



2019 ANNUAL APPEAL

Dear Friend of HorseAbility,

This year marked the opening of our indoor arena. This was a goal of our organization for decades, and certainly not without hurdles to overcome.

The winter months for HorseAbility are our biggest financial challenge. As the anticipated stress of this time approaches I am reflecting on the immense growth and success we have accomplished in the 26 years since I founded HorseAbility. Our organization, like our riders and our herd, have continued to succeed and triumph despite the challenges we face.

As the holiday season begins and we all find ourselves in the swarm of an endless to do lists, I'm doing my best to practice what I preach: **pause and appreciate all that we have.**

I remind myself often that even on my toughest day as an Executive Director, I have the ability to walk outside my office and be reminded of exactly why we work so hard to do what we do.

Last January, I was running from one task to the next and sprinted to the indoor as my rider arrived. I was caught up in the details of girth checks, stirrup adjustments and catching my breath from my run uphill, then the importance of the moment caught up to me. Sadly, my student Mary endured a spinal cord injury 2 decades ago. This year marks more time in her wheelchair than she has had without it. She participates in weekly adaptive riding lessons at HorseAbility and raves about the vast benefits to her everyday life; improved physical mobility and strength. As a quadriplegic, with limited mobility in her extremities, many would think riding is not an activity for her. I welcome those people to watch the magic that happens when Mary rides. So as she begins to warm up on Luther, the moment comes full circle. Luther, one of our tried and true lesson horses is almost always her mount. Luther led a big fancy competitive lifestyle in the top show circuits from Florida to NY, prior to breaking his leg. An injury that ended his "career" resulted in a new one with us at HorseAbility. He was rehabilitated, and in my opinion has found his real purpose with our clientele, as a talented, gentle, committed and hardworking member of our herd.



Mary and Luther

As these two moved out to the rail together as my first lesson in the indoor, I halted in my tracks and was overtaken with gratitude for all that HorseAbility has offered. A place of growth and success for our participants, a safe landing place for our herds' second career, an educational facility for our interns and instructors in training: **a community for all.**

I want to thank you for your support and involvement with HorseAbility. For making these moments possible. The majority of our donor base are those that are involved with our programs. Our 572 volunteers whose support makes our sessions possible. Our families that live the value of our programs. Our staff that believe and live our mission every day. For those of you that support us without this familiarity, I would love the opportunity to show you, in person, what your donation offers. Please come out to the farm for a tour to see and feel the depth of your impact.

HorseAbility's purpose is stronger than ever. Our programs are bursting at the seams, our mission is being fulfilled daily. **Our vision for growth needs your support.** Please consider making a donation this year to continue to keep up with growing demands. While we have accomplished so much, we have so much more to do.

Our growth and sustainability is dependent on your continued support: time, talent or treasure.

As we enter the season of giving, please add HorseAbility to your gift list.



From all of us at HorseAbility-a warm and special thank you for your generosity & support!

Katie

Katie McGowan
Founder & Executive Director

80%
OF EVERY DOLLAR DONATED
GOES TO SUPPORT DIRECT
PROGRAM COSTS!