



THOROUGHBRED RETIREMENT FOUNDATION
PO BOX 3387
SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY 12866

The Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. Your contribution is tax-deductible. A copy of the Foundation's latest annual report may be obtained, upon request, from the organization or from the Office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

Making happy
endings for 26 years.

NOVEMBER 2009



RENEWS

NEWS FROM THE THOROUGHBRED RETIREMENT FOUNDATION



Making strides.

Dear Friends,

This year has been a time of change, challenges, and new beginnings. The TRF has made huge strides both within the industry and our organization. People often ask me how I can be so patient with developing the process of industry wide support for humane retirement of Thoroughbred racehorses. Well it seems as if my patience is finally starting to pay off.

In the last 18 months, since the Eight Belles tragedy, the racing industry's involvement in Thoroughbred retirement and our organization has begun to really move forward and I am truly optimistic about the future. Furthermore, the issues are now also generating awareness outside the racing world. In fact, an editorial piece in the *New York Times* dated Tuesday, August 25, 2009 addressed the retirement of racehorses just as they do other serious social and political ills. For the full story go to:

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/25/opinion/25tue4.html?_r=3

Across the country, racing is now responding. TRF has seen an increased awareness of our mission fostered by high-profile events, as well as direct support by industry organizations. I recently presented a report on the TRF's corrections-based programs at the Jockey Club Round Table in Saratoga Springs, NY. We showed a clip from Homestretch, a TRF documentary film highlighting our corrections based rehabilitation programs. Everyone in the room was deeply moved and both the reaction and response was quite profound. We also have had significant participation and endorsement from NYRA, Churchill Downs, NYTHA, and the Jockeys' Guild, noting just a few of the industry groups. And, the TRF and other rescue organizations are now represented on the NTRA Safety and Welfare Committee.

This promising new direction is heralded by a change in our leadership at the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation. We recently announced the unanimous election of Robin Traywick Williams as our new President, and Tom Ludt as Chairman of the Board. Williams, former chairperson of the National Racing Compact and director of the Association of Racing Commissioners International, succeeds Johnathan Miller, who led the TRF for the past three years. Ludt is president of Vinery and a member of the Breeders' Cup board of directors. We are very fortunate to have both Robin and Tom in these leadership roles, and we look forward to continued success.

It has been a hard year for most charitable organizations, and we too are feeling the squeeze. As we enter into our busiest fundraising season of the year, we are optimistic that our good news and major progress will motivate our current supporters and encourage new donors to give.

We hope that we can count on you to be a part of this promising period of change.

Sincerely,

Diana Pikulski

Executive Director, Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation
diana@trfinc.org



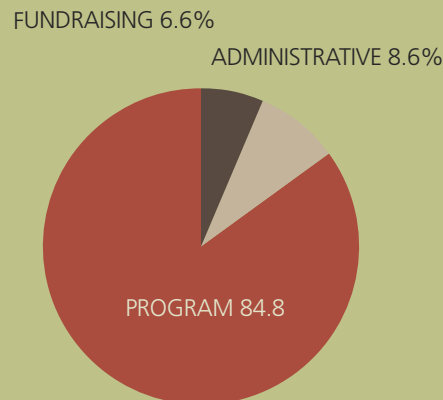
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Often we are asked what percentages of our donations go to expenses. Here is a breakdown from the 2008 IRS Form 990.



Kudos from George Morris

Equestrian legend, George Morris took a break from judging the USHJA Hunter Derby Finals held at the Kentucky Horse Park on August 20-22 to stop by the TRF Makers Mark Secretariat Center (MMSC) and share his opinion about the remarkable athleticism of the American Thoroughbred. Morris is the Chef d'Equipe for the USEF Show-jumping Team and has served as Director for the USET, the AHSA, the NHSA, as well as Vice President of the AGPA. He rode on the US Equestrian Show Jumping Team that brought home the gold from the Pan Am Games Chicago in 1959 and the silver from the 1960 Rome Olympics. He is the youngest rider ever to win at the age of 14 the two most prestigious junior equestrian titles, the AHSA Hunter Seat Medal Finals and the ASPCA Maclay Finals in the country. A brilliant horseman with impeccable style, Morris has shared his expertise in a whole host of books, all of which have become classics for anyone aspiring to become an accomplished hunter rider. He graciously left us with his autograph and he thanked all of us at the MMSC for the work we do to herald the value of the off the track Thoroughbred.

"They are the BEST horses!" he said.

New Correctional Facility

The Fields Family Foundation has pledged \$135,000 to the TRF to start up and operate, in conjunction with Plymouth County Massachusetts Sheriff's Department, a new correctional facility farm. This program will be primarily for horses retiring from racing at Suffolk Downs. The farm should be operational by November 15, 2009. The Fields Family Foundation, a non-profit organization, was founded by Richard Fields, the principal owner of Suffolk Downs racetrack in East Boston, MA.



"We are thrilled to be involved with a responsible track and owner. Both are so willing to take charge and close that circle of stewardship to keep its runners safe." said, TRF Executive Director, Diana Pikulski.

