered its first off-the-track Thoroughbred (OTTB). These horses were wonderful therapy partners because they are intelligent, responsive, and incredibly intuitive. This provided an opportunity to not only use horses to improve the lives of people but also to help these horses with a second career and a new

purpose in life.

In addition to the Thoroughbred program and therapy programs, in 2014 the facility started its Heroes for Horses program for veterans with PTSD, and the veterans quickly discovered the parallels between the OTTBs and themselves. They both are transitioning into new lives and finding a new purpose. By pairing each veteran with his or her own assigned horse, it improved the quality of life for the horses and veterans alike.

Veterans participate in the rehabilitation, retraining and eventual re-homing of the horse, while at the same time working with a licensed psychotherapist to process through their own mental health issues. By combining work with the horses and an indirect therapeutic component, the veterans are more engaged and committed than in traditional psychotherapy. Out Side In is a place where both people and horses find hope and healing.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"TAA has not only provided us funding to maintain and grow our Thoroughbred program, but it also has served as a testament to the way we operate and care for our horses. This helps us to leverage other funding by giving donors confidence in our organization."

## FOUNDED:

2011  
**ADDRESS:**  
12511 152nd Ave.  
Grand Haven, MI 49417

**PHONE:**  
(616) 844-0906

**MAIN CONTACT:**  
Jennifer McVoy

**WEB ADDRESS:**  
outsideinstables.com

**SOCIAL:**  
f OutSideInStables

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**  
16

# Peaceful Ridge Rescue

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



Retired racehorses enjoying a relaxing morning grazing and socializing at Peaceful Ridge.

Peaceful Ridge Rescue is a nonprofit organization that provides shelter, medical and dental care, rehabilitation, and adoption services for rescued horses. Its mission is to rescue horses from neglect, abuse, and abandonment; to improve their lives by providing a safe haven for healing and rehabilitation; and to find a home for every horse through a rigorous adoption program.

Over the past eight years, PRR has rescued more than 100 horses. When PRR cannot bring horses into its facility due to capacity, it works to place them in proper homes through adoption, and PRR also annually follows up on all adopted horses. PRR prohibits breeding of adopted mares and all stallions are gelded before they are re-homed. Horses can be returned at any time, and they come back to PRR if the adopter can no longer keep the horse for any reason.

PRR is 100 percent volunteer run with the

exception of part-time farm hands who help feed. Every donation goes directly to the needs of the horses.

Trained and dedicated volunteers feed, groom, clean stalls and paddock and help with general maintenance and administrative work.

PRR board members see the organization as a legacy. PRR's educational programs are already grooming rescuers of the future.

PRR accepts pasture pals and senior horses. A recent arrival is stakes winner Mel Beach, a Florida-bred gelding who made 38 starts during five seasons and earned \$247,049. He is currently in rehabilitation.

"He just loves to run," said Laura Jones, vice president of PRR. "We are happy to help him through his rehabilitation so he can enjoy running again – only this time it will be on fields of grass."

## TESTIMONIAL:

"The support of the TAA will help us continue to provide care for racehorses, especially the injured horses. We hope that the prestige of this accreditation will assist us in recruiting additional experienced volunteers and reduce our adoption turnaround time. What it has done for the aftercare community is extraordinary."

**FOUNDED:** 2012

## ADDRESS:

2995 SW 121st Ave.  
Davie, FL 33330

**PHONE:** (954) 240-6080




## MAIN CONTACT:

Laura Jones

## WEB ADDRESS:

[peacefulridgerescue.org](http://peacefulridgerescue.org)

## SOCIAL:

-  PeacefulRidgeRescue
-  @PRRhorres
-  @PeacefulRidgeRescue

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**

15

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION

# R.A.C.E. Fund



**R.A.C.E. Fund has six participating farms in four states to provide services for retired horses.**

The R.A.C.E. Fund, Pennsylvania's first Thoroughbred retirement program, was founded in 2004 by Patricia Bewley, Marlene Murray, and Diana Meyers, daughters of veteran trainer Art Kelley. Patricia and Marlene trained Thoroughbreds as well, and Diana worked as an exercise rider and pony girl. The acronym R.A.C.E. stands for Retirement Assistance and Care for Equines.

"The reason we started the R.A.C.E. Fund was not only to help Thoroughbreds after their racing careers ended but also to bring awareness about the need for funding retirement, rehabilitation, and especially long-term care for sanctuary horses," Murray said. "Although we do adopt out some horses, our main focus has been on rescuing auction-bound Thoroughbreds and horses that cannot go into a second career as they are at higher risk."

Over the past 16 years, the R.A.C.E. Fund has assisted with the retirement and/or rescue of more than 100 Thoroughbreds and racetrack pony horses.

The R.A.C.E. Fund utilizes an intermediate farm in Pennsylvania for temporary layovers and quarantine horses coming from auctions. In addition, it has six participating farms in four states where horses are sent for retraining, rehabilitation, or, if necessary, long-term retirement.

Mares adopted through the program may not be bred. Horses placed into new homes will be monitored for life.

Adopters are required to send photos every three months and at the end of the year must submit an Annual Records Report listing any veterinary/farrier procedures that have been done, including vaccinations, de-wormings, trims, etc., and who provided those services. Participating farms also are required to send a report for each R.A.C.E. Fund horse stabled at its facility.

Each year the R.A.C.E. Fund holds an online auction to help raise funds, in addition to applying for grants and receiving donations from individual supporters.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"A national accrediting body has been needed for a long time, and TAA is fulfilling that need. It is another safety net for Thoroughbreds to ensure that organizations are providing quality care and adhering to a strict code of standards."

**FOUNDED:** 2004

## ADDRESS:

8031 Rabbit Ln.  
Harrisburg, PA 17112

## PHONE:

(717) 469-2789



## MAIN CONTACTS:

Marlene Murray  
Catherine George

## WEB ADDRESS:

[racefund.org](http://racefund.org)

## SOCIAL:

 [race.fund](https://www.facebook.com/race.fund)  
 [@RACEFund](https://twitter.com/RACEFund)

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF

## THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:

11

# Racing for Home

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



Racing for Home's co-founders, the mother-daughter team of Sherrie and Acacia Courtney, with Brian Courtney, left.

Racing for Home works to provide retraining, re-homing, rehabilitation, and sanctuary for off-the-track Thoroughbreds (OTTB). Established by the mother-daughter team of Sherrie and Acacia Courtney, Racing for Home takes each OTTB and evaluates them on a case-by-case basis and they are given individualized care by the organization's experienced staff at one of its two facilities in Connecticut.

Some horses come directly from the racetrack and can easily be retrained for a second career and adopted out to a new home with a legal contract. Others may have sustained training or racing injuries, and are rehabilitated with careful veterinary surveillance and assessment, so that the proper placement can be decided. Finally, select OTTBs are provided sanctuary with Racing for Home, and given a place to spend the rest of their lives after their days on the racetrack have ended. This individualized approach is something Racing for Home prides itself on.

It all started in 2009 when Sherrie and Acacia adopted their first OTTB from the Suffolk Downs backside, Palace Diva, a spirited, chest-

nut mare. Palace Diva was the catalyst to the formation of Racing for Home, which received 501(c)(3) status in 2011. A long-time love for horses, and Thoroughbreds in particular, combined with a desire to fulfill the sense of responsibility to our retired racehorses, turned the operation into a full-time profession.

Since its inception, some 30 Thoroughbreds have gone through Racing for Home's program. Sherrie, an experienced rider and horsewoman, works hands-on with Racing for Home's members on a daily basis alongside trusted veterinary staff, barn managers, and trainers. Acacia is a well-known racing analyst and reporter in the industry, and works to network OTTBs as well as create and maintain trusting relationships with horsemen and women looking to retire their horses or support aftercare initiatives.

The pair use social media to share photos and updates of each of Racing for Home's members and put an emphasis on keeping donors and fans updated on the work they are doing daily, as they continue to grow and give the highest quality care to their OTTBs.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"TAA accreditation has been a longtime goal for us, and it is very exciting to be honored with this recognition. We are grateful to TAA for recognizing the work we have done over the past 10 years, and we are thrilled to be able to continue to grow and expand – all for the horses who have given us everything."

