



Music and Buzzy

HORSE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA

NEWSLETTER



TURNING TRAGEDY INTO TRIUMPH!

WINTER 2025

A 501(c)3 organization located in Micanopy, Florida
Providing **rescue, rehabilitation & rehoming** of equines since 1990

GIVE ♥ ADOPT ♥ SPONSOR ♥ VOLUNTEER



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HPAF.org

Pursuant to the requirements of Florida Statute 496.411 the following information is provided. Charity Name/Location: Horse Protection Association of Florida Inc., Micanopy, Florida; Florida Charity Registration # CH2543 . EIN: 65-0190969 A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL FREE (800)435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMENDATION BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA. Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Registration #SC-02543. Percentage of contribution retained by any professional solicitor: 0%. Percentage of contribution that is received by this organization 100%.

THE LIVES YOU'VE SAVED IN THE LAST *100 DAYS!*



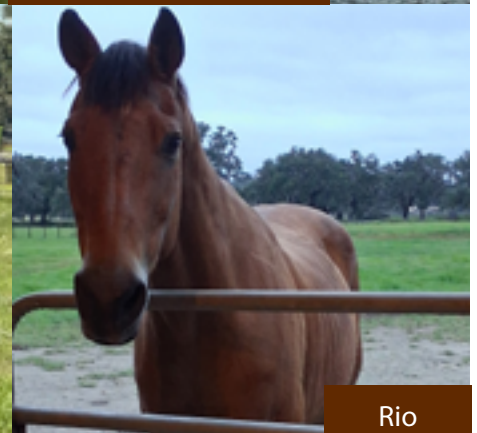
Arnold



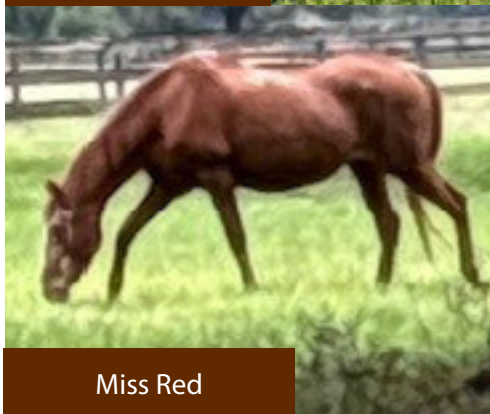
Buddy



Clover



Rio



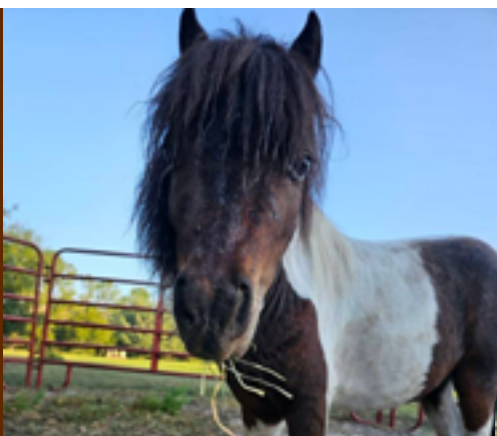
Miss Red



Prize

THE LIVES YOU'VE SAVED IN THE LAST *100 DAYS!* CONTINUED

Right: Wisdom
Below: Diva



Irish



Nugget



Sterling



Duke



Hannah



Duchess

CONTINUED...

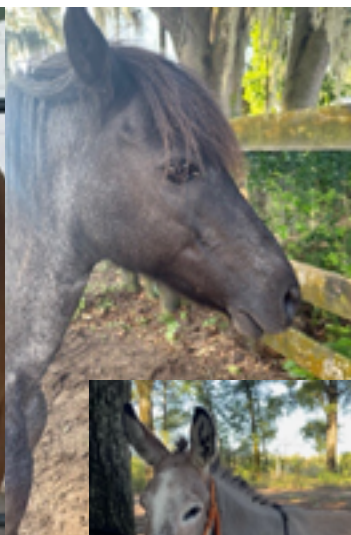
THE LIVES YOU'VE SAVED IN THE LAST *100 DAYS!* CONTINUED



Maximus



Auggie (above left)
Dazzle (above right)



Barney (left)
Maya (above)



