

Horses' Haven Highlights

2018

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*Willowbrooke Farms Winter Series Dressage Schooling Show
Left: Dollar - Circuit Reserve Champion
Right: Piper - Circuit Champion*

Rescue Horses Are Not Broken!

We believe language has a huge impact on adoption and horses in transition.

Rescue horses carry a stigma as flawed, broken or undesirable. The word “rescue” has a negative connotation and the public feels that a “rescue” horse is unsound, untrained and not useful. In reality, most horses find themselves in transition by no fault of their own – simply because their owners have experienced life changes or fallen on hard financial times. Adoptable horses are good horses; horses that can learn new skills and transition to new families or careers.

But as it stands, when horse people hear “rescue horse” they often stop listening. Needing rescue is a temporary state that should not stigmatize a horse forever. Rather than inciting pity, we need to treat these horses

with the respect and dignity they deserve and help them move on to a positive new phase of life. It’s not about erasing a rescued horse’s past; it’s about the best way to give them a chance to find a long-term home as a valued equine partner.

A horse in “transition” is any horse that is currently in transition from one home, vocation, opportunity or owner to the next. Throughout its lifetime, most horses will have multiple homes and owners. A horse in transition can be any type of equine – we’ve seen horses of all shapes, sizes, breeds, monetary values, backgrounds, and origins be in transition for one reason or another.

A change in terminology completely repositions adoptable horses: from unwanted or less-than, to simply a horse moving from one phase of

life to the next – ready to start a new chapter with a new partner.

“Most horses find themselves in transition by no fault of their own – simply because their owners have experienced life changes or fallen on hard financial times.”

-Christy Counts, Right Horse Initiative President

Horses’ Haven’s very own Dollar and Piper (seen in the photos above) are perfect examples of the potential that rescue horses have for transitioning to a successful new phase in life. Both received recognition for their amazing talents at the Willowbrooke Farms Winter Series Dressage Schooling Show.

RESCUE - REHABILITATE - REHOME

Her Name Is Maggie...

An Adoption Story

We had been working with Christine to find two horses suitable for her family to realize their dream of owning horses. Within a month or so, we welcomed three horses in need from the same home, two of which sounded like they could be a potential match.

When we called to fill her in on the two that we wanted her to come meet, she asked about the third horse. We told her that her prognosis was guarded as she was in poor condition and thirty plus years old. Christine asked "But what is her name?" "Her name is Maggie", we replied. Without hesitation, she decided that if Maggie could pull through and become healthy enough to go home, they would give her peaceful pastures and the love of their family for the remainder of her life, whatever that may be.

It took several months for the mares to work through all the farrier, dental and rehab that goes along with preparing horses in transition for adoption. During that time, Christine and her family were regulars at the farm getting to know them right along with us. They revised their construction plans of pastures and facilities, including a whole new barn as their existing structure was not large enough for three horses.

All three are doing wonderful in their new home and their story serves to remind us how large a rescuer's heart is, how there is hope regardless of age and of the simple power of a name.

-Kristine Dvonch Horses' Haven Adoption Coordinator



Sometimes Rehabilitation Takes A Village



With the help of our generous community, Nora was able to travel to a top equine hospital in Kentucky to undergo lifesaving surgery.

Northern Tour "Nora", is a horse with amazing strength, spirit and a great will to fight. Nora is an eight year old OTTB Mare. For race fans out there, you may have seen her race at Hazel Park from approximately 2012-2015. She came to us late spring of 2017 with a horrible wound on her right knee. It was a mess of granulation tissue and infection. She was severely underweight and had lost much of her coat to rain rot. After arriving at Horses' Haven, Nora had three surgeries that required intensive daily wound care. In the end, it was not something we could fix at the farm. Euthanasia or extensive surgery were the choices we were left with.

Choices in the rescue world are oftentimes difficult to make. Many factors must be considered such as

available funds, quality of life, and age. In this case, the choice was really not hard if you had experienced all that is Nora. She is so wise and so willing. Playful, kind and a lover of snuggles - especially if they include a berry flavored treat! She stoically stood every day while we scrubbed, treated and wrapped her. Entertaining us all along by emptying the treatment bag, removing hair clips and occasionally handing the vet wrap over when needed.

We asked the community for help to raise the money needed and raise it you did! She traveled to a top equine hospital in Kentucky to undergo the lifesaving surgery. A sincere thank you from all of us at Horses' Haven and Nora for coming together to give her a chance to find that forever home we know is waiting for her.

Tax Free Transfers to Horses' Haven

Did you know you may be able to offset your Required Minimum Distribution Funds tax liability by contributing to a bonafide 501(c)3? Horses' Haven qualifies as a recipient; you can help support your favorite horse while making the necessary distribution from your IRA. Please consult your tax and/or investment advisor for further details.