**FOUNDED:** 2011

## ADDRESS:

155 Blake Rd.  
Hamden, CT 06517




## MAIN CONTACTS:

Sherrie Courtney  
(860) 690-0689  
Acacia Courtney  
(203) 979-7569

## WEB ADDRESS:

[racingforhomeinc.com](http://racingforhomeinc.com)

## SOCIAL:

 [racingforhomeinc](https://www.facebook.com/racingforhomeinc)  
 [@racingforhome](https://twitter.com/racingforhome)  
 [@racingforhomeinc](https://www.instagram.com/racingforhomeinc)

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF

## THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:

11

# Redwings Horse Sanctuary

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



Ernest Shackleton enjoys his morning gallop in one of Redwings's large community pastures.

Redwings Horse Sanctuary rescued its first horse in spring of 1991 after the Fresno Humane Society reported finding a young Thoroughbred with a fractured shoulder in an auction yard. His registered name was Island Fighter, but the staff renamed him Sam, and after a long rehabilitation he made a full and successful recovery.

Redwings Horse Sanctuary is now home to 78 equines, including 13 Thoroughbreds, with 21 other horses in foster homes. Redwings accepts all breeds, from the smallest mini to the largest draft horse; it also accepts mules and burros. The mission of Redwings is to rescue abused or neglected horses, provide permanent sanctuary or suitable foster/adoptive homes for those animals, and to eliminate the causes of equine suffering through education and community outreach.

Redwings has a foster-to-adopt program to ensure that all of its horses go to approved and loving homes. Prospective owners must fill out a foster applications and have a home inspection

before being allowed to foster a Redwings horse. A mandatory one-year foster period enables Redwings staff to keep a close eye on the foster horses to ensure they are happy, healthy, and a good fit in their new homes. After 12 months of successful fostering, a horse will become available for adoption by its foster family.

Redwings does not charge adoption fees and is always willing to take back a horse for any reason. Those horses that are unadoptable due to age, illness, or injury are given a permanent home at the sanctuary in Lockwood, Calif.

Redwings recently began a retraining program for off-the-track Thoroughbreds to prepare them for second careers and also offers rehabilitation to horses retired from racing due to injuries.

Redwings received a donor gift to purchase acreage in Paso Robles, and it plans to move its operation there in the future. A lot of work needs to be done to prepare the site, making it safe and secure for all of horses, and Redwings looks forward to finally having a permanent home.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"Redwings Horse Sanctuary is grateful to TAA for its generous support. TAA has helped us develop and improve our retraining program and has enabled us to provide sanctuary and approved foster/adoptive homes to many off-the-track Thoroughbreds."

**FOUNDED:** 1991

## ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 58  
47240 Lockwood-Jolon Rd.  
Lockwood, CA 93932

## PHONE:

(831) 386-0135


## MAIN CONTACT:


Sara Ruggerone

## WEB ADDRESS:

[redwingshorsesanctuary.org](http://redwingshorsesanctuary.org)

## SOCIAL:

 [redwingshorses](https://www.facebook.com/redwingshorses)

 [@redwingshorses](https://twitter.com/redwingshorses)

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF

## THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:

15

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION

# Remember Me Rescue



TERRI CAGE

Flying Open and Remember Me Rescue volunteer Mary Cage doing some round pen work.

Remember Me Rescue was started in 2008 with the mission to rehabilitate, retrain, and re-home retired Thoroughbred racehorses. In the beginning, the main focus was to give owners and trainers a place they could trust to help find a safe place to retire their horses. Since then, the goals of Remember Me Rescue have expanded because there are many other issues facing retired racehorses, with the organization now helping in such areas as large-scale breeding farm rescues and slaughter intervention.

Remember Me Rescue is a 20-acre facility located in Burleson, Texas. It has a 20-stall barn and a two-stall quarantine barn that was donated by Midwest Thoroughbreds. It also has several paddocks, a round pen, and riding areas. Horses at Remember Me receive the highest quality of care while being prepared for the next chapter in their lives.

Upon entering the program, horses are evaluated for soundness and given the time they need to rest or rehabilitate. They are weighed, measured, and have specialized nutritional programs designed to benefit their individual needs. They are evaluated for soundness and a plan is put in place for their future. Once they are ready to begin a retraining regimen, the

horses are started on the basics.

Sometimes racehorses pick up a few undesirable habits at the track, which is why ground work with the ex-racehorse is stressed and so important. Remember Me utilizes a ground agility course to help horses learn new skills, gain confidence, and become desensitized to many of the things that might startle the average horse.

The horses are given every chance to have a successful second career by being taught basic skills to help prepare them for the person who can take them to the next level.

Remember Me was one of the first organizations to successfully defend its adoption contract in court after an adopter defaulted on the responsibility to which they agreed. Remember Me prides itself in not only giving horses the best chance to be successful, but it is also committed to following them after they are adopted and doing whatever is necessary to ensure their safety.

When adopting from Remember Me, the adopter can be certain they are getting a horse that has been thoroughly evaluated by professional trainers, properly vetted, and given the basic skills to provide a successful lifelong relationship for their new owner.

## TESTIMONIAL:

“Being a part of the TAA has allowed us to help more horses than ever before. We have expanded our training capabilities and our volunteer programs. We also have added a new therapy program to help rehabilitate injured horses more quickly.”

**FOUNDED:** 2008

## ADDRESS:

4100 Conveyor Dr.  
Burleson, TX 76028

## PHONE:

(817) 689-1214 (Donna Keen)  
(682) 647-5145 (Vicki Morgan)

## MAIN CONTACTS:

Donna Keen, Vicki Morgan

## WEB ADDRESS:

teamkeen.com

## SOCIAL:

REMEMBERMERESCUE  
 RememberMeOTTB

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**

35

# ReRun Inc.

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION

EQUINE-ASSISTED PROGRAM



**Fastidious never won in four starts on the track but now successfully competes in eventing.**

ReRun Inc. is a renowned, pioneering organization in Thoroughbred rescue and adoption, having been founded in 1996 by Shon Wylie and Lori Nagle originally as a division of the Humane Society of Kentucky.

Its mission ever since has been to retrain, reschool, and rehabilitate ex-racehorses and to find them loving homes and new careers. The focus has been largely on horses coming directly off the track, primarily those retiring from New York and East Coast tracks.

ReRun operates the premier facility in New York, a state-of-the-art facility with extensive rehab capabilities – taking in and adopting out more horses in the state than any other charity. ReRun also offers equine-assisted therapy services to veterans via Saratoga Warhorse and to those in local hospice.

Located in the Capital Region close to major tracks and interstates, ReRun has a capacity for 45 horses and is the permanent home of fan favorite Saratoga Snacks.

It partners with New York Thoroughbred Development Fund, the New York Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, and the New York Thor-

oughbred Breeders, and takes in more than 100 horses per year and boasts a low adoption return rate of less than 2 percent.

In 2016, ReRun received the Award of Merit from Thoroughbred Charities of America. Verified by GFAS, ReRun also operates a sanctuary farm in Maryland, home to one-time New York-bred Turf Horse of the Year Dave and graded stakes winner Marco Be Good.

The ReRun board has broad industry representation, its directors including a leading equine orthopedic surgeon, a successful trainer, a turf journalist, and a top horse player.

The 24-year-old organization works with partner programs to assist as many horses as possible and is sponsored by the New York Thoroughbred Breeding and Development Fund, and supported by donations from individuals and businesses.

ReRun also operates the nationally known "Moneigh" program. Moneighs are works of art created by racehorses, both famous (such as Zenyatta, American Pharoah, California Chrome, Songbird, and Storm Cat) and the not-so-famous, and their artwork is auctioned off, with proceeds benefiting ReRun.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"Having the oversight of TAA has allowed us to expand within a dynamically changing industry with more horses benefiting from our services than ever before. Providing financial support along with national recognition, TAA has been invaluable to the efforts of those helping Thoroughbreds. TAA is allowing more horses than ever to turn for home."

