A Horse's Friend



Where Kids Saddle Up for *SUCCESS*

2025

ANNUAL REPORT

Our Mission and Purpose

Since its foundation in 2004, A Horse's Friend, Inc., an outreach program whose mission is to expose youth from the inner city and underserved populations to the world of horses, has touched the lives of over 5,000 such youth, disadvantaged and otherwise underprivileged children. AHF has provided children alternatives to street activities that may lead to truancy, violence and drug use. In addition, AHF adds a new dimension of experiences and life choices not commonly provided at inner city facilities. The entire program provides an environment in which all riders can achieve success, support each other, and develop special bonds with other children and animals, all while helping to develop their full potential and becoming more productive citizens in their community.



A Message From our Leadership

Dear Friends and Supporters,

2025 was a year of steady strides and meaningful connections at A Horse's Friend. In the quiet moments at our barn in Rush, we have witnessed something remarkable: the transformative power of the bond between a horse and a young person.

This year, we focused on deepening our impact within the community. For many of our riders, the arena is more than just a place to learn horsemanship—it is a sanctuary where they build confidence, practice patience, and discover their own strength. From the first time a student successfully halters a horse to the pride of a finished summer camp session, every milestone reached was made possible by your unwavering support.

As we look back on the year, we are filled with gratitude for our dedicated volunteers, our resilient horses, and most importantly, the families who trust us to be a part of their journey. Together, we are ensuring that the life-changing experience of working with horses remains accessible to everyone.

Thank you for being part of our herd.

Matthew Doward
A Horse's Friend, Inc.

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2025 Strategic Highlights

- Deepening our impact within the community through youth horsemanship, mentoring, summer camps, and community outreach.
- Free scholarships granted to 9 students from Batavia for an 8-week Saturday Horsemanship Program.
- A 32-week Bridging the GAP program provided youth the opportunity to develop relationships with police officers from the Rochester Police Department and Monroe County Sheriff Department.
- Community outreach included Sunday Fundays, Project T.I.P.S. events, the Town of Rush Fall Festival, the Town of Rush Fireman's Parade, Flower City Work Camp Community Service Day, and the A Horse's Friend Winter Gathering.
- 2025 revenue totaled $279,314, including $168,978 in grants and $73,321 in contributions.



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A Horse's Friend Community Outreach in 2025

Sunday Fundays!

Free Open House on the First Sunday in May, June, July, August & September with Pony Ride Fundraiser.







Project T.I.P.S. Events

Project T.I.P.S. (Trust, Information, Programs & Services) is a series of events during the summer months where community agencies and law enforcement personnel work in selected neighborhoods to rebuild trust amongst residents and to share valuable information.







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Community Outreach, Continued



Town of Rush Fall Festival

The event was held at White Springs Farm on Saturday, September 27. AHF volunteers created crafts to raise funds for the organization, while AHF horses and volunteers provided pony rides for young festival attendees.



Town of Rush Fireman's Parade

A Horse's Friend marched in the parade on Saturday, July 26.





Flower City Work Camp Community Service Day

April 16





A Horse's Friend Winter Gathering

December 13

A Horse's Friend Youth Programs in 2025

Batavia Saturday Horsemanship Program

Free scholarships granted by Matthew Doward to 9 students from his hometown of Batavia for an 8 week session from 4/5/25 - 5/24/25.





Saturday Youth Mentor Horsemanship Program

Funded through the Skalny Foundation









July Summer Camp

Funded through ESL Out of School Time Grant

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Continued Programs

Summer Youth Horsemanship Camps

- Direct enrollment of students in summer camps



Hope on the Horizon / Villa of Hope –

Funded through NYS DCJS Project Rise provided youth from these agencies to experience the world of horses.





Bridging the GAP –

Supported by the City of Rochester/Rochester Peace Collective 2.0 and the John F. Wegman Fund, this 32-week program paired Saddle Up for Success horsemanship activities with opportunities for youth to connect with officers from the Rochester Police Department and Monroe County Sheriff's Office. We extend a special thank-you to Board Member Linda Fitzgerald for coordinating with both departments and helping make these meaningful connections possible.