- Anne Lezotte, Horses' Haven Treasurer

Horses' Haven Honored With Award

On June 21, 2018, the Livingston Sunrise Rotary Club honored Horses' Haven (HH) and President/Barn Manager Jill Fredrickson with the "FRIENDS OF ROTARY" award at their annual Club President Banquet. This award is part of the Rotary culture and is given to individuals or groups that support the ideals of Rotary, contribute their knowledge and experience, and offer opportunities to build relationship while doing good in the community.

For the past 5 years Horses' Haven and Livingston Sunrise Rotary have worked together to build community, club member, and volunteers' exposure and awareness to this amazing rescue. Volunteers from both groups have come together on many work day projects and HH has participated yearly in Brighton and Howell community parades.

"This partnership has been very successful as both HH and LSRC share common passion to better the community. As Horses' Haven continues to develop outreach programs in different areas outside your ordinary rescue, LSRC expects to be right there with them to share in the service above self passion. Congratulations Horses' Haven and thanks for all that you all do for the horses and community"

– Brenda K. Tipton LSRC Club President
2017-2018 and HH Volunteer

Centaurs Are Real!

We are so proud to be able to share the amazing skills of Horses' Haven Alumni horses in the ancient martial art of Mounted Archery.

Participants combine the skills of an archer with the skills of a good rider to create this beautiful equestrian sport. Emphasis on care and training of the horse is evident as riders run reinless down a 90-meter course while shooting arrows at various target arrangements. Clubs around the country offer members the opportunity to learn the sport by providing ranges, a ranking system, and competitions.

Michigan Centaurs is a local club led by Erin Halloran and Maryellen Werstine, who are both dedicated to the growth of the practice of Horseback Archery and adopters of Horses' Haven Alumni Chief (Parker) and Geronimo. They practice in a safe and ethical way that facilitates empowerment for participants and integrity for their horse partners. They provide a safe and nurturing space for people and horses to learn and progress their skills through events, clinics, lessons and competitions.

The Michigan Centaurs philosophy is simply "Be one with your horse and bow in harmonious union."

The vision of the club is to grow a like-minded community to create more opportunities to expand skills and deepen the human-horse bond through this ancient practice.

For more information visit the Michigan Centaurs website www.michigancentaurs.com



Coming Soon...The Madi Memorial Arena

**We are honored to have won
the Madi Memorial Grant!**

"The Right Horse Initiative is honored to announce the Madi Memorial Grant in memory of 8-year-old Madilyn Patrick who passed away in 2017 after fighting a valiant battle with liver cancer. As the daughter of professional horse trainer Sean Patrick, Madi had a deep love of riding and dreamed of becoming a veterinarian in order to help animals in need. Having grown up knowing the special bond between horse and human, Madi was especially passionate about anything that brought horses and kids together. The creation of this special grant will carry on

Madi's legacy by supporting groups working to help horses in transition."

This grant will allow us to construct an outdoor arena to more than triple the number of horses that can be an active part of our rehabilitation team. The addition of safe working space will significantly increase the number of horses we can prepare for adoption. This will also give us a suitable place to offer clinics, events for the public and activities to bring children and horses together.

We look forward to seeing you at the new Madi Patrick Memorial Arena!



Madi and her father Sean Patrick



How You Can Help Horses' Haven

There are many ways you can help!

- Volunteer
- Sponsor or Adopt
- Donate Wish List Items

There are even ways you can help that don't require any of your \$ or much of your time!

- Use www.smile.amazon.com for your amazon shopping (select Horses' Haven as your charitable organization)



Set up your Kroger Card Community Rewards (Organization # 82601)

- Use www.goodsearch.com as your search engine (type "Horses' Haven" in the Getting Started Box)



- Send us your Tribute Feed UPCs



Our Wish List:

- Hay
- Straw & Pellet Bedding
- Rubber mats (4x6 or 5x7)
- Treated 2x6 fence board
- Treated 4x4 or 4x6 fence posts
- Round pen panels
- Pipe gates, all sizes
- Clean fill dirt and/or gravel
- Breakaway halters, any size
- Saddle covers
- Latex medical gloves
- Postage Stamps
- Plastic muck forks
- Paper towels
- Unsweetened applesauce

We Are Farmily!

Who takes care of 70 horses? Our volunteers do! Two shifts a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year a group of about 80 people commit to all that goes into running a large equine operation. From frigid cold to roasting in the sun, they come.

Horses' Haven's volunteers are the backbone and foundation for all that we are. Every success story starts with this amazing group of people. Their selfless donation of time and labor allows us to make a significant impact on equine welfare.

It's hard work. It's hard on the heart sometimes, being stewards tasked with preserving the dignity of every Horses' Haven animal. It's bittersweet to watch them leave for a new home after coming to know and love them.

It's a "FARMily" that no words can truly describe and a simple thank you does not convey how appreciative we are of our volunteers and all that you do!

Horses' Haven Board of Directors