**FOUNDED:** 1996

### ADDRESS:

236A Waters Rd.  
East Greenbush, NY 12601

**PHONE:** (859) 595-6660

### MAIN CONTACT:

Lisa Molloy

### WEB ADDRESS:

[rerunottb.com](http://rerunottb.com)

### SOCIAL:

[f rerunthoroughbredadoption](https://www.facebook.com/rerunthoroughbredadoption)

[@ReRunOTTB](https://www.instagram.com/ReRunOTTB)

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**

80

# RVR Horse Rescue



MARJI LEXTON

**Playful Preacher, who went through rehabilitation at RVR, is now with a loving family.**

RVR Horse Rescue is an all-volunteer organization that provides rescue, rehabilitation and re-homing to horses and donkeys in need.

From its beginning as a rescue serving the Tampa Bay area, RVR is recognized and called upon by law enforcement agencies and other rescues throughout the state of Florida when horses need help. RVR volunteers have the dedication and expertise to handle the worst cases of starvation, injury, and abuse, and are able to provide 24-hour critical care when necessary.

RVR recognizes that it is not only abused horses that need a second chance. The organization's primary veterinarian is Richard Gold, who works in the racing industry and has a private practice. Affiliation with Dr. Gold enables RVR to maintain ties to the local racetrack and surrounding horse farms and connect with owners and trainers when a horse's career ends due to injury. Under Dr. Gold's expert guidance, RVR rehabilitates these injured racehorses to provide them with a quality post-racing life.

In 2017, RVR was honored to become accredited by the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance and verified by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries.

While adoption into a loving home is the hope for every horse, there are no deadlines or expiration dates for horses whose adoptability has been lessened by age, health issues, or emotional challenges. No matter what the circumstance, RVR will provide top-notch care, along with a hefty dose of loving attention from volunteers.

RVR is committed to enriching the Tampa Bay community through its love of horses. RVR offers educational programs for children, school and senior community visits, and hosts events at the rescue for Scout troops and other groups. It is keenly aware that fostering engagement between humans and horses increases the awareness of equine needs.

RVR Horse Rescue is a 501(c)(3) organization and its programs are supported by donations, sponsorships, fundraisers, and grants.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"Accreditation from the TAA gives owners and trainers peace of mind that RVR Horse Rescue will provide the highest quality care when it comes to rehabilitating and re-homing injured horses. We are proud to be affiliated with TAA's mission to provide a secure future for off-the-track Thoroughbreds."

**FOUNDED:** 2004

## ADDRESS:

12611 Hayes Clan Rd.  
Riverview, FL 33579

## PHONE:

(813) 280-9299

## MAIN CONTACT:

Lisa Gold

## WEB ADDRESS:

[rvrhorserescue.org](http://rvrhorserescue.org)

## SOCIAL:

 RVRHorseRescue  
 @RVRHorseRescue  
 @RVRHorseRescue

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:

10

# Second Chance Thoroughbreds

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



NAIMARK PHOTOGRAPHY

**Hiclass Tenpin, who was adopted in 2017 by rider Makenna Walrath, competing at Second Chance's Thoroughbred Jubilee Benefit Horse Show in 2019.**

In September of 2011, Collette Duddy made her first trip to the backside of the Finger Lakes race-track and was in awe of the quality of the horses and their bargain prices. Six horses traveled to Second Chance Thoroughbreds in Spencer, N.Y., that year to be retrained and re-homed. Second Chance Thoroughbreds board members Duddy, Robyn Null-Hancock, and Candace Kelly are all experienced horsewomen and volunteer their skills to the organization.

Besides retraining off-the-track Thoroughbreds (OTTBs), we also teach riding lessons and run a summer horsemanship program for youth. We attend community events such as parades, school programs, and local horse events. We demonstrate how versatile and trainable Thoroughbreds are. Hosting two horse shows a year provides added funds to our budget, and with the sponsorship of The Jockey Club Thoroughbred Incentive Program, we offer classes and high-point

awards exclusively for Thoroughbreds at these shows.

Thoroughbreds are known for their athleticism, willingness, and desire to please. Second Chance Thoroughbreds is proud to showcase those qualities when representing its horses in the community.

TAA accreditation is the gold standard in Thoroughbred aftercare, and its accreditation has opened up more sponsorship opportunities for our organization to provide the absolute best care for our beloved Thoroughbreds while they await their forever home.

Now in our seventh year, our mission remains the same: to provide OTTBs with a soft landing after the end of their racing careers by giving them ample rehabilitation and retraining, transitioning them to a new career. Thoroughbreds are known for their athleticism, heart and desire to please. Ride an OTTB today!

## TESTIMONIAL:

"Second Chance Thoroughbreds is proud to be a TAA-accredited organization. Accreditation means national exposure among a group of nonprofits held to higher standards with rigorous requirements. Accreditation also provides needed funding that helps us expand our mission and allows us to rehab, retrain, and rehome more Thoroughbreds into new careers."

**FOUNDED:** 2012

## ADDRESS:

121 Dawson Hill Rd.  
Spencer, NY 14883

**PHONE:** (607) 589-7669

## MAIN CONTACT:

Collette Duddy

## WEB ADDRESS:

[secondchancethoroughbreds.org](http://secondchancethoroughbreds.org)

## SOCIAL:

- SecondChanceTBs
- @SecondChanceTBs
- @SecondChanceTBs

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**

11

# Second Stride

REHABILITATION  
RETRAINING/ADOPTION



Kentucky-based Second Stride has placed hundreds of former racehorses into new homes.

Second Stride is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, nonprofit organization founded in 2005 to provide professional rehabilitation, retraining, and placement for retired Thoroughbred racehorses in qualified homes so that they may reach their full potential in a productive second career.

Second Stride is based on volunteer advisers, board members, and individuals who are active in other areas of the racing industry, including owners, partnership managers, handicappers, and trainers.

Second Stride has placed hundreds of horses in new homes over the years. Success stories include many retired sound “war horses” with more than 50 racing starts, and also many stakes winners.

Adoption fees typically range from free to approved applicants to up to \$2,500 for horses ready to compete in sports such as hunters, show jumping, and eventing.

Second Stride is able to castrate and socialize

colts and stallions and take in and rehabilitate horses who have been injured. Second Stride breaks unraced horses to ride and even restarts retired broodmares under saddle so they may have a productive career after breeding.

Second Stride donors have included such high-profile racing names as Hall of Fame trainer Carl Nafzger, Claiborne Farm, Taylor Made Farm, and Lane’s End. Second Stride also receives support from regional racetracks, trainers, horsemen’s organizations, many local businesses, and individual horse lovers from all over.

A Kentucky Derby Week party is held each spring in Louisville to benefit Second Stride, complete with live and silent auctions and celebrity guests.

Second Stride participates in several other community-based fundraising events throughout the year and applies annually for several prestigious grants that have rigorous application processes.

## TESTIMONIAL:

“The support of TAA has allowed Second Stride to increase the number of horses we care for. Through the TAA application process, evaluations, and site visits required for accreditation, our administrative procedures improved with TAA feedback. This process helps ensure the best ongoing care for horses, donors, and adopters.”

**FOUNDED:** 2005

**ADDRESS:**  
7204 Highway 329  
Crestwood, KY 40014

**PHONE:**  
(502) 241-8440

**MAIN CONTACT:**  
Susan Brown

**WEB ADDRESS:**  
secondstride.org

**SOCIAL:**  
f secondstride  
@secondstride  
@secondstride

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**  
150

# Second Wind Thoroughbred Project

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



A young rider after an enjoyable lesson on an off-the-track Thoroughbred mare named Fledge.

Second Wind Thoroughbred Project's founder and president, Dayle Eldredge, has been retraining off-the-track Thoroughbreds since she was a teenager. She estimates she has retrained and sold some 75 Thoroughbreds. When she heard about the TAA, she decided to form a nonprofit so she could help more horses after their racing days are over.

