



KHPFoundation.org

# NEWSLETTER

Fall 2020



A non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing, expanding, and improving the Kentucky Horse Park.

## Grants

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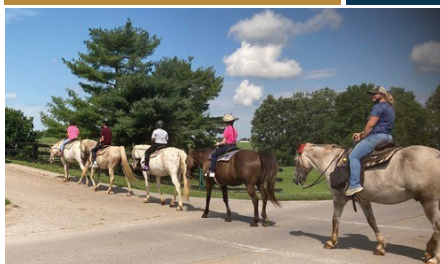


### More Than Half Million Dollars in New Grants

Kentucky Horse Park Foundation awarded \$552,561 in new grants to the Kentucky Horse Park during the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year. Funding was directed toward a number of initiatives at the Park, including maintenance needs, educational programming, and safety measures. See the projects funded during the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year.

## Education

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### Mustang Troop Celebrates Successful Summer

The KHP Mustang Troop celebrated another successful summer in spite of the challenges presented by COVID-19. This beloved KHP education program introduces underserved children in the community to horses and has been in existence for over twenty-five years. This year's program was unlike any before it.

## COVID-19 Response

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### Park Leadership Responds to COVID-19 Challenges

Park priorities shifted dramatically when COVID-19 began to rear its head in the Bluegrass and Park leadership was quick to respond. As the Kentucky Horse Park adjusts to the new normal required by COVID-19, it also looks to the future with enthusiasm and positivity.

**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

The **KHP needs our support more than ever before** as it faces the challenges of loss of revenue in this pandemic of Covid-19. One easy way to support the KHP is by selecting the KHP Foundation as your charity of choice on Amazon. **Amazon Smile will donate 0.5%** of the purchase price to the KHP Foundation.



### Dear Kentucky Horse Park Foundation Family,

As our global community navigates these unprecedented times, I feel tremendous gratitude for our Kentucky Horse Park Foundation family-individuals like you who ensure the Kentucky Horse Park's ability to survive and thrive.

In its forty-two years, the Kentucky Horse Park has never experienced times as challenging as these. The effects of COVID-19 are substantial and far reaching. Unfortunately, even a revered place like the Kentucky Horse Park is not immune. Lost revenue and rising expenses have had significant impact, and the Park faces a daily economic battle.

Thanks to the generous support of donors like you, the Kentucky Horse Park Foundation has been able to assist like never before. In the past year, the Kentucky Horse Park Foundation has granted over half a million dollars to the Park, helping the Park weather these turbulent times.

This newsletter will celebrate your dollars at work at the Kentucky Horse Park and highlight programs that are continuing, projects that are flourishing, and improvements that are taking place, in spite of the events of the world. I could not be prouder to share these things with you.

And I also am thrilled to share that the best is yet to come at the KHP. Through the leadership of the Kentucky Horse Park Foundation Board of Directors, the direction of KHPF Executive Director Kathy Meyer and her staff, and the loyal support of donors like you, I know we will accomplish great things.

The Kentucky Horse Park Foundation and Kentucky Horse Park are working together to explore new initiatives related to trees and green space, we are considering ways we can improve the competitor experience, and we are expanding on relationships within the equine community to partner and collaborate. I know that together we can continue to preserve the Park for future generations.

The KHPF is filled with hope and positivity for the future and anticipation of brighter days ahead because the community that loves the Park is vast and generous. Thank you for being an important part of this community.

With Regard,  
Clay Green, Chair

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# Joining the Fight Against COVID-19

The Kentucky Horse Park Foundation invites you to stay safe in style with the exclusive Kentucky Horse Park/Kentucky Horse Park Foundation mask or gaiter. Featuring an attractive design that celebrates the beloved Kentucky Horse Park, items are breathable, comfortable, and durable! And they are flying off our shelves!

Masks are available with a \$10 donation and gaiters are available with a \$15 donation. KHP Staff, Volunteers, and Interns are all sporting theirs proudly, and we hope our donors will do the same.

Please visit our website, [www.khpfoundation.org](http://www.khpfoundation.org), to order yours today. Masks and gaiters are also available in the Visitor Information Center and Horse Show office.

The Kentucky Horse Park Foundation is delighted to provide complimentary hand sanitizer throughout the Park for staff and visitors. Lexington Brewing & Distilling Company, graciously donated a 55L drum of hand sanitizer which was then bottled and distributed throughout the Park. We are grateful for this partnership with Lexington Brewing & Distilling Company!