Financial Overview

Statement of Financial Position Year-End December 31, 2025

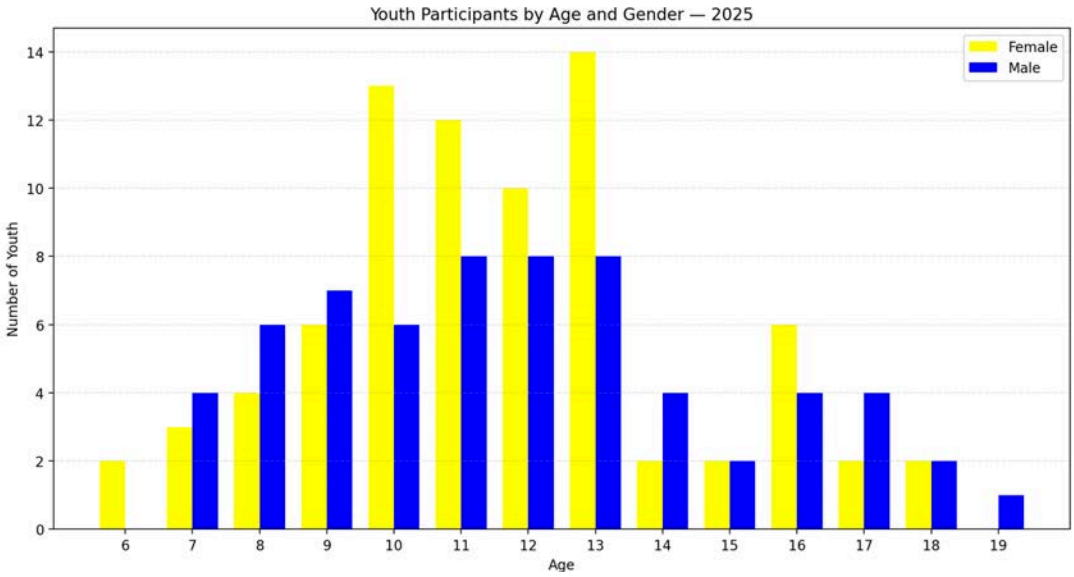
Categories	Amount
Cash	$94,847
Recievables	$11,558
Prepaid Costs	$3,500
Capital Equipment	$20,505
Total Assets	$130,410
Liabilities	$(17,095)
NET ASSETS	$113,315

Statement of Activities Year-End December 31, 2025

Categories	Amount
Program Service Fees	$37,015
Grants	$168,978
Contributions	$73,321
TOTAL REVENUE	$279,314
Horse and Farm	$104,938
Programs	$16,287
Salaries	$79,977
Office and General	$52,955
TOTAL EXPENSES	$254,158

Thank You to Our Donors, Sponsors & Contributors!

We could not possibly have had such an impactful 2025 without the help of our many donors. Large and small donations helped us to achieve our goals; they ensured every horse had food and veterinary needs met, provided program supplies and refreshments for our youth, maintained farm equipment, and outfitted the historic barn and tack room for use.



Overall, as a foundation, we served 142 students ranging in age from 6 to 19!

2025 Annual Giving

A Horse's Friend, Inc. is grateful to the many people and organizations that supported our program through financial donations or in-kind donations for fundraising activities.

