

# THE NEWS LETTER

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Creating new generations of harness racing fans and participants since 1976 by providing unique equine experiences.

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The official  
newsletter of  
the Harness  
Horse Youth  
Foundation.

Covid19 very much affected the Harness Horse Youth Foundation in 2020 just as it has the rest of the world. Our traveling program was grounded in April. With a quick turnaround, the Programs Committee brainstormed, created, assembled and sent the first of four summer Activity Boxes. The boxes were packed full of puzzles and activities (all related to harness racing and horses of course).

Now in the hands of the HHYF Alternative Learning Committee, the concept is being evaluated and improved so be sure to look for announcements in November about the newly designed efforts.

*We would be remiss if we did not thank again our loyal 2020 sponsors who supported HHYF through this unusual year: **Diamond Creek Farm, Lindy Farms, Meadows Standardbred Owners Association, Standardbred Breeders of PA, US Harness Writers Association, US Trotting Association, IN Standardbred Association, PA Horse Racing Association, Blue Chip Farm, Brittany Farm, Fair Island Farm, Fair Winds Farm, Pinske Stables, Purple Haze Racing Stables, Southern Oaks Training Center, VA Harness Horsemen's Association, Joe Asher & Chris McErlean, Howard & Marlene Taylor, The Meadowlands, Jim & Georgia Simpson.***

One positive as a result of the non-travel summer is having time to organize old records, archive photos, and reflect on the significant impact of our graduates both in harness racing and in life. The following pages merely skim the surface of our graduates and scholarship recipients. We are most definitely #HHYFproud of so many!

#### **A brief overview:**

\*Since 1999, participants of our summer programs number in excess of 1200 "graduates"; we have traveled in excess of 200,000 miles from Alberta to Maine and from Ontario to Virginia.

\*Since 1978, HHYF has awarded and/or administered scholarships in excess of \$725,000 to more than 300 recipients.

\*On August 29, 2020 a random review of the simulcast program showed at least one HHYF alumni participating as a trainer or driver at all but one harness race-track in North America as either a trainer or driver (and that doesn't even consider those working as caretakers or in management)!

Our programs have touched literally thousands of lives introducing young people and their families to harness racing, educating along the way about Standardbreds and the importance of racing to the agribusiness economy. Turn the page to see some of our success stories!

# HHYF ~ PROUD

## TONY ALAGNA

1980s camp attendee; and Little Brown Jug winners  trainer of 2020 Hambletonian among many others.

## PHIL ANTONACCI

2007 Saratoga Raceway graduate and represented HHYF at the 2010 World Equestrian Games. Very recently opened his Thoroughbred training stable in addition to serving Preferred Equine Marketing as the Thoroughbred Sales & Bloodstock Executive.

## JOE ASHER

1986 - 1989 HHYF scholarship recipient; currently CEO: US, William Hill PLC.

## MIKE ARNOLD

2009 Odds On Racing graduate; currently Midwest trainer.

## ROBERT BATH

Pocono Downs graduate; currently Pennsylvania trainer.

## DAVE BROWER

1980s camp attendee; currently analyst and handicapper for The Meadowlands,  The Red Mile, and The Little Brown Jug.

## BRADY BROWN

2005 Meadows graduate; currently regular catch driver at The Meadows.

## DAINA (KAZMAIER) BEHE

1998 HHYF scholarship recipient; currently project manager for Top Line Media Team.

*"The scholarship I received from HHYF helped me to kickstart my journey of becoming a marketing specialist in the equine world. Combining my love of writing, communications, and horses, I've created a professional career where I can truly say that I have my 'dream job' - and I couldn't have gotten where I am today without the help from HHYF."*

## MOLLY D'AGOSTINO

2008 Vernon Downs graduate; currently national recording artist.

## DAN DALEY

2001 Pocono Downs graduate; currently serving in the Florida House of Representatives.

## SARAH DARISH, DVM


1981 - 1984 HHYF scholarship recipient; currently self-employed veterinarian on  Long Island.

