

WINTER 2026 NEWSLETTER

Recipient of the:
HTA Distinguished Service Award
ARCI International Animal Welfare Award
USHWA Proximity Award
American Association of Equine Practitioners
Lavin Cup Finalist



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Helping Horses & Kids Since 1989

You Didn't Look Away

The outpouring of compassion and swift action brought twenty-five Standardbreds to safety. These trotters and pacers had been weighed, tagged with USDA identification, and placed on a direct path to slaughter. Many were weak, injured, elderly, and emaciated. A few had injuries that were never attended to. They had already endured weeks of hauling from auction to auction across multiple states. Many originated in Indiana and Ohio.

When a few horses at one time are in such need, SRF can sometimes manage getting help to them in time. This large number within a few days was not manageable without significant help. By the time this large rescue was in its final stage four more horses in need were at risk.

Thanks to emergency funding donations, match gifts, a few homes and fosters, and two organizations with the same lifetime commitment to horses, every horse is safe.

The weather across the country impacted the final movement to their safe places. Six horses spent a couple of days at the transporter's farm as the weather quickly became too dangerous to continue. Others coming from Texas endured a longer haul. Though approved for transport, they arrived in even worse condition. Several are still in need of homes and are with SRF. SRF continues to plead for loving homes for them.

Saving all these lives was only possible because people refused to look away.

Thank you to every donor, foster, organization, volunteer, and advocate who helped turn desperation into safety. These horses are alive thanks to you.



Josthel's Pardon aka "JP" showing off his goofy side for the kids at our annual "Holiday At The Farm" event! Typical Standardbred, hamming it up!

RECENT ADOPTIONS



Gntlmnstarturngins	Pal Joey	RR's Lovely Lady
Prince Topgallant	Real-able	Adagirl dawn
Run Like Tiki	Amadeus Seelster	Hopes Misfit
Redondo Beach	Duke Sutton	DW's Patience
Houdini's Show	Roamin	Kendal Diamond
Ditchdamagicdragon	Judy Leigh Du Lac	Thatsasmartfella
Cheyne's Train	Sam Wudda	Jesse UBG
International Style	Parklane Blaze	Opal UBM
Labirinto Sas It	Navarro Seelster	Charley UBG
The Future	US Goalie	Jake UBG
Ambro Sceptre	Norway Hanover	WP Baylor Bay
Good Cracker	Off With The	SS Warrior
Ground Farce	Jeans	West Edge Allstar
Full Benefits	Fear The Major	Pretty Girl
Re Dei Lavec	Get Goin Mel	Southwind Sparta
Tidewater Moses	Sheer Luck	

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Please pass this newsletter on to your friends!

Follow us on social media!
SRFHorses





Giving Tuesday

SRF is honored to have received a generous match gift for Giving Tuesday from the estate of Henrietta Chiarello to help save and transform the lives of many horses in desperate need.

Thanks to an additional challenge gift of \$15,000, the total match offer was \$25,000. We are so grateful for these gifts and for every donation to match this generosity.

Raising support for horses coming from slaughter situations, especially those with complex medical needs, is one of our greatest challenges.

Starvation is the most common condition we encounter, but many arrive with *eye injuries, infections, large lacerations, abscesses, fractures, and illness. Social media fundraising alone cannot meet these enormous needs.*

Rescuing a horse from this fate is only the beginning of a long, expensive and difficult journey. Once they leave the kill pens, they require quarantine, immediate medical care, and often emergency veterinary treatment; these are critical and costly steps that determine whether they survive.

This match helped SRF make the difficult financial decision about the level of care it can provide to each horse.

Why does SRF launch Giving Tuesday early?

Because horses, despite their historic service and the countless ways they helped build this country through wars, heavy work, starvation, neglect and other inhumane treatment, *remain among the least supported in charitable giving.* The urgency of their need does not wait.

Dimples in 2025-2026

SRF's annual charity golf outing going on 33 years had a fabulous 2025 event! Combining an evening out at the club for the golfers and guests, supporters, adopters, newcomers and those retired from swinging the iron, to welcome summer made for a fabulous night.

This year the elaborate cocktail & dinner party will follow golf at the club where prizes are awarded, and a gift raffle enjoyed. There will be live music so both golfers and guests can celebrate the start of summer.



