



SUMMER 2025

# *Neigh & Bray*

HORSE HAVEN OF TENNESSEE

## *Be Their Second Chance*

While summer is often a season of sunshine and growth, for Horse Haven of Tennessee, it marks one of the most critical and demanding times of the year. As the temperatures climb, so do the calls for help—horses left in fields with no food, no clean water, no shade, and no relief from the blistering heat.

In the past few weeks alone we've taken in over 25 horses, with more pending intake as neglect cases continue to surface across the state. Many of these horses arrive in heartbreaking condition; emaciated, dehydrated, and suffering from heat exhaustion. But because of your compassion, these horses now have a safe haven.

Thanks to our incredible supporters, we are able to act swiftly, providing emergency medical care, shelter, nutrition, and eventually—hope for a brighter future. Many of these horses will soon be ready for adoption or foster, and we welcome anyone interested to open their hearts and homes.

But the truth is, we urgently need your help. Our vet bills are growing, hay and grain costs are climbing, and every day brings another call, another life in crisis. We are doing everything we can, but we cannot continue this lifesaving work without your support.

Your gift helps us answer the next urgent call, and provide care, dignity, and a second chance to Tennessee's forgotten equines. Thank you for standing beside us.

Together, we are making a difference.

*Ashley Ford*

Executive Director

## *IN THIS ISSUE*

Executive Director  
Update

Rescue Update

Event Updates

Spotlights

Spirit of Hope

Gratitude

Adoption Spotlights

## **Board of Directors**

Kristen Portuesi

Jim Tedford

Nina Margetson

Jimmy Carter

Dr. Kady Powell, DVM





## *From Darkness to Hope*

Earlier this month, we responded to a heartbreaking case—a large group of horses suffering in severe neglect. With only one tree for shade on a small property and no access to proper feed, dozens of horses were battling heat exhaustion, dehydration, and starvation. Several foals showed signs of stunted growth from prolonged malnutrition. Pregnant mares had been bred again and again, and senior mares had clearly spent a lifetime bearing the weight of hardship.

The day they arrived at Horse Haven was the first day of the rest of their lives. As soon as they stepped off the trailers, they went straight to the water, mineral blocks, and fresh hay. Watching them eat, rest, and simply be horses again is a sight we'll never forget. Their bellies are slowly filling out, and so are their spirits.

These resilient souls are now on the road to recovery, and we have many more to care for. With dozens of horses still pending intake, and many already in our barn needing daily care, the need is urgent.



## *Dancing for the Horses*

Our 2025 Dancing for the Horses event was truly one for the books! With a dazzling masquerade theme, our celebrity dancers were paired with the incredible professionals from Go Dance to perform show-stopping routines—all in support of the horses who need us most.