## Kentucky Horse Park Foundation Awards More Than Half Million Dollars in New Grants to the Kentucky Horse Park

Kentucky Horse Park Foundation awarded \$552,561 in new grants to the Kentucky Horse Park during the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year. Funding was directed toward a number of initiatives at the Park, including maintenance needs, educational programming, and safety measures.

“On behalf of the Kentucky Horse Park, allow me to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Kentucky Horse Park Foundation for their support during these unprecedented times. Funding awarded during the past year, and particularly during the challenges of COVID-19, makes an immeasurable

impact and ensure the Park’s ability to survive. We are so grateful,” shared John Crowell, Interim Executive Director of the Kentucky Horse Park.

Kathy Meyer, Executive Director of the Kentucky Horse Park Foundation stated “The Kentucky Horse Park Foundation is pleased to support these worthwhile projects at the Kentucky Horse Park and is grateful to its family of donors who value the Park’s programs. Now more than ever before, the Kentucky Horse Park is dependent on its family from all corners of the globe to ensure its survival.”

### The projects funded during the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year include:

#### Equipment

**Purchase of Maintenance Equipment (\$266,370):** Provided funds to purchase a skidsteer, two mowers, a wheel loader, and forklift. Each of these items is needed daily at the Park, and previously, the Park was forced to rent the equipment when necessary, or rely on equipment that was in disrepair. The purchase of these items makes a tremendous impact on daily maintenance and saves thousands of dollars in rental expense monthly.

#### International Museum of the Horse

**Technology Upgrades in Arabian Galleries (\$72,780):** Helped fund the purchase and installation of new projectors in the Arabian Galleries.

**Horse Mannequins (\$6,200):** Funded purchase of two horse mannequins which will replace taxidermy horses that have fallen into disrepair.

#### Mounted Police

**Purchase of ATV (\$12,800):** Purchased an all-terrain vehicle for Kentucky Horse Park Mounted Police Unit.



**Purchase of Bullet-proof vests and vest carriers (\$7,390):** Purchased ten bullet-proof vests and vest carriers to ensure the safety of the Mounted Police in combative situations. The ballistic vests will afford the officers protection to engage in a violent encounter or situation where deadly force may be used.

### Educational Programs

**Mustang Troop (up to \$26,500):** Approved funding to support the efforts of the 2020 Mustang Troop program which was presented virtually and in person during July 2020.

**Field Trip Fund (up to \$20,068):** Funding approved for 2020-2021 Field Trip Fund Program which allows all Kentucky public schools to visit the Park at no charge.

### Capital Projects

**Bleachers (\$28,405):** Purchased permanent bleachers which will be used in Parade of Breeds and Big Barn, replacing bleachers which had become dangerous and unusable.

**Dressage footing (\$23,819):** Refreshed the existing competition and warm up rings at the Dressage Complex. The ring renovation added .5" to 1.25" per ring in consultation with the Kentucky Dressage Association and the KHP Event Staff.

**Wash Racks (Up to \$20,000):** Replaced two wash racks, located within the central stabling area and funded the addition of a new wash rack at the temporary tent pad, located across from Rolex Stadium. All wash racks are in the process of being replaced with steel racks with stall dividers and rubber mats.

### Other

**Tree removal (\$51,800):** Funded the removal of several dead trees and trimming of limbs throughout the Park grounds. Required professional removal beyond the scope of Park staff ability.

**Purchase of FM Works (\$12,651):** Provided funds to purchase FM Works, a maintenance software program which will vastly improve the Park's ability to respond to maintenance needs in a timely manner.

**QuickBooks License (\$3,778):** Provided funds to purchase a three-year renewal of QuickBooks license.

*These grants were awarded through a formal application process, administered by the KHPF Grants Committee, composed of members of the Kentucky Horse Park Foundation Board of Directors. The Grants Committee makes recommendations to the full Board of Directors upon their review of all applications. The Kentucky Horse Park Foundation is delighted to report that these awards were approved unanimously by the Kentucky Horse Park Foundation Board of Directors at its October, January, April, July meetings during the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year.*





## The Southern Lights Are On!

Plans are well underway for the 2020 Southern Lights Holiday Festival at the Kentucky Horse Park. Celebrating its 27th year at the Kentucky Horse Park, Southern Lights presented by Friends of Coal is a magical holiday tradition for thousands of families from throughout the Bluegrass and beyond.

