



Featured Volunteer

What is your name?

Heather Lomax

How old are you?

38

Why do you volunteer at HOH?

I volunteer at HOH because of my love of horses. I also enjoy watching the participants learn and grow over the month. To watch a person who hardly says a word and bottles themselves up inside bloom into a totally different person due to a horse is just amazing to watch. I have built amazing friendships with all the volunteers and staff at HOH. It truly feels like a family.

When did you begin volunteering at HOH?

I started volunteering at HOH around March (2016) with helping with the fencing and making sure we were ready for lessons to be underway.

Do you have a favorite horse here at the barn? If so, which one and why?

I would have to say the wonderful amazing Scout would be my number one man. I knew from the first time interacting with Scout he was going to be a special boy to me. He tugs at my heart strings. All of the horses at HOH

will always hold a special place in my heart.

What days do you volunteer and approximately how many hours do you spend at the barn or helping at fundraisers?

I volunteer Mondays and Thursdays during lessons. I also do feeding for Deb when needed on Wednesdays. I also do my Saturday morning feeding. I can't give you



Heather Lomax (left) and daughter Ashley (right) grooming Scout when they first began volunteering. Heather says, "I knew right then and there that Scout would hold a special place in my heart. He is such an amazing horse."

Photo by Dylan Lomax

approximate hours of time I spend there because it's like a second home to me.

What are your favorite things to help HOH with?

I love to help HOH with

anything needed to make the program a success. I am a "just ask and I will do what I can to help you out" type of person.

What is one thing you've learned during your time volunteering with HOH?

I have learned many things at HOH. The one thing that sticks out the most is that no matter what daily struggles a person goes through, HOH is there to build a person up, not tear them down.

Is there anything else you'd like to say?

HOH has made me a stronger person. Walking into the barn, smelling the good ole barn horsey smells, seeing the volunteers, staff, and all the riders having a wonderful time, yeah it's all worth it! I would just like to say that if you're looking for a sense of peace or a change in your life, whether you're struggling with a personal problem, HOH can and will make a difference in your life. Come by and meet all the wonderful people at HOH. You're in for a life changing experience!



In Honor of the Horse Who Helped Start HOH

Pumpkin, the horse whose legend will live on. She was an amazing horse. She helped Laurie Flanagan start Horses of Hope in 2009. She truly is a unique horse. Below is a description written for Pumpkin.

“The first horse to be used in the program is a champagne colored horse named Pumpkin. She is thought to be a Quarter Horse-Saddlebred Cross but little is known of her ancestry. Pumpkin was purchased from Crooked Fence Farm in Rochester Mills, PA. This farm originally rescued Pumpkin from a situation in which she was not receiving proper care. After

spending some time at their farm, Pumpkin had eventually undergone training to work in their therapeutic riding program and had done very well in the program. Pumpkin is 20 years young and has a bit of a swayed back, but she is still used in the program with the weight of the rider restricted to 50 pounds or less. Pumpkin will always have the unique distinction of being the first horse at Horses of Hope.”

Pumpkin will be missed by everyone. In honor of her, I’ve included pictures from volunteers,

participants, and those who loved Pumpkin. She will always be remembered.



ISABEL MARTIN, EDITOR

“Everyone loved Pumpkin. She served a great life. She passed away peacefully and is buried in a beautiful place.”



Above: “The picture was taken the second time I was at Horses of Hope and got to work with Pumpkin.” Photo by Isabel Martin



Above: “Loved by all of our volunteers and riders, these horses are truly amazing... especially Pumpkin.” Photo by Debra Harger



Above: Photos by Angel Johnson

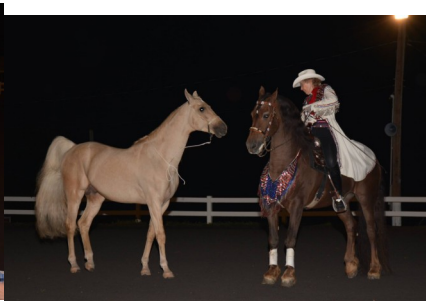


Above: Pumpkin - trusted with even the smallest of riders. Photo by Rachel Eiler



Above two photos: The group of people gathered in the round pen to remember Pumpkin and share stories from her life. Photos by Vickie Hancock

Heroes and Horses at the Clinton County Fairgrounds



Cowboy Boots Salute Our Troops Horse Show featured The Magical World of Dancing Horses (Dianne Olds Rossi; Jeff Wilson; and our very own instructor at HOH, Chuck Feighner, with his wife Betsie.). The stormy evening began with a meal from Curt's Smokin' BBQ, then as the rain let up, riders began to enter the arena carrying flags. After a special "thank you" to Vickie Hancock, program director of Heroes & Horses and Laurie Flanagan, the ex. director of HOH, the show began with a gorgeous sunset painting the background. Photos by Vickie Hancock 🍂

A Message From a Junior Volunteer

For this newsletter, a junior volunteer tells about his favorite horse at HOH:

Hello...My name is Freddie Grove and I am a Junior volunteer with Horses of Hope. I wanted to tell you about one of my favorite horses here and why she's my favorite.

My favorite horse at Horses of Hope is Star! The reason I like Star the best is because of many different reasons. One reason is she is such a beautiful horse. She has a kind and loving personality for an animal but can also be lazy at times HAHA. I like that she is easy to get along with and she trusts me. Star loves to be groomed and petted. I love the interaction I have with her. I hope that one day I will be able to ride her.



FREDDIE GROVE, Junior Volunteer



Christmas at Horses of Hope

On December 10, we had our first Christmas at HOH open house. It was a great success with pony rides, baked goods, entertainment, a chance to visit with Santa, and an opportunity to meet horses used in the program and the volunteers who spend lots of time helping to make the program a success. Special thanks to Debra Harger, the veterans, and volunteers who helped plan the event and came out to help make it a special day.



Photo #1 courtesy of Debra Harger "The horses' stockings are hung...."

Photo #2 courtesy of Jenn Gallagher "Santa!"

Photo #3 courtesy of Debra Harger "The community room, barn, and round pen were all decorated for Christmas"

Photo #4 courtesy of Heather Lomax "Isabel Martin and Angel Johnson prepare Star for pony rides."





"Giving Hope, One Individual at a Time."

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Horses of Hope.org

OR check us out on Facebook!

HOH:

<https://www.facebook.com/www.horsesofhope.org/>

H&H:

<https://www.facebook.com/Heroes-Horses-492957944219457/>

Thanks to the **Clinton Co. United Way's** funding to HOH, we are able to provide our services to many individuals.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

From all of us here at Horses of Hope and Heroes & Horses!



"Star and Fancy say Merry Christmas!" Photo courtesy of Debra Harger

Upcoming Fundraisers/Events

January

***Horse Sponsorship Campaign
Kickoff (Sponsor one of our
amazing horses for as little as \$25
a month)***

February

***Have a Heart for HOH (By
sponsoring a Dress Down Day at
your work)***

(5th) Walmart Can Day

March

(19th) Luxury Bag Bingo

May

(13th) Craft/Vendor Day

June

***(24th) Jersey Shore American
Legion Riders Ride for HOH***

AND.... More to come!

***For more information,
contact Laurie Flanagan
(570) 295-2904***