Second Wind offers rehabilitation, retraining, adoption, and permanent retirement. About half of its horses are retired and half are being retrained. We are very proud of the horses that have gone on to new homes – they are loved by their owners and are being ridden as show hunters, jumpers, dressage, or pleasure mounts. Our potential adopters are thoroughly screened.

Eldredge started Second Wind in Ocala, Fla., with her mother and a lifelong friend who also had owned and competed on Thoroughbreds. In 2019, the operation moved to Northern Virginia, and leased a 60-acre farm that includes 50 acres of lush grass in several large fields with oversized run-in sheds and a beautiful vintage barn. The farm is located in the heart of Virginia horse country, near Middleburg, an hour from Washington, D.C.

Since Eldredge is a USEF-licensed hunter/jumper judge, the focus of Second Wind is retraining for that discipline, but Northern Virginia riders are a diverse group, and people are interested in horses for fox hunting, eventing, and polo as well. We felt the adoption network in Virginia would be more broad than it was in Florida.

We are fortunate to be in such a horse-focused community, and have been made to feel very welcome. Volunteers have been eager to help. Some volunteers are “horse people,” and others come from the city to be near the horses and help with grounds maintenance.

Second Wind is close to Charles Town racetrack in West Virginia, as well as the newly reopened Colonial Downs near Richmond, Va. Steeplechasing and point-to-point races are popular in the area, and there are hundreds of Thoroughbred breeding farms in Virginia.

The board of directors is a dedicated group of mature women made up of a horse show judge, steward, equine vet, Reiki master, competitive amateur hunter/jumper rider, and a farrier. We are all proud of this aftercare program, and love working with these deserving, amazing Thoroughbreds.

## TESTIMONIAL:

“We are committed to continue our top-quality horse care, and financial assistance from the TAA makes this possible. We can proudly tell potential grantors that we are an accredited program with the highest industry standard, and this enables us to enhance our fundraising efforts to expand the program to help OTTBs.”

**FOUNDED:** 2015

### ADDRESS:

1405 Kennel Rd.  
Boyce, VA 22620

### PHONE:

(910) 986-8725

### MAIN CONTACT:

Dayle Eldredge



### EMAIL ADDRESS:

secondwindtbs@yahoo.com

### WEB ADDRESS:

secondwindtbs.org

### SOCIAL:

 secondwindthoroughbredproject  
 @secondwindthoroughbredproject

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**

12

# South Florida SPCA

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



Never Lie, who raced at Calder, was left at South Florida SPCA's facility in the middle of the night. She has undergone professional retraining and is succeeding in a new career.

Founded in 1992, South Florida SPCA Horse Rescue is the last line of defense for abused and abandoned horses in Miami-Dade, Fla.

South Florida SPCA is the only organization qualified to rescue, rehabilitate, retrain, and re-home horses in Miami-Dade. South Florida SPCA works with Miami-Dade Animal Services and responds 24/7 to local law enforcement to investigate cruelty and abandonment cases, and to seize and care for those victims at its facility in Homestead, Fla.

The horses South Florida SPCA rescues, including off-the-track Thoroughbreds, are sometimes found in some of the worst conditions imaginable. Often, the horses require extraordinary life-saving measures involving extensive veterinary treatment, a refeeding program, and intensive, specialized labor by staff and volunteers.

The organization also works with Thoroughbred owners, breeders, and trainers to help

prevent their horses in transition from falling through the cracks and into peril.

South Florida SPCA is also dedicated to educating the public and promoting the humane treatment of equines through its outreach, member, and volunteer programs, as well as its social media channels. Events such as its "A Day at the Races" fundraiser at Gulfstream Park, with a portion of race sponsorship proceeds benefiting the Permanently Disabled Jockeys Fund, also help raise awareness.

South Florida SPCA rescues all breeds, but its Thoroughbreds are among the most dramatic and gratifying transformations and transitions. South Florida SPCA grads have won ribbons in local shows, participated in the Thoroughbred Makeover, and maintained public safety in a mounted police unit.

Their resiliency and versatility never cease to amaze and inspire.

"The importance of TAA's support cannot be overstated. The funds we receive allow us to save more horses, while the rigorous accreditation standards give SFSPCA the credibility and respect required by important donors and potential adopters. The value of relationships created and strengthened by our TAA accreditation is incalculable."

**FOUNDED:** 1992

**ADDRESS:**  
Homestead, Fla.

**PHONE:**  
(305) 825-8826

**MAIN CONTACT:**  
Chris Septer,  
executive director

**WEB ADDRESS:**  
sPCA-sofla.org

**SOCIAL:**  
f southFloridaSPCA  
t @HelpTheHorses  
i @sPCA\_sfla

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**  
10-15



# Southern California Thoroughbred Rescue

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



LAURIE TAYLOR PHOTOGRAPHY

**Just Fishin (aka Justin), with Jessica Abbott of Showcase Training Stables, competing at the Thoroughbred Classic at Galway Downs in Temecula, Calif.**

Southern California Thoroughbred Rescue provides a safety net for Thoroughbreds of all ages and backgrounds who have run out of options.

Started in 2008 by Caroline Betts, SCTR has helped more than 100 horses in need, most taken directly from livestock auctions. SCTR representatives attend local auctions to identify Thoroughbreds potentially at risk. Rescues are made based on need rather than adoptability or rideability.

The SCTR philosophy is that all Thoroughbreds are winners, regardless of pedigree, performance, or physical condition. Once acquired, horses undergo a minimum of 30 days of quarantine at a facility in Apple Valley, where they are handled, evaluated for health, and given necessary veterinary and farrier care. Many will then be “re-started” by a professional trainer. SCTR has about 18 Thoroughbreds, ranging in ages from 5 to 26.

Past and present SCTR horses have included a daughter of the great Alleged; Santa Anita

stakes winner Place Cowboy, now training as an eventer; Persistent, who once sold for \$120,000; and Free Sammy, who brought \$77,000 as a 2-year-old. All were acquired from Southern California livestock auctions.

Prospective new homes are carefully screened, and most program horses are adopted out to experienced riders or those with qualified trainers. The adoption contract provides lifetime protection – adoptees may not be resold or transferred by adopters but must return to SCTR.

Rescues can only be achieved when space and funds are available, thus the need for income is ongoing. All donations are welcome, and horse sponsorships range from \$10 to \$250 per month.

Prominent equine artists such as the late Fred Stone and the late Christine Picavet have donated proceeds from their work, while the organization has received support from Blue Horse Charities, ASPCA, The Exceller Fund, and Thoroughbred Charities of America, as well as the TAA.

## TESTIMONIAL:

“TAA has initiated significant improvements in our protocols and practices through its accreditation process. It also represents an invaluable source of grant monies through funds raised from within the racing industry for sanctuary care of our Thoroughbreds. This has freed us to dedicate fundraising, donations, and other grants to improvements in rehabilitation, retraining, and adoption.”

**FOUNDED:** 2008

## ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 5  
Norco, CA 92860

**PHONE:** (951) 768-2043

## MAIN CONTACT:

Jackie Poe

## WEB ADDRESS:

sctbrescue.org

## SOCIAL:

f [socaltbrescue](#)  
t [@socaltbrescue](#)  
i [@socaltbrescue](#)

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**  
18

# Square Peg Foundation

SANCTUARY  
REHABILITATION  
RETRAINING/ADOPTION  
EQUINE-ASSISTED PROGRAM



ROBYN PETERS

Kemma Peters with Extra Fifty, by Afleet Alex, left, and Irresponsible King, by Kingmambo.

Square Peg Foundation was established in 2004 as an adaptive riding program for children with learning and/or developmental disabilities such as autism, ADHD, and Tourette's Syndrome.

The innovative organization, headquartered in Half Moon Bay, Calif., offers a creative, healing approach to teaching students and training horses based on mutual need – the horses, some of whom were rescued from undesirable circumstances, benefit as much as the people involved.

