

HHYF NEWS

WINTER 2024

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1

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

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(Officers also serve as Trustees)

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Tabatha DeLong, James Marshall IV,

Ryan Miller, Emily Ratcliff



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HHYF - What A Difference We Make!

HHYF again accomplished much in 2024! From our signature hands-on summer and scholarship programs to speaking engagements to outreach events and sending care packages, our dedicated trustees and volunteers along with our wonderful partnership support, we hope you will agree that HHYF is indeed an invaluable resource to the industry.

2024 HHYF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Ryley Fusco

Ryley Fusco was selected as the recipient of the Curt Greene Memorial Scholarship and is one of four students to receive the Harold and Marcia Snyder Memorial Scholarships. Ryley is the daughter of trainer Paul Fusco and Robyn Fusco. She has maintained high honor roll distinction during all four years of high school and will attend University of North Carolina at Charlotte UNCC, where she will pursue a Biology degree.

The Greene Memorial Scholarship is named in honor of the late Communicator's Corner Hall of Famer Curt Greene, who held a deep passion for harness racing. The Harold and Marcia Snyder Memorial Scholarship is sponsored by David Snyder and International Sound Corporation.

Ryley was overwhelmed with gratitude after hearing that she was selected by the Scholarship Committee. "I am continuing my academic career and vow to make your selection of me proud. I am truly honored to accept your generous gift and will apply all of it towards my freshman tuition." She also noted that she felt a sense of connection to the late Curt Greene and his passion for the industry. "My love for horses made me enjoy everything from grooming them to cleaning their stalls, just so I could be around them. I unfortunately went through some devastating experiences during my freshman and senior years of high school and the horses became my best therapy to overcome those obstacles. The harness racing community taught me about hard work and never giving up."

Kyra Suleski, Jonas Scott and Alexander Wieder also received funding from the Snyder Memorial Scholarship along with Ryley.



Kyra Suleski

"Receiving this scholarship means more to me than words can express. It helps alleviate some of the financial burden of my education and also serves as a powerful motivation for me to continue striving for excellence in my academic pursuits. I assure you that I will make the most of this opportunity. I am committed to maintaining high academic standards and contributing positively to HHYF community. Your belief in my potential has inspired me to work even harder to achieve my goals."

Kyra Suleski will pursue a degree in International Studies at University of Tampa.



Jonas Scott

"I am beyond honored to be a recipient of the Harold and Marcia Snyder scholarship for the 2023-24 academic year. I want to thank Mr. Snyder for his generosity and the HHYF for their role in the scholarship selection. I am excited to learn more about computer programming and advance further towards my degree. I am still planning on entering the field of cybersecurity upon graduation and am looking forward to the future. I had a fantastic first year at Bucknell University and am hoping the second goes just as well."

Jonas Scott is pursuing a degree in Computer Science and Engineering at Bucknell University.



Alexander Wieder

"Thank you so much for sharing the wonderful news that I have been chosen to receive the scholarship from the Harold and Marcia Snyder memorial scholarship. It was the most wonderful surprise and I would like all the people who made this possible to know how much I appreciate this gift. I am so fortunate that I am able to attend SUNY Plattsburgh to follow my dreams to become a social studies teacher and this financial gift will certainly ease the burden for me and my parents. I promise to put my education to good use."

Alexander Wieder is pursuing a degree in Education and History at SUNY Plattsburgh.

HHYF congratulates all of the scholarship award winners and wishes them the best as they pursue their academic endeavors. For more scholarship information, visit HHYF.org/scholarships or email the office at Ellen@HHYF.org.

(Due to a lack of complete applications, the Sweet Karen Memorial Scholarship was not awarded this year.)

2024

HHYF

EDUCA

NYS Horse 4-H In-Service NY February 10 • Attendance 50



Executive Director Ellen Taylor was invited as the keynote speaker for 4-H leaders from across the Empire state. Her comments were met with much enthusiasm and interest in Standardbreds and HHYF programs!

American Youth Horse Council Symposium TX March 21 - 24 • Attendance 180



Partner: Amplify Horse Racing
"Let's Go Racing" was the tagline of the speech presented by Ellen Taylor and Annise Montplaisir from Amplify in Fort Worth - a whole new audience of mostly western riders!