The Kentucky Horse Park Foundation is currently seeking sponsors for the 2020 event. In 2019, more than 100,000 individuals in nearly 25,000 vehicles traveled through the miles of dazzling holiday light displays along the charming farm lanes at the Kentucky Horse Park.

We anticipate record-breaking crowds in 2020 as Southern Lights will be one of the few holiday activities that can be conducted at a safe social distance. Sponsors will have the opportunity to spread their message to thousands through an event that is family-friendly, affordable, and socially distant. All proceeds benefit the Kentucky Horse Park Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated solely to raising private philanthropic support to benefit the Kentucky Horse Park.

For information about sponsorship opportunities at the 2020 Southern Lights Holiday Festival, please contact Kathy Meyer at 859-255-5727 or email at [kathy.meyer@khpfoundation.org](mailto:kathy.meyer@khpfoundation.org)



**The 2020 Southern Lights Stroll will not take place this year due to the challenges of COVID-19. We look forward to seeing our runners, walkers, and strollers in 2021.**





## It's Not Too Late to Pursue Partnership Opportunities for the 2020 Southern Lights Holiday Festival

Sponsorships are available at a wide range of levels and offer tremendous exposure during the festive holiday season. For more information about Southern Lights sponsorship opportunities, please contact Kathy Meyer at 859-255-5727.



## Kentucky Horse Park Spotlight

The KHPF is delighted to spotlight and commend the work of the Kentucky Horse Park Special Events Department.

Charged with management of all equine and non-equine events, Special Events employees play an integral role in the life of the Park. Their work is tireless, thankless, and year-round, and their commitment defines the visitor experience at the Park.

Anyone that has attended a horse show at the Park is probably familiar with the hard work and dedication of Mark van Ruiten as he drags, waters, and levels the Park's rings and arenas.

**"Mark is an elemental part of the Park. Truly, he is earth, wind, and fire all combined. He is absolutely essential to all equine events, and we are so fortunate to have him."**

**John Crowell**

— Interim Executive Director of the KHP

Mark's department teammates include Terry Baker, Alex Rowcliffe, Heather Adams, and Hannah Davies. Nicole Rivera serves as Director of Special Events. Together, they ensure that all equine events are safe and well-managed, and that all non-equine events, including weddings and receptions, are handled in a professional and accommodating manner.

Jonathan Lang, Deputy Director commended the work of the Special Events team. "The Special Events Department demonstrates time and time again their loyalty and dedication to the Kentucky Horse Park. Events, both equine and non-equine, are an essential facet of the Park, and the leadership of Nicole, Mark, Terry, Alex, Heather, and Hannah makes them possible."



## Tribute Gifts

Making donations to the Kentucky Horse Park Foundation in honor or memory of a loved one is a wonderful way to pay tribute to someone while supporting the park. Our sincere thanks for the following tribute gifts which were made between June 1, 2019 and July 1, 2020:

### Memoriam

#### In Memory of Alysheba

Ms. Mary Lee Fox Roe

#### In memory of A.P. Indy

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Specht

#### In memory of James Bailey

Mr. Randy Moss

#### In memory of Tricia Boone

Ms. Laura Klumb

#### In memory of Christine Brown

Ms. Kristine Soares

#### In memory of George Bryant

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Heesen

#### In memory of Gene Carter

Ms. Leslie Coolidge

Lt. Col (ret) Timothy N. Hoon

Ms. Christine Jason

Mr. Carl Reisacher

Mr. & Mrs. Carl R. Werner

#### In memory of Cigar

Mr. & Mrs. David Allen

Mrs. Nancy Bechtold

#### In memory of Judy Conboy

Dr. H. Steve Conboy, D.V.M.