In 2025 the Ben Stafford Memorial Golf Outing was affected by the renovation of the club in Delaware. Scrambling to find another date was unsuccessful leaving yet one more fundraiser in 2025 unrealized. We hope in 2026 to see the fun and funding back. Get ready!



The Millstone Elks' Jim Fischer/SRF Golf Event - TBA

Taking Home The Dough!

We are thrilled to announce the winner of the 2025 Winter Raffle of \$5,000 is Nancy Schechterle!

Nancy, who makes Massachusetts her home, has spent most of her life involved with Standardbreds in countless ways. Her deep love for these horses truly shines through. She currently owns 13 of her own. When we notified her with the exciting news, Nancy responded with incredible generosity, saying, "Please only send \$2,000. If I didn't already have so many of my own, I'd give it all."

SRF is deeply grateful to everyone who supported this fundraiser. Your kindness helps ensure that the horses who depend on us every day are fed and provided with the care they need, all 500 trotters and pacers.

The spring raffle is in the works and we hope for the same generous support to keep these horses fed!

AND IT'S NOT JUST GOLF!



SRF's 33rd Annual Charity Golf Outing will be held on Tuesday, May 26th, 2026 at the Private Battleground CC in Manalapan, NJ!

You Don't Golf?? Join us at our Summer Kick Off Cocktail and Dinner event with live music & much fun!

A Sanctuary of Love, Memories and New Beginnings

SRF is embarking on a profoundly meaningful initiative — the early steps toward creating a Memorial Sanctuary Farm, a one-of-a-kind way to serve as a lasting tribute, a memorial to a family member or friend who loved horses.

In addition to honoring special humans, it will provide a place for horse lovers to do the same for their horses when they pass over the Rainbow Bridge. This Memorial Sanctuary will provide a loving home for the several hundred horses currently under SRF's lifelong care.

These horses, many of whom have endured difficult pasts, will have the opportunity to live out their final years in comfort, dignity, and peace in the memory of very special people. This vision is bold, beautiful, and deeply needed. For further information contact Judith Bokman at SRF.



Saved Is Not the Same as Safe

It has been nearly forty years since SRF helped its first Standardbred after learning the reality of their fate. For most, life after racing is no life at all.

For decades, gaining support was an uphill battle. Today, awareness is growing. People are beginning to understand that slaughter is real, and that the weeks leading up to it are just as brutal as the end itself. We have seen some new support for needed help but with that comes an urgent need for education, because no two organizations operate the same way.

Missions, standards, adoption requirements, contracts, responsibilities, screening process, and lifelong commitments vary widely. Some organizations screen adopters only through a phone call to their veterinarian or farrier. Some do not require formal follow-up to ensure a horse remains safe and in that home for life.

The varied practices include relinquishing ownership after a year; permitting the adopter to sell the horse; extending to help others

Some programs must accept only young, sound, highly adoptable horses that arrive with a financial stipend. Some have many under their care and expense for life as these are the ones in the greatest need, elderly, or have injuries leaving them pasture sound but not rideable. Such is the case for SRF, 502 had breakfast with SRF this morning and will be looking for that again tomorrow and every day after for the rest of their lives.

Without understanding these differences, it is easy to assume that distributing support equally among programs is the right thing to do. This is where attention is needed.



Hay Match

The generosity of donors brought hay to most every SRF horse through much needed donations. In NJ it even brought a truckload with its own muscle to unload and load into SRF trailers. The outpouring was a rescue in itself. Thank you so very much from each horse from Oklahoma to New York.



A Gentleman and a Lady

Save Our Standardbreds From Slaughter (SOSS), SRF volunteers regularly reach out to past owners and trainers of horses tagged for slaughter. Sometimes, it's a lucky day for a horse and someone steps forward to help.

Blissful Babe was one of those horses. When her owner, Earle Sheppard, went through a significant change in his life, he was forced to sell all of his horses. She was one of them. Years later, SRF found her in Oklahoma facing a brutal end. Like nearly every horse found in a kill pen, this sweet mare was hungry and painful.

Earle came forward for her, wanting to take her home, but SRF was understandably cautious. Too many offers over the years have fallen through.

