



SAFE | Save a
Forgotten
Equine

2017 Annual Report



Our Mission

To rescue, rehabilitate, and retrain horses facing neglect or abuse, and provide them with the best opportunity for a permanent home and a lifetime of safety.

Our Vision

A world in which all horse owners take responsibility for their animals:
responsibility for their care,
responsibility for their safety,
and responsibility for their passing.

Our Values

Transparency • Integrity • Honesty • Professionalism • Compassion

photography donated by Karen Wegehenkel

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Executive Director's Message

you are SAFE

For thirteen years, Save a Forgotten Equine Horse Rescue has helped neglected and abused horses in our community. When a new horse arrives at SAFE—scared, hungry, hurting—the first thing we tell them is “you are safe.” They may not understand the words, but I believe they understand the emotion and the intention behind them. I’ve seen many horses transformed by heroic efforts of rescue, vet care, and training...but I’ve also seen horses transformed by kindness. I’ve seen horses make the decision to live because someone touched them gently or spoke caringly to them. I’ve seen horses abandon their defensive misbehavior because someone gave them the benefit of the doubt. I’ve seen horses place their trust immediately in someone they’ve never seen before...someone who not only told them they were safe, but truly meant it in their heart.

There’s a double meaning to “You are safe.” We say it to the horses but it’s also how we regard the people who make up this organization. Volunteers, adopters, donors, advocates...you are all SAFE. Without you, there would be no rescue. As you peruse this Annual Report, you will see that 2017 was a groundbreaking year for SAFE. We did a lot of incredible work, and we have so much to be proud of. Those accomplishments belong to all of us. And everyone who played a role, whether large or small, can take credit for not only the wonderful year we had, but also for the wonderful organization we’ve created. Great work, my friends!

The momentum we gained in 2017 has continued to grow, and I predict that next year’s Annual Report will be even more glowing than this one. But let’s take a moment to look back on what we accomplished together. My gratitude toward the amazing humans who made all of this happen is boundless. Thank you.

Bonnie Hammond, Executive Director
SAFE | Save a Forgotten Equine



photography donated by Jessica Farren Photography



2017 Top Donors

SAFE received an overwhelming amount of support from our community in 2017. We received donations from just over 600 individuals and business, with more than 80% of those donors giving at an annual level of \$500 or less. While our major donor program continues to grow, we are still very much a grass-roots organization!

\$50,000 and above

The Estate of
Mrs. Shirley Coffey


The Gary E. Milgard Family Foundations

\$25,000-\$49,999

Jane Millar

Microsoft Employee
Giving Program

\$10,000-\$24,999

Carol Lescoulie

Svaneer's Foundation

Mary Ann Redeker

\$5,000-\$9,999

Anne E. Gittinger
ASPCA Equine Fund
Bernice & Joe Schick
Boeing Employee Matching

Brian Blanchard
Google Employee Matching
Jamie Hills
Kyle Putnam

Leigh & Chaun Mackey
The Carl Jud Foundation
Tiffany Lindan
Vipula Shukla

\$2,500 to \$4,999

14 Hands Winery
Alice Pennels Trust
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Brian & Joy Lewis
Caren McMillen
Cathi Champion
Charlotte Yarkoni

Cheryl Cho
Deborah Meyer
F5 Networks
IBM Corporation
James Snyder
Jennifer Anderson & Eric Michelson
Lara & Tad Lutz

Marv & Kaye Romsland
Michael Jackson
Pilchuck Veterinary Hospital
Richard & Jolene Duncan
Steve & Suzi Puckett
William Carrel
Wurzel & Susan Parsons-Kier

\$1,000-\$2,499

1-866-SLABJACK
Barbara Gordon
Cari Sommer Charitable Fund
Charles Hart
Christine McLellan-Johnson
D. Gail Bleeker
Dale Christian
Debra Fouts
Elizabeth Leech
Estate of Joseph Robert Howard
Eve Tai
Geraldine Cherry
Heather & John-Paul Andreini
Heidi Gloudemans & Jack Elmore
Jack & Theresa Hodge

Jason King & Jenn McCoy
Jessica Farren
JoAnne & Dwight Locke
Joel & Katie Conner
John Mabbott
Jude & Michael Tembreull
Judy & Nathan Coe
Kathy Wehle & Theresa Haynie
Keith & Kelly Barnes
Laurel Kelly & John W Sims
Lauren & Bryan Engle
Lisa Johnson
Mt. Rainier Equine Veterinary Services
Nancy Pyron
Patrick Pielage & Kris Gulbran