#### In memory of Pete Dueben

Mr. & Mrs. Walter Burge

Mr. & Mrs. Harry Dadds

Mr. John Dueben

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Dueben

Ms. Susan Eldred

Mr. A.L. Gregory

Mr. Harry Hosey

Ms. Mary B. Hyla

Ms. Patricia Ranft

Mr. Carl R. Reisacher

Mr. Thomas W. Seidel

Ms. Mary Simon

Ms. Mary Paula Skrivan

Mr. Michael Sponsler

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Werner

#### In memory of Dixie Ganzmiller

Mr. Robert Ganzmiller

#### In memory of Gypsy Maid

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Currie

#### In memory of Gypsy Supreme, John Henry & Cigar

Mr. Donald Veronneau

#### In memory of Milton & Selma Hold

Ms. Glenda Kaplan

#### In memory of B.G. Hughes

Mr. & Mrs. Theodore R. Kuster

#### In memory of Dorothy Hughes

Mr. & Mrs. Theodore R. Kuster

#### In memory of Indy

Ms. Kristine Soares

#### In memory of Francis & Margaret Infalt

Mr. Brian P. Infalt

#### In memory of Terry Isaac

Mr. Al Isaac

#### In memory of Kelso

Mr. & Mrs. Francis R. Nugent

#### In memory of Dr. Joseph Leone

Mrs. Jo W. Leone

#### In memory of Dennis Lynch

Ms. Debbie Long

#### In memory of MC El Lusive, Arabian Stallion

Ms. Vickie Novak

#### In memory of Anne Montgomery

Mr. and Mrs. Michael T. Barnett

Mr. & Mrs. Rogers Beasley

Mrs. Cornelia Bonnie

Ms. Cindy Bozen

Ms. Lucille Davis

Equestrian Events, Inc.

Ms. Elizabeth Hester

Mr. & Mrs. W. James Host

Ms. Laura Klumb

Ms. Missy Lacroix

Ms. Debbie Long

Ms. Jacqueline Mars/Stonehall  
Farm

National Horse Show Association  
of America, Ltd.

Ms. Elizabeth Renfro

Mr. George Seifert

Mr. Frederick Seifert

Mr. Edward Seifert

Mr. & Mrs. Kermit Sutton

Ms. Elizabeth Tenney Ruch

Mr. & Mrs. John R. Williams

Ms. Jane Winegardner

#### In memory of Ashton Moynihan

Ms. Debbie Long

#### In memory of Cathy Murphy's Blacketer

Ms. Cindy Goff

#### In memory of Next Day Air

Ms. Tracy L. Scott

#### In memory of Ronald Noel

Mrs. Sherrie L. Noel

#### In memory of Joyce Ockerman

Ms. Ann Butterworth

Ms. Elizabeth Butterworth

Mrs. Marian Congleton

Mr. & Mrs. Wyn Paulson, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Singleton

Ms. Marilyn Turner

Ms. Lucy Winchester

#### In memory of Jeannine Pool

Ms. Vicki Warren

#### In memory of Red Alert, TOR, Resolution, Little Black Beemer

Mr. & Mrs. Roger Shott



**In memory of Rose Rubel**

Ms. Barbara Paddock

**In memory of Ruffien**

Ms. Susan Jelmini-Haynes

**In memory of Sabastian - My OTTB**

Mr. &amp; Mrs. Robert Curie

**In memory of Sahar, Beloved African lion at Lincoln Park Zoo**

Ms. Patricia C. Reavy

**In memory of SRF Unique Wind (Windy)**

Ms. Sandra Melendi

**In memory of Staying Together**

Mr. John P. Moore &amp; Ms. Jennifer Howard

**In memory of Greg Swinford**

Ms. Marilyn Swinford

**In memory of Marcie Reynolds Thomason**

Mr. &amp; Mrs. William W. Thomason, Jr.

**In memory of Lowry Rush Watkins (1897-1981)**

Mr. Lowry Watkins, Jr.

**In Honor of****In honor of all the horses who benefit from KHP programs**

Steve and Susie Duncan

**In honor of Nina Bonnie**Mr. Joe Fargis  
Dr. Janet Wygal Zoller & Ms. Rachel Sketo**In honor of Peggy Carroll**

Mr. &amp; Mrs. James B. Skaggs

**In honor of Ebony's Black Tabitt**

Mr. &amp; Mrs. Jeffrey Egger

**In honor of Every C Track racehorse**

Ms. Phyllis Boehme

**In honor of Mr. & Mrs. Craig Fravel**

Mr. &amp; Mrs. Brett Setzer

**In honor of Richard J. Garber & Family**

Ms. Marsha E. Garber

**In honor of Nina Hahn**

Mr. Tim McMurtry / Fleetwood Bloodstock

**In honor of James & Misdee Miller**

Mr. &amp; Mrs. Kenneth V. Miller

**In honor of Dr. Richard Miller, D.V.M.**

Mr. Richard Wakefield

**In honor of Janie Musselman**

Mr. &amp; Mrs. Allen Bond

**In honor of William G. Robbins**

Mr. &amp; Mrs. Richard F. Broadbent, IV

**In honor of Harold R. Stern**

Ms. Marsha E. Garber

**In honor of Jenny Sutton**

Ms. Mary Vance Duggan

**Kentucky Horse Park Foundation Donation Form**

Use this form or save a stamp and donate online at KHPFoundation.org

Enclosed is my gift for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the following credit card