Blissful Babe was moved from the kill pen to quarantine. Earle explained that he needed time to figure out how to get her home. Living in Michigan, he would need to borrow a trailer and take time off work. Weeks passed, plans remained uncertain, and confidence began to fade.

SRF attempted to arrange transport to Kentucky to make the trip easier for both Earle and the mare, but Blissful Babe became sick, followed by Earle's delay. It appeared this might not happen after all.

After three long months, Blissful Babe finally arrived at our Kentucky connection, allowing Earle to complete arrangements to bring his girl home. When he arrived, his smile said everything. He shared that she walked straight to him and laid her head on his shoulder. She knew.

SRF is deeply impressed by the character of this man. In 37 years, only a handful of times has someone who offered to take their horse back actually followed through. Thank you, Earle, for keeping your word and giving her the future she deserves.



Outrageous!

This is WP Baylor Bay, a son of Nuke's Secret. He was found in Texas emaciated, injured, and cruelly freeze-branded with the words "GRIM REAPER, RIP, ASHLEY".

Thanks to the timely intervention of the SRF, he was taken in quickly to begin a long journey toward physical and emotional recovery and regaining his dignity. Social media brought an outcry for help for him, demands to file charges against those responsible for his poor condition, injuries, and outrageous freeze branding. It also brought inquiries to provide him a loving home, shockingly, one of those inquiries came from Ashley, the very individual responsible for branding him.

Now named Argo, this horse was previously exploited for "racking", a dangerous, unregulated form of under-saddle racing often associated with underground gambling rings. Reports suggest he was a familiar presence in the Dallas club scene, where horses are raced to exhaustion and often discarded once "broken down" and no longer profitable, many ending up sold for slaughter. While donations were received, they initially fell short of meeting the full costs of Argo's rescue and ongoing care. That changed when one Standardbred racehorse owner came forward with a powerful message of compassion: "You make sure this horse has the best of care mankind can give. I don't care what it costs."

After months of rehabilitation with the help of a rescue organization in Texas, Argo is now in a loving sanctuary home in Indiana. Argo's story is not unique. SRF urgently appeals to the Standardbred racing community: Please stop selling horses to dealers. Rehoming also comes with risks, **but SRF offers assistance!** Private placements, and those through organizations with loose guidelines, however well-intended, often lack long-term security. When they fail, horses like Argo pay the ultimate price. Finding one Argo means countless others suffering, abused, neglected, or funneled into slaughter pipelines.

Sweet Horse Stories From Adopters

My gelding, Bleu and our Shetland Roxie think the sun absolutely rises and sets on Raise Your Glass! We call her "the queen" because she knows what she wants and expects only the best! Seeing her and Brooke's bond grow has been nothing short of amazing to watch. I would adopt 100 Standardbreds if I could! - **Stephany**

Thank you for sending Legacy's papers, she will be remembered so fondly. She provided so many life experiences/adventures to my daughters and me. We appreciate all that you do at SRF. -**Deeann**

RECENT ADOPTIONS

Cont. From Cover Page

AlwaysInYourDreams	Ivy Rae UBMX	Ms Jen
Amazing Missile	Jealolicous	Nirvana Gear
Arque Hanover	Khan Blue Chip	Noble Star
Arthur UBGX	Laags Memorial	Off With The Jeans
Calypso Blue	Liz's Lexus	On Eagles Wings
Chataqua Orange	Loretta UBM	Patriot Nation
Chocolate Too	Luigi Sanantony-O	Ridges Champ
Clover UBM	Maejusmac	Rose Run Fontanna
Cruznwithdabigdog	Manwella	SouthJersey Sharon
DB Art	McArdle Direct	Tag #9966 aka Charlie
Disbelief	Meg UBM	The Last Hurrah
Eclipse Dream	Midnight News	Traditional
Getthepartystarted	Midnight Starburst	Bewitching Samantha
Hestonspurrfect	Milo UBG	W Dot Com
I'mfriskietwo	Moon Charmer	



SRF's adopted police mounts proudly serve every year in the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade! Each horse has their own custom police shield worn on their chest. It's heartwarming to see how proud and dignified they carry themselves as they walk through the crowds along 5th Avenue.