Pella Rollscreen Foundation
Prodigious Fund
Rainland Farm Equine Clinic
Robert & Judith Hammond
Ross Hubbard
Ruth Kennedy
Sharman Conner
Sheridan Jones
Starbucks Partner Match
Stephanie Holderreed
Sue & Larry Myers
Tony Hewett
Vernon & Mary Wells

\$500-\$999

Aaron & Jana Whitcomb	Irene Dunham	Maureen Ellison
Barbara Ferderer	Jackie Liles	McKinstry Charitable Foundation
Barbara & John Beachner	Jane Lagerstrom	Michael & Kimberly Grahm
Barbara Slack	Jason & Stacie Haworth	Patricia Riehl
Beth Glosten, RiderPilates, LLC	John Parkey	Paul & Laurette Berglund
Brandee Warren	Julie Winkler	Randy Wallingford
Capt. Harry E. Jennings	Karen Kelley	Rebecca Pohlman
Carol Alpinier	Karen Moore	Susanne Meslans
Carol & Marty Olson	Kathleen Winder	Tenhulzen Real Estate
Deanna Thronson	Kathy Hope & Andy Parypa	Terry Phelps-Peddy & Marcus Peddy
Debi & Larry Shatos	Kimberly Watson	Therese Jardine
Debra Stranne	Kinnon McDonell	Tony & Annalisa Scripa
Elizabeth Mitchell	Laura Landau	Trond & Debbie Bodal
Elizabeth Shriner	Laura McCorkle & Patrick O'Kelley II	
Goldman Sachs Philanthropy Fund	Lauren Carroll	
Gwendolyn Moore	Lisa & Paul Bialek	

\$250-\$499

Alicia Brattin	Kelly Rollin	Parrot Heads of Puget Sound
Andrea & Stephen Capizzi	Kim Carter	Larry & Patsy Neher
Andrea Heuston	Kirsty Ellison	Patty Hughes
Arena Rehab Specialists	Kit Topaz	Precor Inc Employee Matching
Ashley Farrington	Kristin Lozier	Rebecka & Bruce Milne
Balanced Horse Veterinary Service,	LaFay Dillon	Robin Gilbertson
Beck Wren	Lake Washington Saddle Club	Sally Gregg
Bruce & Mary Dobbs	Lauren Guzauskas	Samantha Guijarro
Candi Kintzley	Leslie DiMaio	Sanda Putnam
Casey Lyons	Lindsay Refvem	Sandy Williams
Chevron Matching Gifts	Liz Lennox	Sara Eggers
Cristina Brendicke	Liz Snyder	Sara Sluszk
Curt Garner	Lori Page	Sarah Peach
David Wesche	Lylee Jeanne Hubbard	Sharon Eagan
Dipanjan Ghosh	Lynda Caughey	Sherry Hansen
Elizabeth Stephan	Maeve Harris	Snohomish Coop, Inc.
Heather Courtney	Marcella Kretzler	Sweeney Road Old Horse Retirement
Hunter McLees	Margaret Colony	Teresa Canady
James Grua	Meaghan Heberlein	Thomas Meyer
Janice Misner	Melinda Zopf	Vicki Jones
Jenny Wagner	Michael Riggins	Victoria Guy
Judy Glaser	Molly Tuohy	Wendy Mollat DVM
Julie Manheim	Nancy Bak Smith	Whitney Wiggins
Kara Stearman	Nancy Powers	Will Huntley
Katherine Mason	Noelle Sophy	



Valor's Story

Sadly, there never seems to be a shortage of unwanted horses. Time and time again we ask ourselves "What was this person *thinking* when they decided to breed this mare, or when they decided not to geld this stallion?" Careless overbreeding of horses is a serious problem, and one of the primary reasons that rescue organizations like SAFE are necessary. Humans make poor decisions, and horses end up suffering for them.

Valor is a handsome young Quarter Horse who really should not exist. His owner was already struggling to care for too many horses with too little money when she allowed her mare to become pregnant again. When we met him, Valor was a three year old stallion— young enough to still look like a baby, but plenty old enough to sire unwanted babies of his own.