Square Peg's simple but powerful mission statement is: "We turn 'I wish' into 'I can.'" Children learn to ride and care for animals much larger than themselves and in the process become advocates for those who have no voice, thus gaining a sense of confidence and empowerment.

Executive director and co-founder Joell Dunlap described Square Peg as providing a "yes" environment, "an intense experience that shows students they are capable of so much more than they imagined. The horse is a gentle judge

of character, a unique example of gentleness and power who responds to all people according to their intentions – not to their age, size, race, or social status. We focus on building self-image, one student at a time."

The 22 Square Peg horses, ranging in age from 3 into their 30s, found their way to the program in need of second – or third – chances. Many are Thoroughbreds who have been integrated into this adaptive horsemanship program for children, among them stakes-placed Momotombo; the aptly named Autism Awareness; Irresponsible King (aka "Stanley"), a royally bred son of Kingmambo and grandson of champion Eliza who knows tricks in addition to jumping, trail riding, and performing dressage; and Mythical Storm, a son of Fusaichi Pegasus who raced in Southern California and won at Santa Anita in his debut.

Square Peg offers specialized private or group classes for basic riding.

## TESTIMONIAL:

*"When I am on my horse, only God is taller than I."*

– Spanish proverb

"That's the empowerment Square Peg horses give autism families. When a mother hears her silent child laughing, you have changed the world for that family. TAA's commitment to aftercare brought these horses a second chance. What they give in return is priceless."

**FOUNDED:** 2004

### ADDRESS:

PMB 402, 80 Cabrillo Hwy North  
Suite Q  
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

**PHONE:** (650) 440-5064

### MAIN CONTACT:

Joell Dunlap

### WEB ADDRESS:

[squarepegfoundation.org](http://squarepegfoundation.org)

### SOCIAL:

- everyonefits
- @SquarePegRanch
- @squarepegfoundation

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**

15



# Susan S. Donaldson Foundation/Mereworth Farm

SANCTUARY



EQUISPORT PHOTOS

Thoroughbreds enjoy the paddocks of the 1,200-acre Mereworth Farm in Lexington, Ky.

Mereworth Farm was established in 1924 by Walter Salmon Sr., a New York real estate developer. It has a storied history of remarkable breeding and racing success in the Thoroughbred industry under the direction of three generations of the Salmon family.

Salmon's granddaughter Susan Salmon Donaldson was the last to operate the Lexington, Ky., farm commercially, and upon her death in 2011 she bequeathed Mereworth Farm to a foundation she created in 1989 for the purpose of providing care to horses that otherwise would be euthanized.

Since 2011, The Susan S. Donaldson Foundation has worked tirelessly to restore and upgrade Mereworth Farm to best achieve her goals. All the pastures and paddocks have been renovated, all fencing has been replaced, and the seven barns have been rehabbed. The 1,200-acre Mereworth Farm is a first-class equine operation, designed to provide the finest care to horses needing a

permanent home in their final years.

The credit for implementing Susan Donaldson's vision goes to the farm manager, James T. Boyd, and the loyal employees, most of whom worked for her for many years and understand exactly what she wanted to create. They, too, share her love of horses.

It is the belief of The Susan S. Donaldson Foundation that Thoroughbreds should be retrained and re-homed if at all possible, and there are many fantastic organizations accredited by TAA which do exactly that. But many of those facilities are not equipped to provide a permanent home for those horses that cannot be retrained and re-homed.

It was Susan Donaldson's desire to create a facility that could house and care for those horses that cannot be retrained, whether due to age or injury.

Thanks to her generosity and the devoted staff, Mereworth Farm is such a place.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"The Susan S. Donaldson Foundation strives for excellence in all aspects of its aftercare operation and is proud to be recognized with TAA accreditation. The TAA is an outstanding resource for providing the best care possible to the Mereworth Farm residents."

**FOUNDED:** 1989

## ADDRESS:

4999 Bethel Rd.  
Lexington, KY 40511

## PHONE:

(859) 552-7118

## MAIN CONTACT:

James T. Boyd

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:

120

# The Exceller Fund

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



The Exceller Fund's horses enjoy retirement at approved facilities located in five states.

In the beautiful springtime of 1997, American Hall of Fame champion Exceller was led to his death in a Swedish slaughterhouse. Five months later, a group of concerned racing fans came together to form an organization they hoped would make a difference in saving other Thoroughbreds from that dark fate. They would call it The Exceller Fund.

The Exceller Fund has since become one of the best-known, most proactive horse-rescue agencies in North America, having worked – sometimes in conjunction with other nonprofit rescue groups – to provide a future beyond the finish line for innumerable ex-racehorses and to transition them into successful second careers. The Lexington, Ky.-based organization today has a nationwide membership, with monthly pledges beginning as low as \$15. It is also supported by grants, tax-deductible donations, and money garnered through major fundraisers.

The Exceller Fund population, generally between 45 and 50 horses, boards at private farms, with a per diem paid through the organization for

their support. Approved facilities in five states have been selected for the quality of their care in various areas, including rehab from injuries, retraining, and dealing with geriatric cases.

A major campaign called “Racing Warriors” has focused on hard-raced runners with 50 or more career starts who are no longer competitive, horses The Exceller Fund describes as the “unsung heroes of racing.” Because of wear and tear from long years on the racetrack, many simply have no future as riding horses, so The Exceller Fund networks to provide these permanent retirees sanctuary for life.

Current “Warriors” include Cumberland Gap, Korbyn Gold, and Ww Conquistador, who together raced a combined 31 seasons, made 365 starts, and earned nearly \$1.3 million. All three had descended to bottom-level claiming races before finding their forever homes with The Exceller Fund.

The organization also provides sanctuary for horses with low adoption potential, as well as helping to re-home them.

## TESTIMONIAL:

“In addition to bringing together several dedicated organizations, TAA has been extremely instrumental in expanding aftercare awareness and support throughout the racing industry.”

**FOUNDED:** 1997

## ADDRESS:

P. O. Box 4237  
Lexington, KY 40544

## EMAIL CONTACT:

info@excellerfund.org



## MAIN CONTACT:

Nicole Smith

## WEB ADDRESS:

excellerfund.org

## SOCIAL:

 TheExcellerFund  
 @ExcellerFund

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:

50

# The Foxie G Foundation

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION

EQUINE-ASSISTED PROGRAM



Doctor Doss, a winning son of Hard Spun, is in The Foxie G Foundation adoption program.

The Foxie G Foundation was established to honor the memory and zest for life of a charismatic racehorse named Foxie G.

Foxie G was graded stakes-placed and a multiple stakes winner of \$392,568. After suffering from a severe case of laminitis while in training, the Maryland-bred son of Horatius was able to enjoy his retirement at Summer Wind Farm in Union Bridge, Md., where the organization is based.

Recognizing that some retired Thoroughbreds do not have the option for a place to retire or be trained for a second career, The Foxie G Foundation was formed to help others like its namesake.

While the primary goal for horses entering the program is adoption, some are not deemed adoptable due to physical limitations or age and are provided permanent retirement on the farm. Beginning in 2018, some of the permanent retirees have been used in various equine therapy programs that benefit the horses as well as the program participants.

Although entry into the facility is not based on success on the track, The Foxie G Foundation has a few well-known residents. Ravallo, a graded stakes winner of \$1,348,769, and Fireside Brass, a multiple stakes winner of \$444,993 in 89 starts, are two of the 38 permanent retirees.

Foxie G relies on donations and sponsorships to provide the retirees with the care they deserve.

Foxie G seeks permanent, adoptive homes for those horses that can be adopted out. Since Foxie G is based on a commercial Thoroughbred farm, the organization is able to provide rehabilitation or retraining for a horse after it is finished racing.

When a horse is ready to enter into the program, it is evaluated under tack and carefully matched with the right adopter.

Many of the adopted horses go on to a show career, while some are content to just become a member of their new adopted family. Any horse adopted out by The Foxie G Foundation can return to the farm at any time for any reason.

## TESTIMONIAL:

“Thanks to our accreditation by the TAA in 2016, we have been able to help more horses each year find adoptive homes. The TAA also has offered us resources to improve our organization, access to a larger donor base, and prospective adopters.”