Kindness Knows No Boundaries

Just when we think we have exhausted all hope for three blind trotters and pacers, hearts poured out and in the last hour for SRF to get them safe. Today they are in their adoption stage but will soon have a whole lot of love, so deserving! Thank you to every person who made this happen for them.



Equine Virus Brings SRF Horse Movement to a Standstill

Equine Herpes Virus (EHV) is a highly contagious disease that spreads rapidly through horse populations and can have devastating consequences. It is a required reportable disease to the state veterinarian in most states. While it often begins as a respiratory illness, certain strains can progress to the neurological form of the virus, leading to paralysis and death.

The most recent was marked with a high rate of neurological cases and fueled by multiple "super-spreader" horse events. A barrel racing horse in Texas was confirmed positive, the ripple effect was felt nationwide forcing restrictions in transport and otherwise. This affected SRF.

Every horse rescued by SRF is first examined by a local veterinarian and placed into quarantine within the area. Under normal operations, horses remain in quarantine and rehabilitation until transport can be safely coordinated. These decisions are never taken lightly and are based on what will best serve each individual horse, including their physical condition, adoption potential, training requirements, cost of ongoing care, availability of safe transport, and even weather conditions.

A Kentucky facility often plays a role in SRF's relocation process, serving as a layover where many horses receive additional veterinary evaluations. However, as the outbreak escalated, SRF's carefully managed system was disrupted. Kansas posed an additional challenge due to the high number of Standardbreds passing through the state. Many originate from the Northeast, where racing remains prevalent and Standardbreds are commonly used as work horses. The volume and movement of horses through these regions makes containment efforts even more complex.

As a result of the escalating outbreak, SRF's horse movement was placed under lockdown for three months. During this time, no horses could leave their quarantine locations.

These restrictions were essential and continue at a different level to safeguard the health of the horses already in SRF's care. This significantly slowed progress for many horses waiting for their chance to travel to locations for rehabilitation, training, and adoption.

SRF leases its main adoption location from an operating breeding farm. This has added to the challenges and the unexpected expense it is causing. The outbreak still exists and SRF is doing its best to manage under these circumstances.



Fast Johnny- Looking so proud and dignified in his loving home

SRF Youth Spotlight



Loren Conover's second time with horses had Jealolicous snuggling and giving him the confidence every young person should be gifted. Empowering young people this way gives them the wings to rise and define the future.

When Kindness Came In Time

A noble 23-year-old, a nearly \$300,000 earner, was laid to rest peacefully, his long journey finally complete. Seven years ago, SRF saved him from slaughter at a moment when his future hung by the thinnest of threads. When Fast Johnny, a son of Mr. Levac, arrived, his condition was devastating to all eyes.

His little body, barely 15 hands, was emaciated, frail and exhausted, marked by years of hardship. The image of him that first night is one we will never forget. We truly did not believe he would survive until morning, but we gave him the chance to decide his own fate, and he chose to live.

Fast Johnny's talent had shone brightly early in his career. By just six years old, he had already left his mark on the track. He changed hands sixteen times before his trail went cold. For more than a decade, his whereabouts and circumstances remained unknown, leaving us to wonder what trials he endured before finding his way to SRF. Within weeks of his rescue, a call came that would change everything.

A remarkable couple who had already opened their hearts to an SRF mare in need of gentle, patient care was ready to help again, they asked for the horse who needed the most help. There was no hesitation, that was Johnny. Renamed Elmer, he began the most peaceful chapter of his life. Severely underweight and struggling with old injuries, Elmer traveled from New Jersey to Connecticut, arriving at a beautiful show barn where comfort and kindness surrounded him.

Despite his condition, his manners never wavered. While others struggled through the simplest requests with their horses, Elmer quietly demonstrated perfect behavior, as though reminding everyone of the dignity he carried within. With consistent, devoted care, Elmer slowly regained his strength; his gentle personality emerged fully delighting everyone he met. It wasn't long before he became a favorite. He understood just how lucky and loved he was.

Recently, Elizabeth and Andrew said goodbye to Fast Johnny. His legs were no longer able to carry him comfortably. Together our hearts are heavy, but they are also full of gratitude. Thanks to this special couple, his final years were filled with dignity, comfort, and unwavering kindness, everything every horse deserves.