Fortunately, this cycle of unwanted pregnancies and unlucky foals came to an end with Valor. He is now a very happy gelding who has learned how much life has to offer beyond procreation. His world can now include *friends*—not just humans but other horses as well! He can now know the safety and security of being part of a herd, the joy that comes from equine interaction and play, and the peace of sharing a meal or snoozing in the sun. A wonderful life awaits this fine young man.



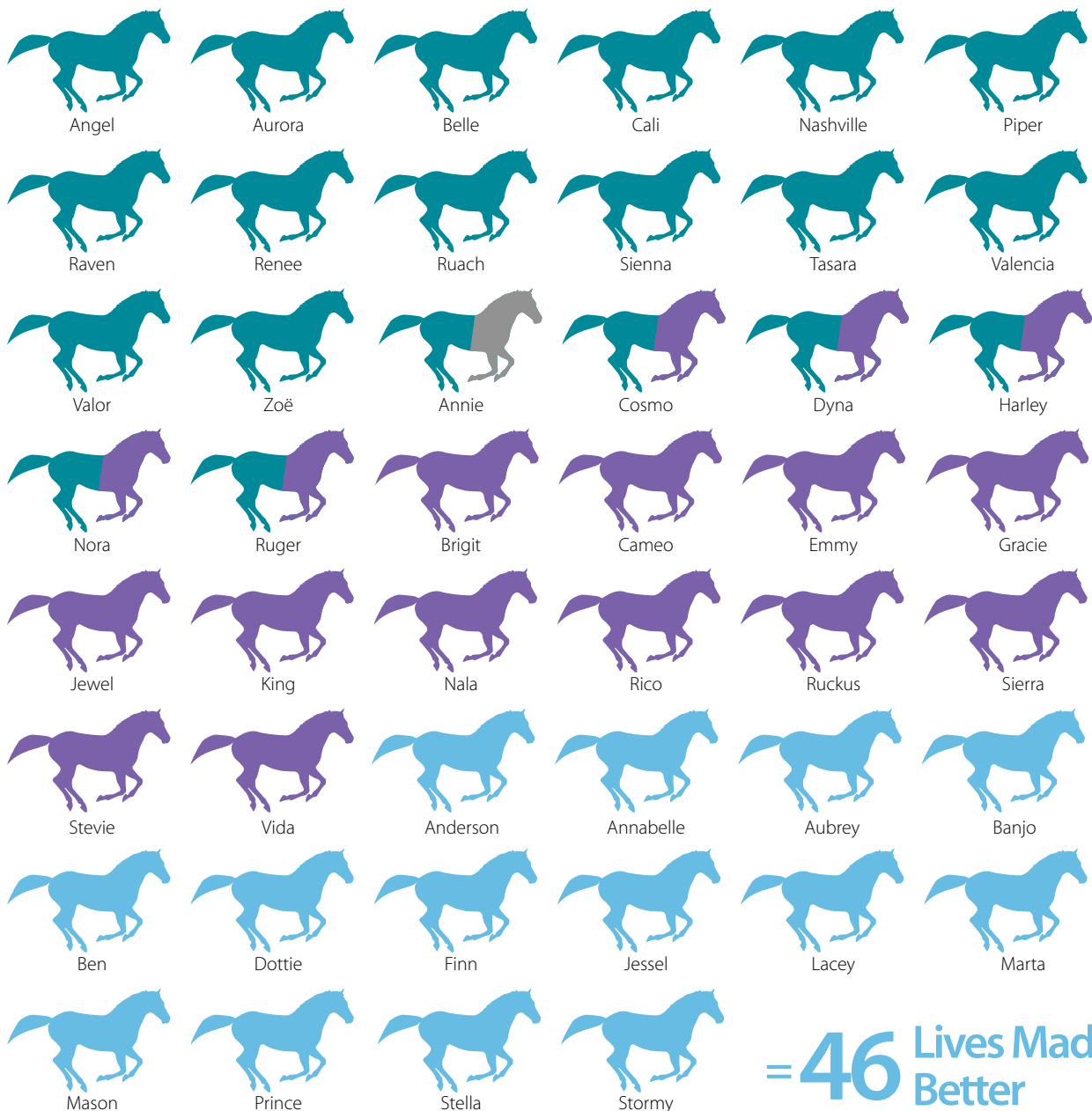
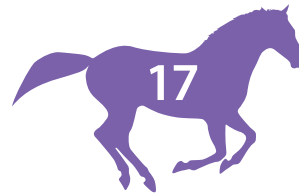
Program Milestones

Here is the distribution of horses SAFE cared for in 2017. In addition to our 20 intakes and 17 successful adoptions, there were 14 horses who were rescued prior to 2017 who remained in our care at the end of the year. Two horses (Nora and Sierra) were returned to SAFE by their adopters but found new and better homes before the end of the year. And sadly, we lost a sweet mare named Annie, who passed away four days after being rescued.