Name \_\_\_\_\_

☐ VISA☐ Mastercard☐ AMEX

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my donation earmarked for the following: PLEASE CHECK ONE

☐ Man o' War Society☐ Nina Bonnie Endowment Fund☐ International Museum of the Horse☐ Capital Improvements☐ Wherever it is needed most☐ Other

Kentucky Horse Park Foundation · 4075 Iron Works Parkway · Lexington, KY 40511





## Recognizing Individuals That Are Making a Difference

The Champions' Circle Society recognizes those individuals who have included the Kentucky Horse Park Foundation in their estate plans or have contributed to the KHPF through a life-income gift.

Becoming a member of the Champions' Circle Society is quite simple. In fact, you have qualified for membership if you have informed us that you have named the KHPF in your will. You need not disclose the amount you intend to bequeath if you do not choose to do so.

Please let us know your plans. We would like to thank you now, rather than your heirs or executors. Furthermore, by informing us of your intentions, you can help designate how your legacy will shape the future of the Kentucky Horse Park.

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## New in 2020

The new CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act is designed to help you, businesses and non-profits facing economic hardship during the coronavirus pandemic.

Here are a few key provisions of the CARES Act that may affect you and your charitable goals:

### Required Minimum Distributions Suspended

The new law temporarily suspends the requirements for required minimum distributions (RMD) for the 2020 tax year. This probably comes as a relief to many of you who would have had to withdraw from your retirement accounts. Many of our donors use their RMD to make a gift from their IRA. Despite the RMD suspension, remember that if you are 70½ or older, you can still make a gift from your IRA or name Kentucky Horse Park Foundation as a beneficiary.

### Why a Gift From Your IRA May Still Be a Good Idea

- Your gift will be put to use today, allowing you to see the difference your donation is making.
- You pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions.
- Since the gift doesn't count as income, it can reduce your annual income level. This may help lower your Medicare premiums and decrease the amount of Social Security that is subject to tax.



## New Tax Incentives

The CARES Act expands charitable giving incentives and allows taxpayers who take the standard deduction to make up to \$300 of charitable contributions to qualified charities this year. You might think that this is a small amount and would not make a difference. But what if all of our donors gave “just” \$300? Such support would have a huge impact at the Kentucky Horse Park.

For those who do itemize their deductions, the new law allows for cash contributions to qualified charities such as Kentucky Horse Park Foundation to be deducted up to 100% of your adjusted gross income for the 2020 calendar year.

## Your Charitable Goals

We are deeply grateful for your continued kindness and support during this difficult time. Please contact Elizabeth Bartlett at [e.bartlett@khpfoundation.org](mailto:e.bartlett@khpfoundation.org) or 859-255-5727 to discuss how your gift can help further our mission.

# Back in the Saddle in 2021!



After much consideration, the Kentucky Horse Park Foundation has made the difficult decision to cancel the Battle in the Saddle Celebrity Team Penning event for 2020 due to the challenges of COVID-19. We want to thank all our sponsors, riders, celebrities, and guests for your continued support of this important fundraiser for the Kentucky Horse Park. Please save the date of September 3, 2021. The KHP Foundation looks forward to 2021 with excitement & anticipation to welcome you once again to the Battle in the Saddle!



## Mustang Troop Celebrates a Socially Distanced Summer Program

The Kentucky Horse Park Mustang Troop celebrated another successful summer in spite of the challenges presented by COVID-19. This beloved KHP education program introduces underserved children in the community to horses and has been in existence for over twenty-five years. Traditionally, children are invited to attend a horse camp experience where they gain self-confidence and other life skills through the channels of horsemanship and riding.