Memorials Are Now Everlasting

Memorial gifts are a beautiful way to honor the lives of loved ones who have passed. These gifts of compassion are transformed into care, giving horses comfort, safety, and a second chance.

Special people and acts of love deserve lasting recognition. SRF will now honor memorial gifts on its website, AdoptaHorse.org, through a dedicated remembrance page. This space will lovingly preserve the names of those being honored. Their legacy will live on through the horses whose lives they helped change as SRF continues and the website remains, **every name will be everlasting right there.**



❖ *Do You Need a Friend?* ❖

With 500 trotters and pacers under SRF's care and expense, it is alarming when we think of what it takes to provide for their needs: hay, grain, a piece of land to graze on, keeping their feet trimmed, their teeth in check, worming and medical care. Some will find homes, but well over 250 will likely remain with SRF for life, as they are unattractive to adopters due to age or injury. Please sponsor one who needs a friend. Any amount, as often as you wish, and for any horse or one that may reach out to you from the list below or on SRF's website, AdoptAHorse.org. Thank you so very much, our sponsors change the lives of these horses and are so very special.

Here are a few in need:

OI Blue Eyes	Blu Meadow Andy	Spit Ball
Pleasemesleazy	Cambeaster	Spokesman
Psycho Chicken A	Camturo	Toms Dusty Matt
Rob's Thunder	Cheryl's Dream	Way of Life A
Social Impact	Cheyenne Taylor	Whitesand Sakic
Smokin Lil	TW Jim	WindsongDolly
Just More Flak	Fine Feather	Seeking Jeanie
Excuse ME Pleez	Deputy DJ	Hurry Up Elmer
Fullcup	Mystical Ruler	Park N Spark

Please see the reply envelope to choose your horse or visit our website at Adoptahorse.org!



Here may be a solution to the deep freeze, and most of the country being socked with snow! The old adage, "hay burners," fits perfectly this season unless your mom sends you out bundled up with layers, booties, and a scarf!



No Longer Forgotten: Bear's Story

This poor soul was likely bred to work his whole life—and that is exactly what he did. When he could no longer manage the demanding workload, he had no options, nowhere to go, and no humane way to live or ease his suffering. When SRF posted his photo, it brought tears to many people. He needed a loving home and donations, but his chances of receiving either were slim. Lingered without food or water in a Texas pen, SRF made his story known on social media and an angel stepped up!

He was sent to Kentucky for some TLC, as there were no options in Texas. Upon arrival, the farm reported: "Bear looks very rough. We don't know if the trip made him worse—he can barely step off the trailer." Care was given, and fingers were crossed; his odds of survival were not in his favor. A storm started just as he was tucked into the barn with comfort. A few days later, after two feet of snow had fallen, Bear was still hanging on.

Today, as we share this, he shows a spark of interest in life. We hope it brightens so that this gentle teenager can join Butternut Bay in his extraordinary home in New Jersey. A bedded stall, and run-in fit for a king are waiting for him! Join us in rooting for this brave guy to get to his first day of the rest of his life filled with well-deserved luxury, kindness, and unwavering love.

STANDARD BRED

Rescue



RETIREMENT FOUNDATION

AdoptaHorse.org

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SRF is Different ~ Remaining a Lifetime Guardian.

37 years of Helping Horses & Kids

Limited Tickets **CASINO NIGHT** **POKER TOURNAMENT!** **Sat. March 7 2026**

Poker Prize \$500*

**Craps
Black Jack
Roulette
Poker**

GREAT Prizes!

**Casino Games \$65pp - Poker Tournament \$75
Incl. 2 Drinks, Hors d'oeuvres and Dessert Tasting!**

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7-10:30PM

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Tickets at
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To Benefit: AdoptaHorse.org
Cream Ridge, NJ 08535
Clk FB for any weather concerns.

Event at:
Millstone Elks Lodge
22 Burnt Tavern Road
Clarksburg, NJ 08510
*\$500 Paid
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Shop
To
Save
a
Horse



SRF's online store was very popular this year! The support was greatly appreciated; it is another tool in the box that feeds and rescues horses in great need.

For spring, SRF put together a collection of great items; lightweight horse pajamas, loungewear, shorts, and more will be online soon.

Limited inventory is the only way SRF can keep costs reasonable. Some items may offer pre-order so as not to be out of stock.