**FOUNDED:** 2012

## ADDRESS:

14024 New Windsor Rd.  
Union Bridge, MD 21791

**PHONE:** (301) 667-2553

## MAIN CONTACT:

Laurie Calhoun

## WEB ADDRESS:

[thefoxiegfoundation.org](http://thefoxiegfoundation.org)

## SOCIAL:

 TheFoxieGFoundation  
 @TheFoxieG  
 @TheFoxieG

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF

## THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:

84

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION

# Thoroughbred Athletes



ARDEN MOAD

**Zee Oh Six, the 2005 Oklahoma-bred horse of the year at Remington Park who retired after earning \$442,311, now competes in English dressage, hunter/jumper, and cross-country events.**

Established in 2011 by former racehorse trainer Lynn Sullivan, Thoroughbred Athletes is a Thoroughbred retraining facility for both donated and rescued horses.

Since its inception, more than 170 horses have been part of the program, and more than 150 have been adopted into new homes.

Many Thoroughbred Athletes “graduates” are successfully competing at high levels in a variety of disciplines. They are known for being tough, athletic, willing, and always ready to move forward. A number have been adopted as pleasure horses and are proving to be eager trail mounts. Thoroughbred Athletes also has been successful at finding pet or companion homes for horses not sound enough to be ridden. The organization’s Facebook page is full of photos from proud and loving owners.

Thoroughbred Athletes is proving that retired

racehorses are capable of success at a variety of tasks. The organization is a leader in expanding the demand for ex-racehorses by virtue of its very successful adoption program as well as hosting multiple well-attended horse shows, which provide a venue for showing off the skills of their graduates.

Thoroughbred Athletes is staffed by a group of dedicated, hardworking volunteers. The board of directors is a diverse group that meets monthly.

Thoroughbred Athletes mentors community youth by offering supervised learning opportunities. Additionally, a “work-to-ride” program for horse-savvy adults is available.

Thoroughbred Athletes is recognized as a top charitable organization, having been honored with the Top-Rated Award by GreatNonprofits as well as being endorsed by GiveSmart Oklahoma and receiving gold status from GuideStar.

## TESTIMONIAL:

“Accreditation of our organization has definitely helped us further our mission. The TAA accreditation seal documents our legitimacy to grantors and donors as well as potential adopters. They know that the facility has been inspected and that business practices have been closely examined to ensure that it is being run in a professional, efficient manner.”

**FOUNDED:** 2011

## ADDRESS:

2851 S. Midwest Blvd.  
Guthrie, OK 73044

**PHONE:** (405) 802-1312

## MAIN CONTACT:

Lynn Sullivan

## WEB ADDRESS:

[thoroughbred-athletes.com](http://thoroughbred-athletes.com)

## SOCIAL:

- Facebook: [ThoroughbredAthletes](#)
- Twitter: [@TBAthletesInc](#)
- Instagram: [@ThoroughbredAthletesInc](#)

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF

**THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**

50

# Thoroughbred Placement Resources

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



KATHERINE TURNBULL PHOTOGRAPHY

**Kimberly Godwin Clark, executive director of TPR, with retired racehorse Sand Save, who started 19 times, never finished in the money, won only \$519, but earned a dignified retirement.**

Thoroughbred Placement Resources was established in 2008 by hands-on horsewoman Kimberly Godwin Clark and her husband, William Clark, and is based at Leighton Farm in Upper Marlboro, Md.

A licensed trainer and exercise rider with more than 25 years of experience, Kimberly Clark has since been dedicated to providing ex-racehorses with bright futures while retraining them for second careers.

The organization advocates on behalf of off-the-track Thoroughbreds while directly assisting owners and trainers in appropriately placing horses whose racing days are over. Education has been a significant component of Thoroughbred Placement Resources's work – informing the public and prospective owners as to the advantages of ex-racehorses through clinics, books, and newsletters. While Thoroughbred Placement Resources has engaged in rescue work, Clark notes that the point of their effort has been to avoid reaching those situations.

Since its inception in 2008, some 900 former racehorses have been safely transitioned through Thoroughbred Placement Resources's retrain-

ing program, with many launching successful second careers as eventers, show jumpers, and dressage performers. And while most "graduates" were themselves unremarkable racehorses, there have been exceptions, among them Grade 3 winner Foufa's Warrior, who finished seventh in the 2003 Preakness and later became bored with retirement; \$505,591-earner Barcola, third to champion Curlin in the Grade 1 Stephen Foster; and multiple stakes winners Frisky Spider and Network.

It is known that animals possess therapeutic healing qualities, thus in 2015 Thoroughbred Placement Resources launched "Hero Horses," bringing military veterans to Leighton to interact with the Thoroughbreds. In some cases, both human and equine need to rebuild lives and learn to trust again. "Everybody wins with this program," Clark said.

As a nonprofit, Thoroughbred Placement Resources is 100 percent volunteer run and largely dependent on tax-deductible donations.

Clark's e-book "New Track, New Life" explains the advantages of owning off-the-track Thoroughbreds and is available online free of charge.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"Being accredited by the TAA has given Thoroughbred Placement Resources and the horses we serve so very much. The credibility makes us a stronger organization, and the funding allows us to assist many more horses. This is a good platform for our organization to expand and grow upon."

## FOUNDED: 2008

## ADDRESS:

13130 Molly Berry Rd.  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

## PHONE: (410) 802-8425

## MAIN CONTACT:

Kimberly Godwin Clark

## WEB ADDRESS:

goodhorse.org

## SOCIAL:

 ThoroughbredPlacementResources

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:

40

# Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation

SANCTUARY  
REHABILITATION  
RETRAINING/ADOPTION  
EQUINE-ASSISTED PROGRAM



CHELSEA O'REILLY

**The Second Chances Program at Lowell Correctional pairs incarcerated women with rescued and retired racehorses. The horses make a positive impact on the women who care for them.**

In the late 1970s, tens of thousands of Thoroughbreds were heading to slaughter each year, with no organized efforts to stop the practice. The Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation, whose founding board members included such noted industry participants as the late Penny Chenery, Allaire duPont, and Martha Gerry, was launched in 1983 to take in horses who could no longer compete and had run out of options.

In 1984, the newly incorporated organization became an innovative pioneer in Thoroughbred aftercare when it formed a partnership with New York's Department of Corrections to create "TRF Second Chances Program," a life-affirming vocational training program in equine care and management for inmates.

A former \$3,500 claimer named Promised Road became TRF's first official retiree when he arrived that year at the Wallkill Correctional Facility in upstate New York. This program quickly became a win-win situation for both horses and members of the prison communities – providing safe equine sanctuary while enabling

inmates to build self-esteem and empathy as they developed useful life skills.

Human graduates have gone on to successful careers as farriers, veterinary assistants, and caretakers.

In its 37th year, this mutually beneficial program is now in eight correctional facilities and continues to expand.

Initially established to provide lifetime care for retired racehorses, adoption was added to TRF's charter in 1996. Fees today generally range from \$500 to \$5,000 depending on age, soundness, and perceived potential of any given animal.

Horses that cannot be adopted out as riding or show stock may still enjoy meaningful lives in corrections-based and/or equine-assisted therapy programs. Others join the sanctuary herds at 10 farms across the country where they live their natural lives while receiving full care.

The Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, entirely dependent upon tax-deductible donations from individuals, businesses, and foundations.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"The work of TAA has helped our organization because of racing's increased level of awareness and sense of responsibility. We are inspired to be part of a team to establish funding from new sources so that all those who benefit from Thoroughbreds will contribute to the many thousands that need care."

**FOUNDED:** 1983

## ADDRESS:

10 Lake Ave.  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

**PHONE:** (518) 226-0028

## MAIN CONTACT:

Jennifer Stevens  
jennifer@thoroughbredretirement.org

## WEB ADDRESS:

trfinc.org

## SOCIAL:

f ThoroughbredRetirementFoundation  
t @trfinc  
i @thoroughbredretirement

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**

650

# Thoroughbred Retirement Network of Louisiana

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



Thoroughbred Retirement graduates (from left) unraced Tia Tejano, Untameable, who made 51 starts, and Malibu Classic, who made 15 starts, take a schooling break at a local dressage show.