*"Thanks in large part to HHYF, I graduated from Cornell University Vet School with no outstanding loans. HHYF holds a special place in my heart."*

## ERIC DAVIS

2008 Harrington graduate, Leadership Program; currently trainer/driver Delaware/Maryland/New England.

## JEFF DEVER

1990s camp attendee  and 1999 HHYF scholarship recipient; currently trainer/driver on Indiana circuit.

## MOLLIE (FENWICK) DEMKOSKY

2007 Pocono Downs graduate, 2008, 2009 Summer Programs; 2010, 11 HHYF Summer Assistant; 2012 - 2013 HHYF scholarship recipient, ; HHYF representative - 2010 World Equestrian Games; currently a vet tech at a small animal veterinary clinic and women's volleyball coach at Penn State Scranton and the mother of a new baby boy.

## ARTIE DICK

2009 Odds On Racing graduate; currently trainer/driver in New York/New Jersey area.


## DECLAN DONOVAN

2014 Ocean Downs attendee; currently driver in the Delaware/Maryland area.

## BRADY GALLIERS

2011 Indiana Downs graduate of HHYF Summer Programs; currently driver/trainer in Ohio.

## PATTY HOGAN, DVM

1985, 1988 -1989 HHYF  scholarship recipient; currently the proprietor of Hogan Equine Clinic and a world-renowned equine surgeon and previous HHYF Service To Youth recipient.

## BEN HOLLINGWORTH

2011 -2012 Summer Assistant; currently second trainer for Rod Boyd Stable in Ontario.

*"I would not be where I am in harness racing if it was not for HHYF. The people I met while I was working for HHYF gave me opportunities to work with horses I would have never gotten a chance to otherwise."*

## JUSTIN IRVINE

14 Pocono Downs graduate, 2015 - 2016 Leadership Program, 2017 summer assistant; up and coming catch driver in Ohio.

*"HHYF helped me to understand harness racing from a different perspective, allowing me to learn to love the sport for the sport as well as the animal, not just from the business angle."*

## BRADY JENSON

2008 Hoosier Park graduate; currently trainer/driver in Minnesota.

## AARON JOHNSTON

2006 The Meadows graduate; currently trainer in Pennsylvania.

## OLIVIA KIMELMAN

2007 Saratoga Raceway graduate, 2008 - 2011 Leadership Program, and HHYF representative - 2010 World Equestrian Games;

# OF SO MANY!

currently the Equine Territory Manager for Patterson Veterinary New York/New Jersey area and HHYF trustee.

## HARRY LANDY



2001 Saratoga Harness graduate; currently trainer based at Congress Hill Farm in New Jersey.

*"HHYF is the first and only stepping stone that gives a kid the ability to dream of winning major stakes like the Hambletonian. With that dream, kids have the opportunity for interaction with star trainers, drivers, racetrack operators which are important for future success. Each day is filled with hard work teaching you the right way to accomplish the skills and tasks needed for a horse to compete at its best. Win, loose or dead heat, at the end of the race you learn, like all of us do, that horse racing isn't easy. I can't think of a better camp that gives life lessons of responsibility and hard work at an age when those lessons are much needed. I believe very much in the principles of HHYF. If you send your kids to a summer program, I guarantee you will not regret it!"*

## LOUIS LEVAN, DVM

1990 - 1991 HHYF Scholarship recipient; currently veterinarian at Woodside Veterinary Hospital in Ohio and part-time licensed trainer/driver on the Ohio circuit. *"As an undergrad starting vet school, the extra HHYF funds surely helped me out".*

## SUSAN LOONEY



1990 - 1992 HHYF scholarship recipient; currently president of Reading Area Community College.

## KATHLEEN MACMILLAN, DVM

1991 - 1992 HHYF scholarship recipient; currently Assistant Professor at the Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island. *"HHYF is a great organization and I am happy to have been a part of it way back when!"*

## RENEE MANCINO

1970s camp attendee; currently Executive Director of Ohio Harness Horsemen's Association.