$100 or less

Anonymous
Ann Marie Ahrns
Jackie Amigone
Association of Rochester Police & Law Enforcement Retirees
Terry Bastian and Dale Humphrey
Sue Becker
Sue Boland
Suzanne Broida
Jeanne Carlivati
Therese Condon
Charlotte Condon
Shelley Conradt
Amber Corbin
Barbara Craig
Lynn Crane
Meghan Crawford
Phillip Daggar
Gail Daugherty
Don DeMercurio / Kevin Klass
James Dierks
Lia Donovick
Andrew Dye
Empire Inspections
Sandy Entress
Scott Evans
Joanne Everts
Tony and Salome Fararro
Christina Felson
Linda Fitzgerald
Carol Flanigan
Kenneth Frazier
Leah Gagliano
Wendy Hall
Paula Hanson Michelle Harazim
Lauren Hankins
Rin and Dr. Charlie Heck
Cheryl Hellert
Amy Hewson
Jean Hildreth
Melissa and Rick Holahan
Janice Hooper
Lynne and William Hurtt
Betsy Ingllis
Nancy and John Irviine
Mary Keller
Dorothy Kenyon
Roxanne Klein
Ann Kraybill
Karen Kress
Shirley Kucera and Michael Tallon
Alejandra Lazarini and Matthew Irvine
John Lebens
Barb Locke
David McGlashon II
Deb McGlynn
Laure Mercer
Patty and Andy Miller
Patrica Moran
Jeanne Morelli
Lori Mugnolo
William Murray
Lisa Ogrodowicz
Orleans County Boots and Saddle Club
Heather Rogalski
Ken Rorick
Lyn Rosen
Phyllis Scatterday
Lisa Schlachter
Geralyn Sears
Nancy Shelienberger
Diane Stratton Smith
John and Danielle Swick
Michael Tallon
Martha Thering
Charlene VanSlyke
Deborah Wachspress
Joann and Gary Ward
Judy Wegman
Kevin and Vicki Wehbring
Lynn Woodard
Janice Wormington

> $100

Anonymous
Christine and Rodney Baumgartner
Evie Chaffer
Colleen Coss
Erin Dingman
Coley Doward
Janet Glocker
Polly Hanna / Ranchanna Kennels
Paula Hanson
Karen and Dan Hirst
Sharron and James Hunter
Sarah Jones
Michalene Kinsler
Peggy Klemmer
Patricia Krause
Amy Leibeck
Diane Nientimp
Rochester Area Community Foundation
Jennifer and David Sauter
Abbie Schonfeld and Ed Casey
Katherine Scoville
Will and Judy Stevens
Janie Stevens and Gordon Barnhart
Kimberly VanMaaren
Shiela Wagoner
Beth and Brent Willis
Ron and Kim Wuenstel

$500+

Anonymous
Richard Goetz
Kristin Kirsch
Lewis & Meyers, Inc.
Ann Stevens and William Shattuck
Gretta Tomb
Skip and Karen Warren

$1,000 +

Anonymous
Jay Herman
Thomas Kubiak
Julia Lederman / Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester
Spiritus Christi Church

$2,500 +

Anonymous
Karen Caton
Mulligan Family

$10,000 +

Sally and Fancis Ward
Sally Parmigiani

Supporters, Volunteers & Our Rush Community

Volunteers

Simply put, our organization does not exist without our many dedicated volunteers. They muck stalls all year in all weather conditions; they treat our horses and our riders with respect, and they do it all for the joy they receive in return.

Rush Residents

Thank you to all the residents who have welcomed us and encouraged us all year long. We genuinely love our home here in Rush and try extremely hard to spread the word about how fantastic our community is.

Thank you to Everyone!!

Thank you to the Town of Rush and the RACF Grant for the Historic Barn Restoration, allowing us to use the large barn again for indoor riding!







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Looking Ahead: Our Goals for 2026

As we look forward to the next year, our focus remains on sustainability, safety, and community growth. Our primary objectives include:

- Expand Outreach: Partner with more local schools and youth organizations to introduce new students to our programs.
- Facility and Equipment Improvements: Provide additional heated water troughs and buckets for the horses, enhance the indoor riding arena, replace unsafe pasture fencing with new tensile wire fencing, continue updating the buildings to ensure the best environment for our horses and riders.
- Enhance Equine Care: Ensure funding to cover unexpected veterinary costs and specialized nutrition needs.
- Volunteer Development: Recruit and train additional volunteers to better support barn operations and youth programming.
- Deepen Urban Connections: Leverage collaboration opportunities with Project Rise and RocUnited agencies, to provide violence prevention programming for at-risk youth from urban communities.



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Stay Connected
A Horse's Friend, Inc.

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Farm Address: 6565 E. River Rd, Rush, NY 14543

A Horse's Friend, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization
Tax I.D. 20-8188492

2025 Board of Directors

Matthew Doward — President
Parker Wolfley — Secretary
Karen Caton — Treasurer
Dan Hirst — Director
Linda Fitzgerald — Director

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