From the mouths of our donors

In memory of Private Decision "Desi"

"I loved Desi from the moment I looked into his soulful brown eyes. I had the privilege of adopting Desi. Throughout our five years together, he was my best friend, tolerated my riding, and in return, was well compensated with his favorite snacks (bananas, pop tarts, cookies). Desi touched the hearts of everyone and was a favorite at the barn. After his untimely death this summer, the outpouring of sorrow was incredible. Cards, gifts and well wishes are still coming in. Family and friends and I gave donations in Desi's honor, to help other retired race horses find the loving families they deserve at the time of their retirement."

--Ellen Richless, and her horse Desi

"We are very happy to support the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation," said John Moore, who donated \$26,000 for the Churchill Downs Matching Gift drive. "The TRF is the best charity in the United States."

--John and Susan Moore



"I have just become aware of your existence and am moved to try and help in some way, small as it may be.

Yesterday I happened to be in Goochland County, Virginia and was by the James River Work Center and never even realized that it existed, and I know that I saw some horses on the property so they must have been part of the good work you all are doing, helping noble animals who deserve to be treated with love and respect, and at the same time giving a second chance to those of our society who have been incarcerated."

--W. Gregory Burkett

Sponsor a Horse

Whether you are looking for the perfect gift, or you are a horse lover who does not have the space, time or means to care for a horse, please consider a sponsorship of one of the hundreds of TRF horses who are not suited for adoption. For more information:

<http://www.trfinc.org/Sponsor-a-Horse-c42.html>

Paragallo Horses Sent to Prison... and Love It

After living in hellish conditions at the farm of Ernie Paragallo, several horses that were rescued from the owner and turned over to the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation are being cared for at the Wallkill Correctional Facility in Wallkill, N.Y., exactly the sort of place Paragallo may wind up after having his day in court. Prison life has been kind to these horses, far more kind than it figures to be to the man charged with 22 counts of torturing or injuring animals and failing to provide them with proper sustenance.

Jim Tremper, who runs the TRF facility at Wallkill, reports that the seven Paragallo horses now there are all doing well. They came to him in various states of disrepair, some so weakened and so skinny from their ordeal that Tremper finds it difficult to discuss the horses' plights.

"It's still hard for me to talk about it," he said. "I get so upset. It makes me so angry. They just abandoned these horses. They

did nothing for them. Why? There are so many people out there who want a nice horse and would take decent care of them. Instead, they just left these horses out in a field and did nothing."

Tremper said that some of the older horses were in reasonable shape. It was the younger Paragallo horses that were particularly bad. One horse weighed just 640 pounds. Tremper said that each of the seven has gained about 100 pounds.

With more time and care, some will be suitable for adoption. Others, Tremper said, were so beaten up from their time at the Paragallo farm that it is unlikely they will ever be ridden.

By early October, two other Paragallo horses had already moved on from Wallkill. The star among the Paragallo-TRF horses has been Cheap As A Penny, a 7-year-old gelding. Quickly nursed back to health by the TRF team, he has been adopted



out and is currently being trained as a riding horse by Virginia equestrian Ann Daniel.

“He’s doing wonderful,” Daniel said. “He seems to be pretty bomb proof. He’s a quiet horse and I love him to death. I’ve had horses all my life and can’t afford an expensive one. I’m willing to take on a project. We’ll show him and do the hunter circuit in Virginia. He doesn’t know how to jump yet, but he will. He’s very willing and he’s very sweet.”

Another horse, an 8-year-old gelding named Rag Sheet, has been transferred to the Buskirk, NY farm of TRF employee Julie Walawender.



“He has really come alive,” she said. “He has the most wonderful, sweet disposition and not a mean bone in his body. He is so theatrical at feeding time and makes me laugh every day just watching him dance around and whinny when it’s time for dinner. It is truly an honor and blessing to have him with me and give him the care he so deserves. I have always found it hard to believe people would mistreat such wonderful, precious animals, and now that I have gotten to know Rag Sheet it breaks my heart even more.”

Walawender is riding Rag Sheet and is preparing him for adoption.

Paragallo, a prominent owner who raced on the NYRA circuit, was arrested in April after authorities seized 177 malnourished, disease-ridden Thoroughbreds at his Center Brook Farm in Climax, New York. Shortly after the arrest, 76 Paragallo horses were placed with equine rescue groups and individuals. Paragallo was stripped of his racing privileges following his arrest. He remains free on bail.



One of two new run-in sheds at TRF's James River Work Center Farm in Goochland, VA.

Special National Subcommittee for Retired Thoroughbreds



The National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA) Safety and Integrity Alliance has formed a special subcommittee focusing on aftercare of retired Thoroughbreds. The goal of the NTRA Safety and Integrity Alliance Subcommittee on Aftercare is to work towards a national solution to issues surrounding retired Thoroughbred racehorses, including enhancement of aftercare funding and improvement of compliance and best-practice standards for racetracks and other industry participants. The members of the subcommittee are:

- Madeline Auerbach, CARMA,
- Anna Ford, New Vocations
- Liz Harris, Churchill Downs, Inc.
- Lucinda Mandella, CARMA
- Diana Pikulski, Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation
- Mike Ziegler, NTRA Safety and Integrity Alliance

“The TRF’s participation in efforts such as these is extremely important,” said Diana Pikulski. “We want to work with any organization or group that has a common end-goal: humane retirement for all healthy Thoroughbred racehorses through a variety of institutional and private donations.”