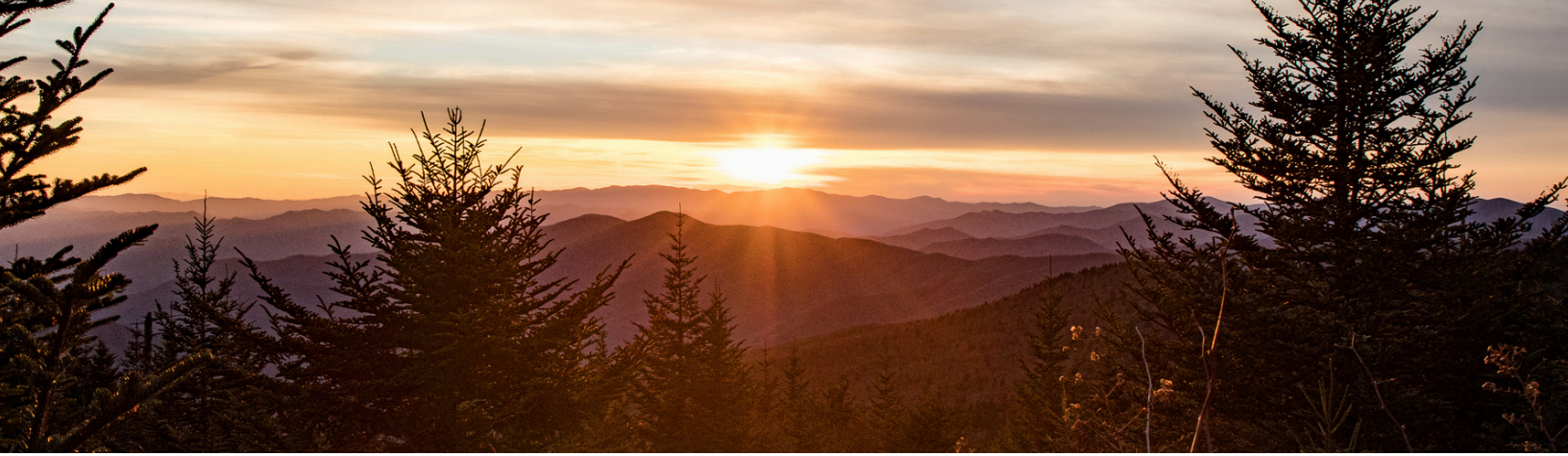
We are deeply grateful to all of our sponsors for making this night possible, especially our presenting sponsor, Pickering & Allen Orthodontics, for their generous support.

Our incredible 2025 celebrity dancer lineup included:

- Juan Aranda – Tim's Fencing
- Deena Langley – Awakened Horsemanship
- Lexi Lepof – WVLTV
- Dr. Jim Pickering – Pickering & Allen Orthodontics
- Sam Perez – WBIR
- Rita Verreos – JTV
- Sabrina Hilton – The Island in Pigeon Forge

Congratulations to Lexi Lepof for taking home 1st place in dancing, and to Dr. Jim Pickering for securing 1st in fundraising! For the first time in our event's history, we had a tie for the coveted Isaac Award; A heartfelt congratulations to both Dr. Jim Pickering and Juan Aranda for their incredible dedication and effort. Thank you to everyone who made this magical night a success. Because of you, we continue to change lives—one hoofbeat at a time.





## Volunteer Spotlight

A California native and lifelong animal lover, Diane Mitchell brings energy, creativity, and heart to Horse Haven. A music and Star Wars enthusiast (with a special love for Steve Perry), she used to DJ back home and now channels her creativity into developing a character for a comic company.



Her love for horses began in grade school, riding through Yosemite during summer camps. After a hip replacement last year, she turned to HHT for “full body and soul therapy”—even showing up for her first shifts with a cane! Now fully immersed, she’s made lasting friendships (human and equine!) and says, “I look forward to helping as long as you’ll have me.” We’re so lucky to have her!

## Fall Harvest Fest

Join us for a day of fall fun at our Annual Fall Harvest Fest on Saturday, October 4 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Horse Haven of Tennessee! Bring the whole family for a festive afternoon filled with pumpkins, games, food, and—of course—horses!

Mark your calendar and stay tuned for more details. You won’t want to miss this seasonal celebration!

## HHT’s Spirit of Hope

We’re proud to share our new partnership with Kim Henry of Spirit of Hope & Healing, LLC, integrating mental health support into Horse Haven’s programs. By adding a licensed mental health professional to our services, we’re not just helping horses—we’re helping people heal, too.

This collaboration creates a powerful space where hope, healing, and second chances happen for both horses and humans. For more information, contact Kim at [hhtspiritofhope@gmail.com](mailto:hhtspiritofhope@gmail.com).