Cynthia Morgan-D'Atrio, Ph.D., founded the Thoroughbred Retirement Network of Louisiana in 2009. Its mission is: 1) To offer owners, breeders, and trainers of Thoroughbred racehorses a retraining, retirement, and respite facility; 2) To rescue Thoroughbreds who have been neglected, harmed, abused or who are at risk of going to slaughter; and 3) To educate the public and those in the racing industry about ways to retire their horses successfully and to teach others about retraining ex-racers.

TRNL is committed to establishing a quality foundation for each horse with whom it works. Our retraining efforts focus on each horse's individual strengths and on developing horses that are safe to work with, balanced, and communicative. Horses are allowed as much time as needed to "come down" and to overcome psychological and physical barriers that may be present when

introduced to a new stage of life and job.

Horses in the TRNL program come from various sources, including owner, trainer, and breeder donations; auction houses and slaughter pens from which horses have been bailed out by private individuals; animal shelters; and animal-control cases. TRNL has a few special horses that are residents as well as a couple of select horses that serve as ambassadors of the breed and are shown at local and recognized shows.

The most important part of our adoption process is that there is an excellent match between horse and adopter. We prefer that our horses are placed in forever homes with individuals and families who will love and spoil them for the remainder of their lives. At the time of adoption, we do our best to disclose as much information as possible to our adopters so that all needs of each horse may be met successfully in their new home.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"We are so privileged to be a part of the TAA. Accreditation provides TRNL with greater credibility in the horse community and the opportunity to do so much more for horses in the area."

**FOUNDED:** 2009

**ADDRESS:**  
77606 Hwy. 21  
Covington, LA 70435

**PHONE:**  
(504) 858-3875

**MAIN CONTACT:**  
Cindy D'Atrio

**WEB ADDRESS:**  
[www.thoroughbrednetwork.net](http://www.thoroughbrednetwork.net)

**SOCIAL:**  
f ThoroughbredRetirementNetworkOfLouisiana  
@trnl\_horses

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**  
8-12

# Thoroughbred Retirement of Tampa

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



TROT's four "Thoroughstangs," Rose Classic, Dancing Saints, Mambo Appeal, and Summertime Groove, have lived as a herd for 7 years but each is available for adoption as a companion horse.

Thoroughbred Retirement of Tampa, commonly referred to as TROT, got its start in 2003 under a different name. In May of 2009, the organization's name was legally changed to what it is today and turned its focus to Thoroughbred aftercare. Ten years later, it continues its mission to provide retirement, rehabilitation, retraining, and re-homing for off-the-track Thoroughbreds that raced at Tampa Bay Downs in Oldsmar, Fla.

Staffed entirely by volunteers, TROT is not a rescue operation. All its horses have been donated by their racing connections, and all eventually become available for adoption for various sporting and riding purposes. Those that are pasture-sound only are guaranteed sanctuary until that perfect home is found. Pure Pulpit is the organization's only permanent sanctuary horse.

Once in the program, each horse is treated as an individual, as TROT does not adhere to a one-size-fits-all approach in aftercare. All newcomers receive a minimum of 30 days of downtime

to adjust to life after racing. The feed program is tailored to meet the needs of each horse, and all have constant access to forage.

TROT believes in the power of the herd and socialization. New arrivals are exposed to all types of experiences and animals – such as cows, goats, pigs, chickens, dogs, children, and lawnmowers – which helps them become good equine citizens.

Retraining is specialized for each individual as well, with a focus on the basics.

Potential adopters are thoroughly vetted, with an adoption contract requiring regular updates during a probationary period. The horse may be returned to the program for any reason during its lifetime, as long as the organization has room at its facility. Once a TROT horse, always a TROT horse!

Thoroughbred Retirement of Tampa, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is funded through tax-deductible donations, fundraisers, grants, and adoption fees.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"We are honored to be a TAA-accredited partner and grateful for the racing industry's support of Thoroughbred aftercare. The due diligence of the accreditation process ensures that organizations meet or exceed specific standards, which motivates us to look for ways to make things even better for our horses."

**FOUNDED:** 2003

## ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 1621  
Oldsmar, FL 34677-1621

**PHONE:** (352) 356-8768

## MAIN CONTACT:


Christine Tatcher

## WEB ADDRESS:

tampatrot.org

## SOCIAL:

 tampatrot

 @Tampa\_TROT

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**

9

# Tranquility Farm

SANCTUARY



**Tranquility Farm now focuses solely on providing sanctuary for retired Thoroughbreds.**

Tranquility Farm, the Harry A. Biszantz Memorial Center for Thoroughbred Retirement, began with the 1998 purchase of an abandoned property in the Tehachapi Mountains of south-central California – the brainchild of nationally noted owners and breeders Gary Biszantz and John Amerman and longtime horse rescuer Priscilla Clark, and established in the memory of Biszantz's late father, Harry.

Believing the racing industry had a responsibility for the horses on whose backs it so depended, their plan was to celebrate these Thoroughbreds while helping those who were injured or in need of a home, and at the same time bring broader public awareness to aftercare.

The organization, now more than two decades old, has been a resounding success in doing what it set out to achieve: rescuing, rehabilitating, and retiring Thoroughbreds once their days on the track are over. More than 500 ex-racehorses have passed through its program, the base for which was relocated in 2014 from Tehachapi to Cotton-

wood in rural Northern California. While many past Tranquility Thoroughbreds have gone on to successful careers in new and loving homes, the present focus of the organization is to provide sanctuary for former runners to simply and happily live out their days.

Those provided lifetime retirement at Tranquility have included such racing stars as Grade 1 Santa Anita Derby winner Buddy Gil, millionaire and 12-time stakes winner Full Moon Madness, and graded stakes winners such as Invited Guest, Areyoutalkintome, Mananan McLir, Publication, Snipleto, Marvin's Faith, Three Peat, and Southern Wish.

Launched by prominent horsemen, throughout its history Tranquility Farm's board of directors has included many well-known industry members, including Eclipse Award-winning journalist Jay Hovdey, bloodstock agent Gayle Van Leer, and Del Mar race-caller Trevor Denman. Program sponsors have included some of West Coast racing's most notable names.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"The commitment to provide lifetime retirement care for Thoroughbred racehorses is not for the faint of heart. It requires great dedication and, above all, a support network. The TAA has substantially helped Tranquility Farm to provide the very best care for our horses and to give them a secure future."

**FOUNDED:** 1998

## ADDRESS:

3850 Hacienda Rd.  
Cottonwood, CA 96022

## PHONE:

(530) 347-3040

## MAIN CONTACT:

Priscilla Clark

## WEB ADDRESS:

[tranquilityfarmtbs.org](http://tranquilityfarmtbs.org)

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:

20



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	205	1685	225	18	\$18,306,101	91	25	3%	17	0	2%	199 Sadler's Joy
	303	1254	321	17	\$11,602,520	79	35	13%	8	0	3%	198 Capri
4 <b>DRF CROWN</b>	\$70,000	213	1284	107	\$7,134,916	76	27	13%	0	0	0%	88 Cesta, Night Power

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# United Pegasus Foundation

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



HELEN MEREDITH

United Pegasus is one of the first programs in the country established to rescue horses.

Helen Meredith is the founder and president of the United Pegasus Foundation, established with the mission of helping unwanted Thoroughbred racehorses. Meredith, involved in racing for most of her life, set up the nonprofit organization in 1994 upon realizing the unhappy fate of so many racehorses at the end of their racetrack careers.

United Pegasus Foundation, one of America's largest and longest-running rescue programs, is now in its 26th year of operation.

Meredith recalls how it began the day she met a woman already involved in equine rescue at a Southern California auction. There they observed a number of Thoroughbreds – some who had never raced, others who had won significant money for their owners – all in need of a second chance.