## BRAD MCCALLUM

2001 HHYF scholarship recipient; currently Executive Director of Agri-Commodity Management Association.

## MARY MCDERMOTT

2010 Gaitway Farm graduate; currently working at Hambletonian Society.

## CHRIS MCERLEAN

1985 - 1988 HHYF scholarship recipient; currently Vice President - Racing, Penn National Gaming, Inc.

*"I'm grateful for the multiple HHYF scholarships that helped me in financing my college degree. Likewise, I have enjoyed being able to work with the Foundation on many projects in my various capacities in the industry over the years to help more young people in meeting their goals in finding a path in harness racing. The Foundation is a true treasure in harness racing!"*

## RYAN MILLER



2001 Hoosier Park graduate; currently trainer in Ohio/Indiana area and HHYF trustee.

## DYLAN MILLER-HUCKABONE

2013 Vernon Downs graduate; currently driver in New York.

## BESIM ODZA

2013 Goshen Historic Track graduate; 2016 Leadership Program; currently second trainer Brett Pelling Stable.

## CARTER PINSKE

2008 Indiana Downs graduate and HHYF representative 2010 World Equestrian Games; currently second trainer Richard "Nifty" Norman Stable and winter trains and manages Southern Oaks Training Center in Florida.

## RACHEL (YOHN) POTUZNIK

2001 HHYF scholarship recipient; currently veterinarian in Wisconsin.

## JUSTIN SODANO

2008 Harrington graduate; currently trainer in the New York/New Jersey/Pennsylvania area.

*"HHYF is key to the industry not only to get a new generation involved, but to teach them the correct way to care for our incredible athletes. Great program!"*

## CHARLES STEWART III

1999 graduate Hoosier Park; currently trainer in Indiana/Ohio area.

## TRENT STOHLER



1980s camp attendee; currently trainer in the Indiana/Ohio area.

## MONTRELL TEAGUE

2002 Harrington Raceway graduate; currently driver on the Eastern seaboard.

## ALEX URBANSKI



2015 Gaitway Farm graduate; currently trainer in the New Jersey/Maryland area.

*"HHYF is important to today's youth because it gives kids of all ages the opportunity to get involved in harness racing. I think it is a great program since it shows children how to be hard working and responsible."*

## DAN WATSON

2003 Harrington graduate; currently Field Biologist Bureau of Land Management in Colorado.

## M. KELLY YOUNG

1997 - 2000 HHYF scholarship recipient; currently Executive Director of Agriculture & New York State Development Fund.



*On a September Saturday in 2019, (but the place and time don't really matter because HHYF has literally hundreds of similar experiences), the folks at Shenandoah Downs hosted one of HHYF Summer Programs. It was well-attended with 25 or so participants.*

*One was a remarkable 11-year-old named Morgan who had previous experience with harness racing but who needed to be challenged in order to keep her interest moving forward.*

*One was a 67-year-old named Erica who had followed horse racing since childhood and applied to attend the*

*event despite the obvious overage in the age requirement.*

*One spring day in 2020, thanks to the local connections Erica made at the HHYF event, she jogged her first horse solo! "It was a dream come true for me" she exclaims.*

*This fall, Morgan, now 12, served as guest announcer for an entire racing card at the Shenandoah meet - one of the youngest ever to accomplish this!*

*HHYF doesn't take credit for any of the success stories of our graduates - some would have most certainly followed their love of racing and found their own path...but*



## **HHYF NEEDS YOUR HELP TO CONTINUE OUR PROGRAMS! PLEASE CONSIDER A DONATION TO MAKE SURE HARNESS RACING CONNECTIONS CONTINUE TO HAPPEN!**

We would also appreciate your support by choosing HARNESS HORSE YOUTH FOUNDATION as your charity of choice for Amazon purchases or on Giving Tuesday on December 1st!

Visit <https://hhyf.org/donations> or complete the information below to make your contribution!

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Make checks payable to HHYF and mail to 2711 Friar Tuck Road, Anderson IN 46013

*All donations are tax deductible as allowable by law*