## With Gratitude

### IN HONOR OF:

**Camber McDaniel**  
By: Brenda McDaniel

**Bourbon**  
By: Kelly Crenshaw

**Hickory Hill Farm**  
By: Hickory Hill Farm

**Mom’s Birthday**  
By: Dianna Jennings

**Jake**  
By: Sandra Henderlight

**Helena**  
By: Edith Edwards

**Smokey, Legacy, & Dancer**  
By: Myrna Barrick

**HHT Volunteers**  
By: David & Sally Donohue

**Maple & Her Baby**  
By: Linda Ewald

**Sundrop & HHT Horses**  
By: William Hudgins

**Sammy Monnig**  
By: Roch Monnig

### IN MEMORY OF:

**John Michel Keller**  
By: Sharon Jones

**Greg Richmond**  
By: Paul & Rita Sands

**Freckles**  
By: Wally & Sharon Brines

**Elliwood Keith**  
By: Louise Senatore

**Bonnie O’Rourke McGuirt**  
By: Janice Coventry

**Beau White**  
By: Nora Wiser

**Star’s Super Lad**  
By: Marthanne Carter

**Lexie & Erin Cobb**  
By: Marilyn Cobb

**Sher**  
By: Delta Lightner

**E.O. Proffitt**  
By: Rachel Proffitt

**Rose Elaine McAllister**  
By: Arlene McAllister

**E. Paul Bean**  
By: Greta Dalton  
Jody Boynton  
Randy Hinton  
Nina Margetson  
Amy Gibson  
Knoxville Teacher’s  
Federal Credit Union  
Rachel Proffitt

### STALL SPONSORS:

Travis & Tina Griffin  
Paul & Margaret Clark  
Paul & Maxine Fischer  
David & Terri Howard  
Bikers Against Animal Cruelty (BAAC)  
Craig & Lori Stresemann

### LIFETIME Paddock Sponsors:

Michael McKeever  
Paula Dyer-Perry

Donate Today!



Platinum  
Transparency  
2025

Candid.



Global Federation of  
Animal Sanctuaries

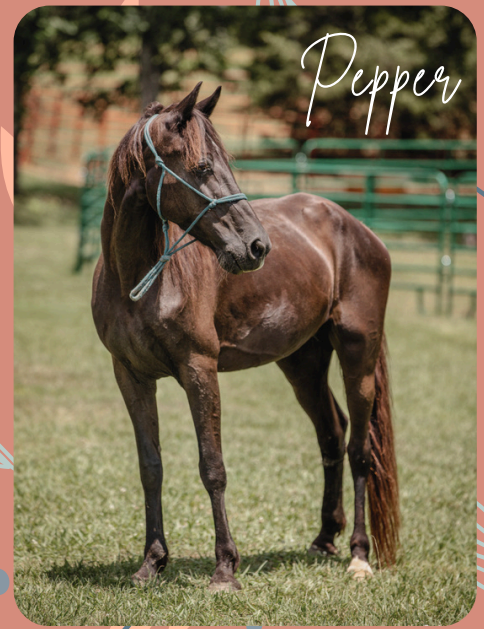
## Adoptables Spotlight



*Willow*



*Rowdy*



*Pepper*

HORSE HAVEN OF TENNESSEE

865-609-4030

<https://horsehaventn.org>

P.O. Box 586

Seymour, TN 37865



# FINALLY!

## *A Stable Future*



HORSE HAVEN IS  
THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE  
THAT OUR DREAMS HAVE  
BECOME A REALITY  
THROUGH OUR FIRST EVER  
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN:  
A STABLE FUTURE!





In August of 2024, we quietly launched Phase 1 of our capital campaign and construction effort at our new home. In less than a year, over **\$1,169,629** has been raised to fund a beautiful 40-stall capacity primary barn, perimeter and pasture fencing, run-ins, and more!

Construction of the primary barn is scheduled for completion in September of 2025. *More details to come on the ribbon cutting and grand opening!*

Phase 2 plans include a special-care barn, covered arena, and completing renovations of the existing facilities.

When complete, we will have a 165% increase in rescue capacity, 150% increase in outdoor shelters, a 167% acreage increase and immeasurable improvement in our rescue response timing and capabilities.

As we embark on Phase 2, we invite you to join the incredible partners that have enabled us to provide the stable future every horse we rescue deserves. We simply could not do this without YOU.

Please visit: <https://horsehaventn.org/capital-campaign/> to learn more!