Take a Spirit Walk

SPIRIT WALKS ARE OFFERED AT HORSE PROTECTION IN MICANOPY ON THE 2ND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH STARTING IN OCTOBER AND ENDING IN MAY. TIME SLOTS ARE AVAILABLE FROM 11AM TO 1PM. RESERVE THE WALKING COMPANION MINIATURE HORSE OF YOUR CHOICE BASED ON YOUR CHOICE OF FOCUS ALONG THE PATH. WE HAVE LOVE, JOY, FORTITUDE, JUSTICE, PEACE, COURAGE, GRACE, HONOR, AND WISDOM. YOUR MIRACLE MINI WILL GUIDE YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY.



Scan to reserve or learn more
at: www.hpaf.org/spirit-walk/



WOULD YOU PLEASE BE MY SPONSOR?

I am a beautiful fourteen-year-old Thoroughbred. My human mother passed away from cancer. I was adopted out but the adopter decided not to keep me anymore. I am a lovely gentleman. I am well mannered and love people. I also love other horses. I am looking for someone to sponsor me. Will you please be my sponsor? If so, I will be forever grateful. Love, Arnold.

To learn how you can sponsor please email us at christine@hpaf.org



CORPORATE SPONSORS

These organizations support us. We appreciate them greatly. Please support them!

**Big Lick
GIVES**

Shoo-fly



**BERRETTINI
FEED SPECIALISTS**



Florida Thoroughbred Farm Managers', Inc.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO MADE CONTRIBUTIONS AFTER THE SUMMER NEWSLETTER

and before our press date of November 3!

Amy Sperling

None of this would be possible without the kindness and generosity of Ms. Amy Sperling!

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**Thank you to the horses'
guardian angel, Don Manuchia,
for once again sponsoring the newsletter.**

We and all the equines can never thank him enough!

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A CELEBRATION OF LOVE

HP's Third Annual Giddy Up Gala

On November 8th, we once again gathered together for our annual Giddy Up Gala. It was hosted at the beautiful Vintage Farm Campus of the College of Central Florida. Vintage Farm is the site of the College's Equine Studies Program. Its beautiful events barn and grassy, equine friendly environment make it a perfect place to celebrate all the work we do, and the people who make it happen. Our presenting sponsor, the Saint Bernard Foundation, led things off with a few words from founder Mary Jane Hunt, who shared her heart for rescue and redemption of equines and told us a bit about the rescued residents on her farm in Ocala.

This year, our theme was A Celebration of Love: The Story of Tommy, Rescue #3,033. Horse Protection has been in existence for 35 years and in that time, we have saved over 3,000 horses. Tommy is one of those horses, and he told the story of his journey from tragedy into triumph, in his words. He actually even wrote a book, which was animated into a beautiful movie by Marv Johnson of Eyemonster, and

shown on the big screen at the Gala. The bound picture book was the signature item offered in our Silent Auction.

As each chapter of Tommy's story was told, we paused and Executive Director Christine Massinger filled in the footnotes - the story behind the story. Tommy's story began with suffering and neglect. He was one of the most profound starvation cases HP had ever seen. Once he was rescued and on the trailer with hay and water, Christine shared some important facts about the rescue. Horse Protection rescues an average of 6 horses each month. These rescue calls are often dangerous, and we are assisted by law enforcement whenever possible. After sharing that information, we invited our Rescue Team up to the stage to be honored.

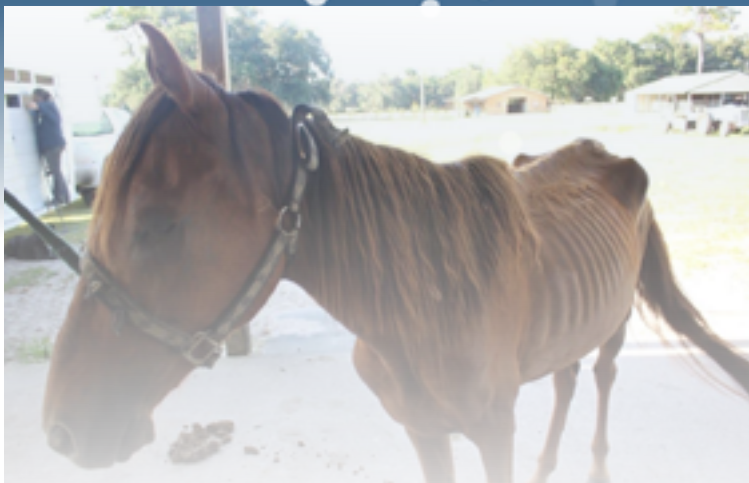
As Tommy's story continued, he told us about the great feed and care that brought him out of starvation. Christine pointed out that, thanks to sponsors Berrettini Feeds and Green Gaits provide feed at a discount so that our donor's dollars can go farther. We spend an average of \$3,000 per week on feed and hay. Our veterinarians and farriers also