This summer presented some unique challenges, and those challenges were met with creativity and enthusiasm by the KHP Education Department. Through a collaboration with Consolidated Summer Enrichment program, twenty-five children were identified who qualified for the program and demonstrated an interest in learning about horses.

Each child received a backpack and lunch box filled to the brim with learning materials, craft supplies, snacks, and gift cards for lunch. Every week day for two weeks, children participated in a lesson over Zoom with KHP Education Supervisor, Amanda Reardon. Topics covered included grooming, safety, horse body parts and anatomy, horse racing, horse tack, and horse history. At the conclusion of each week, the children were invited to visit the KHP for a socially distanced tour and trail ride.

Amanda Reardon shared this about the experience, "Despite battling internet connection issues, teaching myself a crash course on Google classroom, and orchestrating children to be on a Zoom call at 11:00

am every day for two weeks, I think we stayed true to our mission through the entirety of the program and served the children participating with a fun, educational, and safe alternative horse camp. I can say our first attempt at holding horse camp virtually was successful and I could see it being used for future programming."

In addition to their experience at the KHP, Mustang Troop participants spent additional time learning about the life of Isaac Murphy. Participants read and studied the poem by Frank X Walker, "I Dedicate This Ride" and had the opportunity to participate in a Zoom call with Mr. Walker. They also virtually rehearsed and performed dramatic readings of Mr. Walker's poetry in collaboration with Lexington Children's Theatre.

Through a collaboration with the Kentucky Arts Council and the Kentucky Horse Park Foundation, Mustang Troop participants created a quilt inspired by the life of Isaac Murphy and other African-American jockeys, titled "I Dedicate this Quilt." Once sewn together, the quilt will be framed, dedicated to the Kentucky Horse Park, and displayed in the KHP Education Barn.

The Kentucky Horse Park Foundation is so grateful to the supporters of the Kentucky Horse Park Mustang Troop that made this summer's program possible. Thank you to Y.O.T. Full Circle Foundation, The Norman Foundation, The Motz Group, Reeves International, Partners for Youth, and Mrs. Deirdre Lyons.





## Letter From Demetria Blair

Program Director, The Consolidated Summer Enrichment Program

Dear Friends,

With the onset of Covid-19, our partnership required an exceptional level of enthusiasm to combat the negative influences presented by this unprecedented time for youth. It also required some non-traditional thinking to put together programming that would be educational, engaging, positive and fun. The goal was to find a way to connect youth to the men and women that shaped the Equine Industry in such a way that motivates and inspires youth to become a part of the rich history that is so carefully captured by The Kentucky Horse Park.

Thanks to a shared vision, the ability to work through uncertainty, and the desire to maintain a "Keep Kids First" mindset, we were able to create a comprehensive, highly structured 4-week Equestrian Education Program. This included a two-week deep dive into Isaac Murphy through the lens of Frank X Walker; connections to landmarks in Lexington tied to African Americans in the Horse Industry; and the proud creation of special quilt...hand made by the students in our program. The final two-weeks creatively sought to capture the traditional horse camp experience through hands-on activities, online education classrooms and visits to The Kentucky Horse Park.

This has definitely created some "firsts" for the Partnership. Together, we extended The Kentucky Horse Park experience (two additional weeks); adopted Arts Education as the launch pad for making connections between past, present and future Kentucky Legends in history; continued the existing equine education program in a virtual environment; and maintained the highlight of the Mustang Troop experience...The Horse Ride!



Accomplishing all of this in a Covid-19 environment speaks volumes about the commitment of The Kentucky Horse Park Foundation, The Kentucky Horse Park and all those that make decisions that create positive experiences for youth that experience significant barriers. On behalf of Consolidated Baptist Church and The Consolidated Summer Enrichment Program, thank you for choosing us as Partners in Education. We look forward to exploring even more educational opportunities that will build lasting positive impressions in the community.

Warmly, Demetria Blair

## Park Leadership Responds to COVID-19



Jonathan Lang, Alston Kerr, John Crowell

During the first months of 2020, leadership at the Kentucky Horse Park anticipated the year to be one of transition. Alston Kerr was appointed Chair of the Kentucky Horse Park Commission in January, and John Crowell was named Interim Executive Director of the Kentucky Horse Park shortly thereafter. In cooperation with Deputy Director, Jonathan Lang, Crowell and Kerr set their sights on addressing the finances of the Park and identifying ways to build revenue and curb expenses.