Life & Times of the Great Dan Patch Festival IN April 27 • Attendance 30



The weekend celebrating Dan Patch's birthday! Yes, Missy is surrounded by students during the field trip to the school...then Bob Heyden and Ellen Taylor (in Burns and Allen style) presented more information at the Heritage House on Saturday with cupcakes too!

Hearts & Horseshoes 4-H Club/ Freehold Raceway Tour NJ February 10 • Attendance 18



Shenandoah Downs VA April 21 • Attendance 12



The HHYF hands-on programs began early in 2024 - first stop was chilly even in Virginia!

Fair Winds Farm Tour NJ May 18 • Attendance 28



Local 4-H and pony club members were treated to ultrasound and reproduction talks as well as, of course, meeting mares and foals!

Hearts & Horseshoes 4-H Club/ Freehold Raceway Tour NJ March 16 • Attendance 20



HHYF trustees Suzanne D'Ambrose and Katie Eick introduced new fans to harness racing with paddock and frontside tours and then the races at Freehold Raceway!

Prairie Crossing 4th/5th/6th Grade School Visit IN April 26 • Attendance 200



Darke County Fairgrounds Short Program OH June 20 • Attendance 6

A small group of special needs kids spent the afternoon in the barn and on the track!

TIONAL PROGRAMS

DeLong Stable IN June 24 • Attendance



Team DeLong (John and HHYF trustee Tabatha) shared their stalls and expertise - a great time was had by all!

The Red Mile KY July 15 • Attendance 6



The opportunity to jog on the historic red clay - a classic summer day for the HHYF program!

Gaitway Farm NJ July 30, 31 • Attendance 17



Trustee/teacher extraordinaires Katie Eick, Suzanne D'Ambrose, James Marshall IV led the two-day full field of young people. Farm tour, star gazing of Hambo hopefuls in addition to the usual harnessing, hitching and jogging!

Leadership Program/ Crimson Lane Farm IN June 25 - 29 • Attendance 7



Two from New York, two from New Jersey, one from Ohio, and three from Indiana attended this week-long program - barn work, field trips, a seat in the bike, a ride in the starting gate, dinner in the clubhouse, watching races, and so much more fun!

How To Draw Harness Horses/ Freehold Raceway Art Project NJ June 25 • Attendance 25 September 12 • Attendance 10



The artistic side of HHYF trustee Suzanne D'Ambrose blossomed as she taught two sessions for this unique program - one for Monmouth County 4-ers and one for local Pony Club!

Goshen Historic Track NY July 24, 25 • Attendance 11



This location offered two days of full immersion in harness racing - the usual introduction to harnessing and jogging with Trottingbreds plus guest speakers and of course a tour of the Harness Racing Museum and Hall of Fame!

Harrison County Ag Days IN September 17, 18 • Attendance 600



Partner: IN Breed Development
HHYF presented a comparative of a human athlete and an equine athlete in a station-like format to small groups of 20 to 30 4th graders over the course of two days...plus the chance to pet local Standardbred Hayswood Ron!

2024 OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

(Each of these provided relevant harness racing as well as HHYF information in a booth/table format.)

Rutgers Horse Management Seminar NJ

February 3 • Attendance 130

Equine Roundup IN

March 29 - 31 • Attendance 500



American Dream/Paramus Park Mall NJ

July 27



Partner Hambletonian Society
Missy from HHYF took her first elevator ride in helping to promote the prestigious 99th Hambletonian!

State Fair Barn Tours IN

August 2 - 18 • Attendance 26,000

Partner: ISA

Equine Affaire OH

April 11, 12

Partners: OHHA, USTA

Diamond Creek Open House PA

June 2 • Attendance 600



The Hambletonian NJ

August 3

Harrah's Hoosier Park Community Night IN

September 20

National FFA Convention IN

October 23 -26 • Attendance advance estimate 50,000

Partners: IN Breed Development, ISA, OHHA, USTA



Care Packages

Anasworldofminis, ISA Banquet, OH Horse Coalition, SPHA of NJ Banquet, Sullivan County of NY Standardbred Awareness Day



Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this summer possible including the HHYF travel "team" 4 PHOTOS Craig Coffin, Grady Daughety, Vicky Rouch, Sue Utterback as well as this year's stable conditioners Alecia and Maven Binkley, Hank LeVan, Ryan Miller, Vicky Rouch, Wilcox

From Heather Whitten, mother of 2024 Leadership participant

"I have heard nothing but amazing things about this program and as a mom, a 4-H leader, and a horse knowledge team coach... I want to say thank you to the standardbred association and all of its members for continuing to support youth programs. Your continued support means more than you know."