Meredith began visiting that auction every

week as well as attending other local livestock auctions with the goal of rescuing and providing safe haven for at least some of these horses.

She began talking to owners and trainers, informing them what was happening to many of their former racehorses, knowing that with financial help she could provide a retirement, rehabilitation, and adoption program. The horses came to her quickly, and within two years some 85 Thoroughbreds were under Meredith's loving care.

In 2001, United Pegasus Foundation set up its operation in Tehachapi, Calif., but recently relocated to 20 acres in San Jacinto, Calif. Over the years, the United Pegasus Foundation adoption program has successfully placed numerous horses into new careers.

Meredith's motto: "Hard work gets results."

## TESTIMONIAL:

"Because of TAA funding, United Pegasus Foundation has been able to continue providing adoption and retirement programs to Thoroughbreds coming off the track permanently."

**FOUNDED:** 1994

## ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 535  
San Jacinto, CA 92581

## PHONE:

(626) 773-6016

## MAIN CONTACT:

Helen Meredith

## EMAIL ADDRESS:

[unitedpegasus@yahoo.com](mailto:unitedpegasus@yahoo.com)

## WEB ADDRESS:

[unitedpegasus.com](http://unitedpegasus.com)

## SOCIAL:

 [unitedpegasus](https://www.facebook.com/unitedpegasus)

 [@unitedpegasus](https://twitter.com/unitedpegasus)

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF

## THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:

75



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Elliott Walden  
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# War Horses at Rose Bower

SANCTUARY

REHABILITATION

RETRAINING/ADOPTION



BARBARA LUNA

Virginia-bred Miss Monty, retired disabled Marine veteran Andrew King, and his 6-year-old son Arian at War Horses at Rose Bower.

War Horses at Rose Bower accommodates the special needs of older retiring Thoroughbred geldings. Founder and president Barbara Luna is an experienced writer, horsewoman, and publicist who started War Horses in 2012 to return to the hands-on care of racehorses after she worked as administrator for the Turning For Home after-care program at Parx Racing for five years.

War Horses at Rose Bower is located in rural Virginia and works closely with racetrack programs such as the New York Thoroughbred Horsemen Association's TAKE THE LEAD and private owners to provide rehabilitation, retirement, and frequent adoptions for veteran horses of the racing world. Many of its retirees are stakes winners, such as Gimme Credit, Banjo Picker, and Hermosillo, each of whom earned more than \$600,000 while racing and enjoyed their own Facebook pages and a large following of fans before coming to War Horses.

Some of the geldings work with children or adults who gain from the therapy that an older horse can provide. Their battle scars, such as

an old bow, suspensory, or obvious freeze-fire marks, make no difference to the human with a brush and hoof pick in hand who can gain the confidence and affection of a 1,100-pound animal.

War Horses is a 501 (c)(3) organization and requests, but does not require, a donation for accepting an older horse directly from the racetrack into its program. A veterinary evaluation and foal papers must accompany a potential retiree.

All adopters sign contracts, pass reference checks, and understand that if no longer wanted, the horse must return to the program, although the goal is always to find a forever home.

"With the wonderful renewed interest in Thoroughbreds as show and pleasure horses, these older geldings should not be overlooked as honest, been-there-done-that kinds of mounts," Luna said. "While 12 years of age may be old for a racehorse, it's just a new beginning for a show hunter or Western trail horse, or even a companion to an older horse lover who now wants a quieter ride or companion that was a former star."

## TESTIMONIAL:

"Before War Horses at Rose Bower earned its TAA accreditation I was honest with our potential donors, suggesting they look into accredited programs, or those that the donors themselves have researched. I knew prior to our accreditation that we had a great, responsible program, but now everyone else knows, too, and the support we've gained from the racing industry now has been immeasurable."

**FOUNDED:** 2012

## ADDRESS:

8367 Old Courthouse Rd.  
Appomattox, VA 24522

**PHONE:** (434) 352-5058

## MAIN CONTACT:

Barbara Luna (215) 272-6716

## WEB ADDRESS:

[www.warhorsesottbs.org](http://www.warhorsesottbs.org)

## SOCIAL:

- warhorsesottbs
- @at\_horses
- @warhorsesatrosebower

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:**

10

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# Win Place Home

REHABILITATION  
RETRAINING/ADOPTION



DAVID POTTER

**Travel Bound, a gelding by Midnight Lute, was the first horse to go through Win Place Home. He is now enjoying a second career as a jumper with his new owner.**

Win Place Home, founded in October 2015, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that creates opportunities and hope for retired racehorses in Southern California.

Win Place Home's unique skill set allows it to rehab almost any injury and to intensively retrain horses. The organization spends the time to assess each horse's potential, determine the appropriate new lifestyle that will match their skill and interest (such as trail riding, jumping, dressage, etc.), and train them for that new career.

Win Place Home focuses on the whole horse, retraining not just their bodies but also their minds, moving them slowly away from the hyperactive life of a racehorse into their unique futures. The organization also spends time to ensure successful placement, with extensive interviewing and tryouts to be sure that each horse finds its perfect match and home.

Win Place Home's blend of broad expertise, deep contacts in the local racing community, and collaborative approach with its growing community of supporters, donors, peers, and

partners has been the foundation of its early success.

C.J. Marinaccio, founder and trainer, says that it is the knowledge and care for horses that comes first.

"There is nothing which makes me happier than helping animals," Marinaccio said. "I am very passionate in my work with retired racehorses and helping them to maximize their potential to bring warmth and happiness to others.

"I have been riding since 1983 and working with horses since 1997. I have worked with trainers, owners, and vets from all equine disciplinary backgrounds and to be able to give back to these horses who have done so much for us is a dream come true."

Combating society's views that racehorses at the end of their racing careers are "done," Win Place Home brings a nurturing, disciplined approach to ensuring these horses have a productive and successful post-racing life. Win Place Home believes every horse can have a great future.

## TESTIMONIAL:

"Becoming accredited with the TAA and being a part of their community is invaluable. We are so grateful to be working with an organization that feels the same way that we do: Horse care is first and foremost."

## FOUNDED: 2015

## ADDRESS:

8306 Wilshire Blvd. #507  
Beverly Hills, CA 90211

## PHONE:

(818) 970-2596

## MAIN CONTACT:

C.J. Marinaccio

## WEB ADDRESS:

[winplacehome.org](http://winplacehome.org)

## SOCIAL:

 [winplacehome](https://www.facebook.com/winplacehome)  
 [@winplacehome](https://twitter.com/winplacehome)

## AVERAGE NUMBER OF THOROUGHBREDS PER YEAR:

13

# WHAT'S PROTECTING YOUR EQUINE INVESTMENT?



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Dear Fellow Horsemen,

*Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance* magazine is an extremely important marketing tool, both for stimulating positive public awareness of the tireless efforts being put forth daily by our entire Thoroughbred industry as well as the entire Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA) team's commitment to ensuring that our Thoroughbreds are properly taken care of upon retirement. The magazine also acts as a stimulus reaching current racing operations in hopes of improving all owners' awareness of the feasibility of future careers for our racing athletes and the need for proper accreditation for our aftercare facilities.

The National HBPA, which represents nearly 30,000 owners and trainers across North America, feels that this magazine provides a showcase for team TAA's efforts and truly highlights all that the Thoroughbred can achieve after its racing days are behind them. Additionally, we understand the magazine will play a role in helping reach out and sustain much needed industry funding to support TAA operations. I would ask each of you, as affiliates and members of the National HBPA, to please make a copy of this magazine available to as many owners, trainers, breeders and board members as you possibly can and show your support for the TAA.

The importance of proper accreditation for aftercare facilities and the take-home message that the productivity of a Thoroughbred does not have to end at the track is a two-part message we all need to continue to deliver in order to stop the term *unWanted horse*.

Please join the National HBPA in support of the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance and the *Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance* magazine.

Sincerely,  
Eric J. Hamelback  
*National HBPA, Chief Executive Officer*



[www.HBPA.org](http://www.HBPA.org)