New Intakes



Adoptions

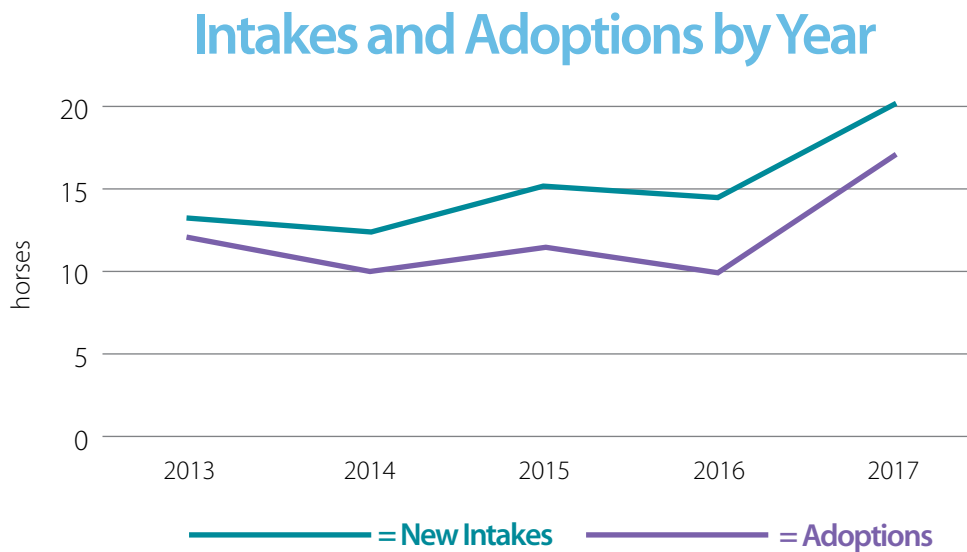


= 46 Lives Made Better

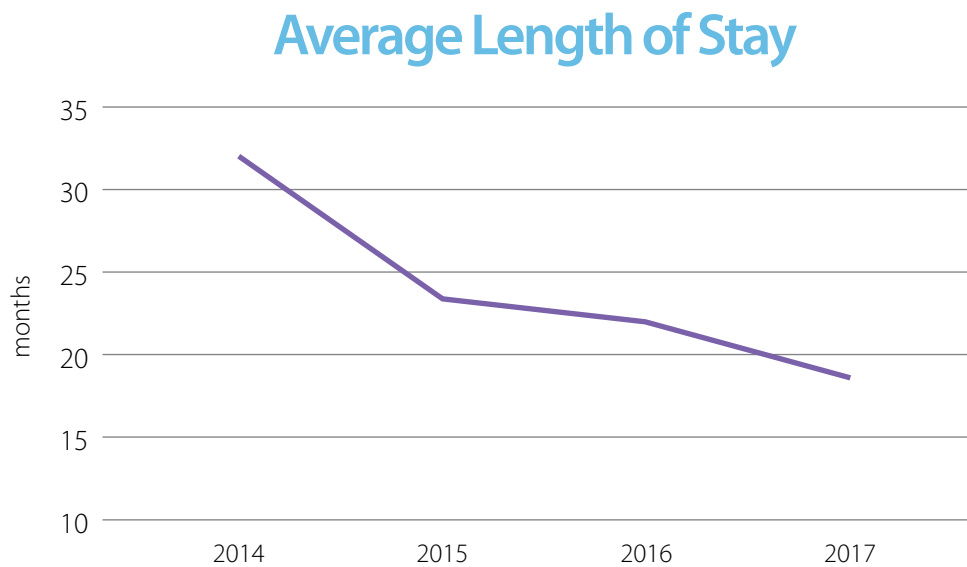



Program Milestones

2017 was a record-breaking year for successful adoptions. Typically we place about twelve horses per year, which then opens up space for twelve new intakes. In 2017, seventeen SAFE horses caught the eye and then the heart of a perfect adopter. Why the upturn in adoption numbers? Our Training Program and our Volunteer Rider Program are producing well-started horses that are rewarding to work with. Our Adoption Team is becoming more savvy at matching the right horse to the right adopter. And our Marketing Team is helping to spread the word to our community that SAFE horses are so much more than just “rescue horses.”