Thank You, Sponsors!

**The Saint Bernard
Foundation**



DILLON | MEDIA GROUP



Tommy's journey from neglect to a permanent, loving home, like every HP adoption, was made possible by the love of donors, staff and volunteers.

provide discounted care to help these horses get back on track. We spend over \$130,000 per year for these essential services. Veterinarians and Farriers were called up to the stage to be honored.

Next, Tommy told us about his friends at the farm, and his training. We all paused for a champagne toast to Tommy when he completed his training. Christine shared that all HP horses receive natural horsemanship training from one of the 5 trainers who work with us. Although they discount their services for HP, they are of course paid professionals. We incur over \$2,500 per month on average to help these horses get a good start and the best prospects of adoption. Our Equine Care Staff and Trainers were also called up to the stage to be honored and thanked.

And then, Tommy told the story of his adoption. There was not a dry eye in the place. But it got better. All of the adopters in the audience were called up on stage to be honored and given a rose. Red roses for the current adopters and red roses laced with white for the adopters of horses who have passed on. What a touching scene and truly a celebration of love!

But Tommy wasn't finished. There was an epilogue to his story. Tommy's adopter shared the story of how Tommy himself saved the life of his pasturemate, Ranger, by

running and bucking and carrying on in his pasture to get her attention. Ranger was colicking, and thankfully recovered after a long stay in an equine hospital. And so Tommy came full circle, a life saved and then a life saver.

The Gala was expertly steered by the audio visual team at Dillon Media Group, who also sponsored us with discounted services. The Miracle Minis were in attendance, thanks to Creech Horse Transportation, to escort our guests to the patio after checking in, and a Kissing Booth was sponsored by Piccin and Glynn Attorneys at Law. Sean Dowie once again took pictures, which will be available on our social media feeds but were not available before we went to press with this story.

All in all, it was a delightful and festive evening. There was a wine raffle for 25 bottles of Island Grove wine and guests had the opportunity to adopt a Miracle Mini Plush Toy that came with a special Tommy pocket pony and a chance to win a Teatime with the Real Tommy at the Horse Protection farm. Thanks to our sponsors, there was a fun array of Silent Auction items including Berrettini and Dillard's gift baskets, a painting of Baby Rocky, and training packages from two of our trainers.

Tommy's story will be shared far and wide on our social media channels, and will be featured on our website. To see it, visit us on Facebook or at hpaf.org.

SHELTAIR

eyemonster



Do you worry about what would happen to your horse if something were to happen to you?

Do you find yourself asking...

WHAT IF?

DON'T LEAVE YOUR PRECIOUS HORSES **in Fate's Hands**

Horse Protection Association of Florida is proud to announce that we have **expanded our Mission** to include assisting horses whose caregivers have passed away, are terminally ill or are disabled.

We now offer a **Peace of Mind Plan, a personalized estate plan for you and your horses.** It will protect them if something were to happen to you.

Creating the Peace of Mind Plan is **easy and straightforward.** It will take about an hour to complete.

Together we will:

- Reserve your horse's spot in the Peace of Mind Plan.
- Discuss your horse's care needs including any special ways that your horse likes to be cared for (i.e., certain hoof care, certain supplements, certain behavioral tendencies).
- Create a plan to ensure that your horse will be well cared for in the event something was to happen to you.

We at Horse Protection see the tragedies that occur to horses when caregivers do not properly plan to protect them.