Priorities shifted dramatically however when COVID-19 began to rear its head in the Bluegrass. The Park was forced to close, all events were cancelled, and suddenly, the Park was facing unprecedented challenges.

Crowell, who has a background in accounting and financial management, officially began his work as Interim Executive Director on April 1, in the midst of the shutdown. Crowell reflects, "When I was first hired, my priorities were to help identify financial issues in the Park that have kept it from functioning efficiently. Those priorities immediately shifted to determining how we could survive in the midst of a global pandemic."

Crowell explained the challenge. "You can go by the Governor's guidelines, but then you have to determine how it impacts us directly and what we can put in place to ensure safety. The Kentucky Horse Park isn't just one thing so you are responding from many different directions."

Crowell, Lang, and Kerr worked diligently with staff to set procedures that would allow the Park to stay within the guidelines of "Healthy At Work." Each department committed itself to establishing protocol that would ensure a safe environment for employees and for guests. The Park was able to reopen to visitors on June 11. The first horse show was held a week later.

The Park worked closely with the United States Equestrian Federation who stepped up and established protocols so that horse shows could operate safely under state and federal guidelines. The horse show community has embraced those protocols because it recognizes that everyone is working towards a common goal. For the most part, Crowell and Lang are finding people very cooperative.

Lang shares, "I am so grateful to the Kentucky Horse Park staff for their leadership and ingenuity during these difficult times. Each department has risen to the occasion, and I am proud of what the Park has accomplished. I am equally grateful to all of our visitors, equestrians and non-equestrians alike, who have committed themselves to safety when they enter our grounds."

Truly, the Kentucky Horse Park has become a refuge during these uncertain times. Even when the Park was officially closed, visitors were invited to enjoy the green space free of charge. The Park welcomed many guests for the first time, and a number of individuals commented on social media that they



had no idea how beautiful this place was right in their backyard. In its reopening, the Park continues to be a place where families can socially distance and enjoy the beauty of horse country.

As the Kentucky Horse Park adjusts to the new normal, it also looks to the future with enthusiasm.

Crowell states, "Now that we have a handle on operating safely, we are working on ways to make the Park more efficient which will ultimately lead to cost savings

for the public. We are committed to finding ways for the Park to make more money than it spends."

Kerr knows the future is bright for the KHP. "The Kentucky Horse Park is immensely grateful for the partnerships it shares with show managers, sponsors, equestrians, guests, and its employees. And of course, our relationship with the Kentucky Horse Park Foundation is integral to our well-being. I know the future is bright for the Park because there are so many passionate people standing behind it."

## Staying Together "Stanley" Celebrated at KHP

The Kentucky Horse Park Foundation is excited to announce its commission of a bronze sculpture celebrating the life of Staying Together "Stanley", a Champion Standardbred who spent his retirement years at the Kentucky Horse Park Hall of Champions. Stanley passed away in October 2019 at the age of 30. He had lived at the Kentucky Horse Park since 1995.

Generous gifts from devoted fans John P. Moore and Jennifer Howard, and owner Robert Hamather, allowed the KHPF to commission the work of

acclaimed equestrian sculpture Shelley Hunter. Shelley previously sculpted the John Henry bronze on display near the Hall of Champions.

Once complete, the KHPF plans to unveil the bronze in a dedication ceremony. Donations are still being accepted for landscaping surrounding the sculpture. If you are interested in supporting this effort, please call the KHPF office at 859-255-5727 or visit us on our website, [www.khpfoundation.org](http://www.khpfoundation.org).





A Poem Written by Ten-Year-Old  
**La'Mequa Lewis**  
2020 Mustang Troop Member

I can't imagine how it would be  
To be a horse jockey like Isaac Murphy  
He was a teen when he started 14 to be exact  
Meaning he was only four years older than me  
And that's a fact!  
He won many horse races, he was one of a kind  
He was one of the best African American Horse  
Jockeys of all time  
He had a way of training his horses  
He was nice and he was kind  
That's why he is a legend of his time  
Oliver Lewis another African American Horse  
Jockey  
Won several horse races back in the day  
We celebrate his accomplishments  
By naming Newtown Pike Extension  
Oliver Lewis Way  
Every day I pass by Isaac Murphy's mural  
And Oliver Lewis Way but I never gave it a thought  
Until I was exposed to the Horse Park  
And had the opportunity to be taught.

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