From Brianna Hughes, NYS 4-H Horse Program Equine Youth Specialist

"Your insightful presentation on the exceptional programs provided by HHYF was incredibly enlightening for our participants. Your organization's commitment to equine education and youth development truly stood out, leaving a lasting impact on everyone present."

The NYS 4-H Horse In-Service serves as a collaborative platform for organizations like yours to share expertise and explore opportunities for mutual growth. HHYF's involvement played a pivotal role in fostering a spirit of cooperation among our educators, volunteers, and youth leaders.

We want to express our sincere gratitude for your ongoing support. The partnership between HHYF and NYS 4-H Horse Program is instrumental in creating meaningful learning experiences for our youth. We are genuinely excited about the prospect of future collaborations.

From Sue Utterback, Participant in 4 HHYF Summer Programs & a recruited volunteer

" 'You want to learn don't you?' That one question opened the door for me to not only learn about Standardbreds and harness racing, but to gain new friends, have skills to consider job opportunities at Hoosier Park if I choose, and have one of the best summers of my life too!"

My name is Sue Utterback. I am a retired teacher and RN. I have owned quarter horses for 5 1/2 decades and I am an avid quarter horse/thoroughbred racing fan.

"Your insightful presentation on the exceptional programs provided by HHYF was incredibly enlightening for our participants. Your organization's commitment to equine education and youth development truly stood out, leaving a lasting impact on everyone present."

With retirement opening up free time, I was curious about the harness racing arena and possible ownership. I attended the Indiana Equine Round Up in March and inquired at the HHYF booth. I was handed information on the summer camps and immediately thought I had been misunderstood and they thought I was asking about camps for my grandchildren. I was encouraged to read the flyers and to call with any questions. I complied and that led me to sign up for three one day camps and a week long Leadership Camp as well. I volunteered at Breyerfest with HHYF and then was given an outstanding offer to attend camps in New York and New Jersey as an adult team leader. What incredible growth experiences I was immersed in!

The camps were beyond my expectations. As a teacher, I was immediately impressed by the program content and delivery. The topics addressed were thorough and essential from horse anatomy, horse care, equipment, harnessing and driving. Follow up with hands-on sessions cemented our learning. Life skills were incorporated such as being responsible for the horses, decision making, an awareness if someone needed help and offering to lend a hand, and working cooperatively with others. The staff leading the camps were wonderful! Everyone was knowledgeable, patient, and kind. It was evident that they wanted to share their harness racing passion with camp attendees.

What an incredible opportunity to introduce the harness racing industry to people and spark a chance to ignite passion to future generations! Thank you Ellen Taylor for asking this teacher if I wanted to learn! Passion ignited!"

MANY THANKS TO SO MANY

OUR "TRAVEL TEAM!"

OUR SPRING CONDITIONERS!



OUR EVER-PATIENT EQUINE TEACHERS



THOSE WHO PLEDGED IN OUR \$1 PER WIN EVENT!

OUR VOLUNTEERS

too many to list but please know we could NOT do our important work without your support!

ANY FOR A GREAT YEAR: AND TO ALL OF OUR 2024 PARTNERS!



Antonacci Family
Foundation



Chris McErlean



BRITTANY FARMS



Southern Oaks
Training Center



Bet The House



Standardbred
Breeders
Association of
Pennsylvania



Barely Able Stable



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WANT TO SUPPORT HHYF IN 2025?

Here are some ideas!

- * make a financial contribution (as a holiday gift, in memory of or to honor a loved one, recurring)*
- * publicize and/or volunteer at HHYF programs in your area*
- * participate in HHYF/USHWA Silent Auction (February) or \$1 Per Win Pledge Drive (March 1 to December 1)*
- * begin (or add to) your HARNESS HEROES trading card collection*
- * purchase a HHYF Activity Box for your local 4-H or FFA club (with more than 40 racing and breeding activities)*
- * sponsor a young person's registration fee (from \$45 to \$300)*
- * become a Program Partner (minimum \$1000)*
- * condition a HHYF stable member (mid March - mid June)*
- * Like HARNESS HORSE YOUTH FOUNDATION on FACEBOOK*
- * consider HHYF in your estate planning*