- Thousands of horses are slaughtered for food products every year in the United States even though consumption of horse meat is illegal in this Country.
- Too often we see family members who have been entrusted to care for horses who don't follow through either because they are not horse people, or their circumstances have changed.
- Not enough horse lovers create legally valid trusts that will ensure their horses remain safe if something were to happen to them.
- Wills cannot be trusted as horses are considered property and money cannot be willed to them directly. Wills also may be contested in court for very long periods of time leaving no funds to provide for horses during critical time frames.

Stop the worry and gain **PEACE OF MIND.**

Call Christine Massinger, Executive Director at **(352) 207-3079** or email christine@hpaf.org

PEACE OF MIND PLAN

Would it surprise you to learn that several of the horses that we have recently rescued were horses whose caregivers have passed away?

These horses were loved but were left in fate's hands as no plan was in place for them. If you do not have a solid plan in place to protect your horse if something were to happen to you, you are putting your horse at great risk. We at Horse Protection have seen tragic things happen in these circumstances where horses are put into the wrong hands, sold, given away, sent to slaughter. We, as horse people, don't want to imagine that this will be the case for our beloved horse(s). But the truth of the matter is that it is up to us to be proactive and plan so that our four-legged loved ones can remain safe if we are no longer able to care for them.

Horse Protection has expanded our mission statement to provide sanctuary for horses whose caregivers have passed away, have become terminally ill, or become disabled. Our Peace of Mind Plan is a very simple estate plan that will allow your horse to live on Horse Protection's property and be cared for by our knowledgeable staff. It is a customized plan that will allow your horse to receive all the comforts that he/she needs or is accustomed to whether that be: customized Ferrier care, special grooming needs, medications, supplements, assistance with training etc. We commit to taking care of your beloved horse(s) with the same attention that you do.

There are a limited number of slots still available for reservation for this plan so don't hesitate. **Contact our Executive Director, Christine Massinger, by email to receive a copy of this plan at christine@hpaf.org or by calling 352-207-3079.** Christine will be happy to arrange a time that is convenient for you to go over the plan via phone or in person and to discuss your needs.

Together we will create a plan to ensure that your horse will be well cared for in the event something happens to you.

Don't leave your precious horse in fate's hands. Gain Peace of Mind today.

Conner and Roxy, loved by their owner, now with Horse Protection through our Peace of Mind Program.



BEFORE, AFTER AND HAPPILY EVER AFTER



Vickie Mitvalsky adopted Joey



Jean Hewitt adopted Irish



Rana Swimline adopted Rio, shown along with her daughter, Kaitlin



Mary Vajdich adopted Prize



Mark and Chris Durkin adopted Sammy

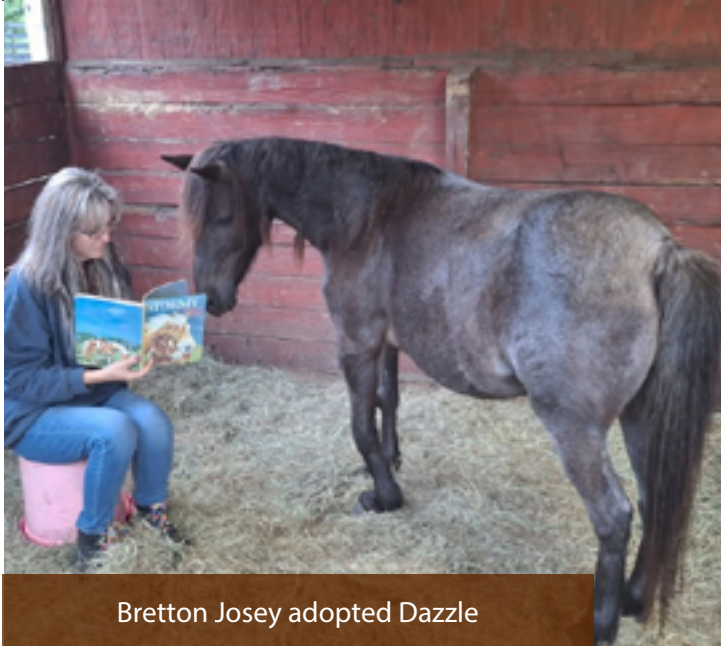
MORE HAPPILY EVER AFTER!