Have you provided your email address to the TRF, or given us your new address if it has changed? The TRF would like to make nearly all of our communication available in electronic versions in the coming months. We will continue to provide printed materials as well. Please send your updated contact information and email address to: ellen@trfinc.org

Adoptions

REAL HOT



Barbara Layman • Wyoming, OH • Adopted "Real Hot"

Real Hot "Billy" was adopted last July. He's doing great. He is getting along well with his turn out herd. Also he has remained as quiet as he was portrayed to be. Last weekend, I allowed a 10 year old to ride with a lunge line and he required lots of urging to keep walking! He does well on trails. I am very pleased.

What a great horse!

SUNNY



Vivian Rowe
Louisville, KY
Adopted "Sunsmanship"

My husband and I met Sunny 2 years ago while stopping in to see The Secretariat Center. As soon as we met him, it was as if something clicked. Sunny came right up to us and put his head down as if to say: "I'm yours, take me home!"

After some natural horsemanship training with him and many visits to the farm, he came home with me. As of this day he is a happy trail horse and my buddy. No matter what kind of bad mood I am in, all I have to do is look into his beautiful eyes, and I feel so much better.

Sunny has a home with me for the rest of his life. I will cherish him and spoil him good!

DOUBLE DAD



Ted Walawender • Buskirk, NY • Adopted "Double Dad"

I'm always skeptical when my wife brings a new horse home. I usually complain at first, keep my distance, and hope that the new addition doesn't stay long. That all changed when Lucky arrived. Lucky had some intestinal problems, a big knee, and was blind in one eye. Aside from these obvious imperfections there was just something about this horse that made him different from the others. I don't usually like horses to be too calm. I prefer a horse to have a little spunk, and although Lucky didn't seem to have that I decided to take him for a ride. Boy was I wrong. The second I got on Lucky he moved right out and had plenty of that spunk that I was looking for. It saddens me to know that Lucky almost lost his life due to a failed race career and careless ownership. Prior to being rescued by the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation, Lucky was found tied to a trampoline in a back yard where he was being fed grass clippings from a lawn mower. Lucky couldn't even stand and was probably near death when he was found. The owner of Lucky at that time had purchased him at a low level auction and really had no idea about how to care for him properly. Lucky ended up at the auction simply because he couldn't race anymore. Clearly these animals can have a great life far beyond their short race careers if they are managed properly.

Always remember when selecting a horse that saving a retired Thoroughbred doesn't just save the horse's life, it may just change yours as well. I would like to thank my wife, the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation, the veterinarian, and various others that decided Lucky's life was worth saving. In the end it turns out that I'm the Lucky one.

EMPEROR'S CROWN



Lori Tsamoutales • Melbourne, FL • Adopted "Emperor's Crown"

Emperor's Crown, has been a part of our family now for almost two months. He settled in quickly with the others and is enjoying sharing his pasture with my daughter's mini. After two trips to Ocala and with LOTS of help from everyone at the Adoption Center, I was able to find the perfect horse for myself. We are truly blessed to have found him. Thanks to TRE, John Evans, and his crew we have a much loved new family member!

BROOKLYN BRIDGE



James Davis • Orange, VA • Adopted "Brooklyn Bridge" and "Test Dance"

Just wanted to give you an update on Test Dance and Brooklyn Bridge. They have brought even more joy, fulfillment and pleasure to our lives. I feel blessed to have these two well adjusted Thoroughbreds. I know their nuances, and they seem to know mine. I know you will continue doing the outstanding work finding loving and safe homes for these Thoroughbreds. What a gift.

James W. Davis Animal Acupressure Practitioner



SINK YOUR TEETH INTO SOMETHING PRECIOUS

TRF has been saving horses from possible neglect, abuse or slaughter for 26 years. Each and every day we strive to realize our mission of providing safe refuge for horses at the end of their racing careers. Our track record speaks for itself. We've rescued and currently care for more horses than any other organization. We offer programs that save lives and provide results:

- Pioneering rehabilitation programs at correctional facilities nationwide
- Successful adoption of close to one thousand horses
- Second careers for horses in educational, therapeutic, and vocational programs
- Meaningful training and healing for both horses and people

While this success comes at a hefty price, costing us millions of dollars annually, the rewards are truly precious. Please make a gift today and sink your teeth (and dollars) into something meaningful where they make a difference each and every day. Use the enclosed envelope, call (518) 226-0028, or give online at: www.trf.org.



THOROUGHBRED RETIREMENT FOUNDATION

*Saving Thoroughbred horses no longer able to compete on the
racetrack from possible neglect, abuse, and slaughter.*