Tiffany Rowe adopted Barney



Christine and Doug Massinger adopted Conner and Roxy



Bretton Josey adopted Dazzle



Diana Scott adopted Victor



Cathy Fowler
and Colby Vine
adopted Blaze
(right) and
Wisdom (far
left)



CONTINUED...

"IT'S MY WORST NIGHTMARE!"

These are the words we hear from horse lovers who wonder what would happen to their beloved horse(s) if something were to happen to them. We at Horse Protection see the tragedy that takes place when plans are not in place to protect horses.

Just recently a long-time supporter of Horse Protection's passed away. She was not aware of our Peace of Mind Plan and entrusted her "friend" with the care of her horses. Within three months of her passing, Horse Protection had to rescue her horses from starvation and neglect from the "friend"!!! The "friend" did not even know the names of the decedent's horses. She was not caring for them the way that they needed to be cared for. They were covered in sores and were a body score of 2.5 even though they had been healthy when entrusted to her.

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of having a plan in place. We have recently expanded our mission statement to provide sanctuary for horses whose care givers have become ill, pass away or become disabled.

None of us like to think of our demise. But to think of the possibility of our demise and to create a safe plan for your beloved horses is prudent and necessary.

Horses are sold for slaughter much more often than we would like to think. Horses are abandoned and neglected. Horses are starved as was the case with these two horses who were entrusted to a "friend."

Unlike this "friend", sometimes people have the best of intentions when they take on a responsibility such as this and then they realize that it is much too much for them.

The horse then is sold or given away. The horse is now on a "give away" chain. We see this frequently where someone trusted one person. That person cannot fulfill their promise, and they give the horse away to someone who cannot be trusted. The result is often times tragic for the horse.

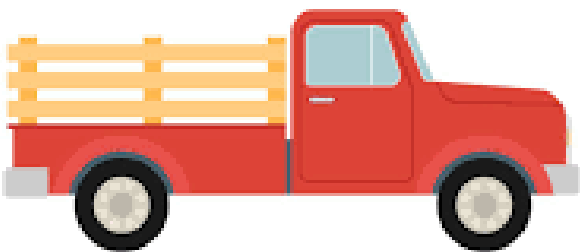
Please, please, please have a plan in place for your horses! They are depending on you, not just for now, but for the rest of their lives.

For more information on our Peace of Mind Plan contact our President/Executive Director Christine Massinger at christine@hpaf.org or call **352-207-3079**.



Pedrito and Cano, loved by their owner, now in sanctuary with Horse Protection through our Peace of Mind Program.

A FARM TRUCK'S WORK IS NEVER DONE!



Can you donate a farm truck for Horse Protection? As you can imagine, we would use it every day - rescuing horses, picking up supplies, working around the 148 acre farm, and transporting horses to their new homes. If you have a truck in good repair that you can donate or know an automotive dealer that might consider sponsoring one, we would be so appreciative. Please reach out to our President and Executive Director, Christine Massinger at christine@hpaf.org. The horses thank you!

MORE HAPPILY EVER AFTER!

Patrice Bryant Akers and Rick Akers adopted (left to right) Maria, Hero, and Solomon; along with Pie (inset top) now called Peaches and Maurice (inset bottom) now called Job.



Spring, Summer, Winter and Fall - we get the calls.

Whether it's hot or cold, rainy or dry - our farm and its precious residents rely on us for their feed, medical care and training.

Your monthly commitment of \$30 or more is the foundation that gives us the confidence to say YES when a call comes in to save another life.

Partner with us on a monthly basis. The horses thank you and we are encouraged by your willingness to make this special kind of pledge!

As a token of our appreciation and a symbol of your support that spans the seasons, we will give you one of our **STEADFAST THROUGH THE SEASONS** insulated tumblers - whether it is hot or cold, it's there for you, just like you are for the horses of HPAF.



STEADFAST





HPAF.ORG

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Horse Protection Association of Florida 20690 NW 130th Avenue Micanopy, Florida 32667

christine@hpaf.org

(352) 466-4366

- ☐ \$40 Annual Membership
- ☐ \$65 Family Annual Membership
- ☐ \$100

- ☐ \$350
- ☐ \$500
- ☐ \$other:

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

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PLEASE REMEMBER THE HORSES IN YOUR WILL. YOUR LEGACY WILL HELP THEM FOR YEARS TO COME.