As our methods develop and improve, we are moving horses to their forever homes faster than in previous years. Mind you, the average stay for a SAFE horse in 2017 was still 18 months. We have not abandoned our high standards of quality that each potential adoptor must meet. And we continue to allow each horse to tell us when they are ready to move on to the next stage of their lives. Nevertheless, we’re becoming more efficient and more productive when it comes to finding homes for our horses, and we expect this trend to continue in 2018.



A photograph of a brown horse with white markings on its face and legs, standing in a field. The horse is looking towards the right. The background is a blurred field with a white fence.

"Angel has already come a long way in trusting us. Each day we build a better relationship with her and while there may be small setbacks along the way, there are wonderful days ahead."

Terry Phelps-Peddy,
SAFE Operations Director

photography donated by Jessica Farren Photography

Angel's Story

At the age of 27, Angel's life story is written on her body, on her face, and in her eyes. She doesn't trust people, and it's no wonder since people have really never given her a reason to trust them. SAFE took this neglected mare from her owner with the intention of placing her into our Hospice Program, to show her a few weeks of kindness before letting her pass on in peace. But it seems that Angel had other ideas! Once in our care, she was seen by our veterinarian who discovered that with some corrective farrier work to her neglected hooves, Angel could be made comfortable again. In a short time, Angel found sweet relief...and gained a bounce in her step that we never expected to see! We monitor her carefully to make sure that she remains pain free and comfortable, but for now, she feels good. She spends her days watching over her little band of mares, with whom she is unquestionably the boss. Angel knows that age is nothing but a number!



Community Outreach

Because SAFE operates with a self-imposed cap of no more than 30 horses at any given time, there is a limit to how many horses we are able to help. Our Community Outreach Program was developed to help horse owners keep their horses out of the rescue pipeline. SAFE offers short term assistance to horse owners facing life changes and challenges, as well as gelding surgery and humane euthanization. We also encourage owner responsibility by providing counseling and advice about safe rehoming and manageable horsekeeping practices.

In 2017, SAFE received
121 phone calls
and **318 e-mails**

from horse owners wanting:

- help with vet care
- help with hay or grain
- help with euthanization.

But most just wanted SAFE
to take their horse(s).

We could only
take in



of these horses,
mostly due to lack of space.

Most of the horse owners who contacted us were offered counseling, with an emphasis on safe rehoming and owner responsibility.

In 2017, SAFE spent
\$11,785 for vet care
to stabilize and rehabilitate
the 15 owner surrendered horses.

In 2017, SAFE provided another
\$3,800 in outreach services
to horse owners in need, which included:

- ✓ **4 humane euthanizations**
 - ✓ **2 stallions gelded**
- ✓ **2 emergency vet calls**
- and ✓ **62 bales of hay!**

We also gave away **17 horse blankets**
and rainsheets through our Blanket Bank.



Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet

Because the sustainability of this organization is a major priority for us, we have worked hard to ensure that we continue to generate profits year to year, to increase our reserves and maintain six months of operating expenses in savings. Having achieved that goal, we are now concentrating on growing cash and investments in advance of a future capital campaign that will allow us to purchase our own property in the near future.

	12/31/16	12/31/17	Change
Assets			
Cash and Investments	205,215	361,593	156,378
Fixed Assets, net	70,316	103,281	32,965
Lease Deposits	20,025	13,298	(6,727)
Total Assets	295,556	478,172	182,616
Liabilities and Equity			
Accounts Payable	-	14,512	14,512
Loan Payable	13,213	7,276	(5,937)
Total Liabilities	13,213	21,788	8,576
Retained Earnings	160,619	282,343	121,725
Net Income	121,724	174,040	52,316
Total Liabilities and Equity	295,556	478,172	182,616

Statement of Cash Flow

Net Income	\$174,040
Capital Expenditures	(32,965)
Change in Working Capital and Loan	15,303
Change in Cash and Investments	\$156,378

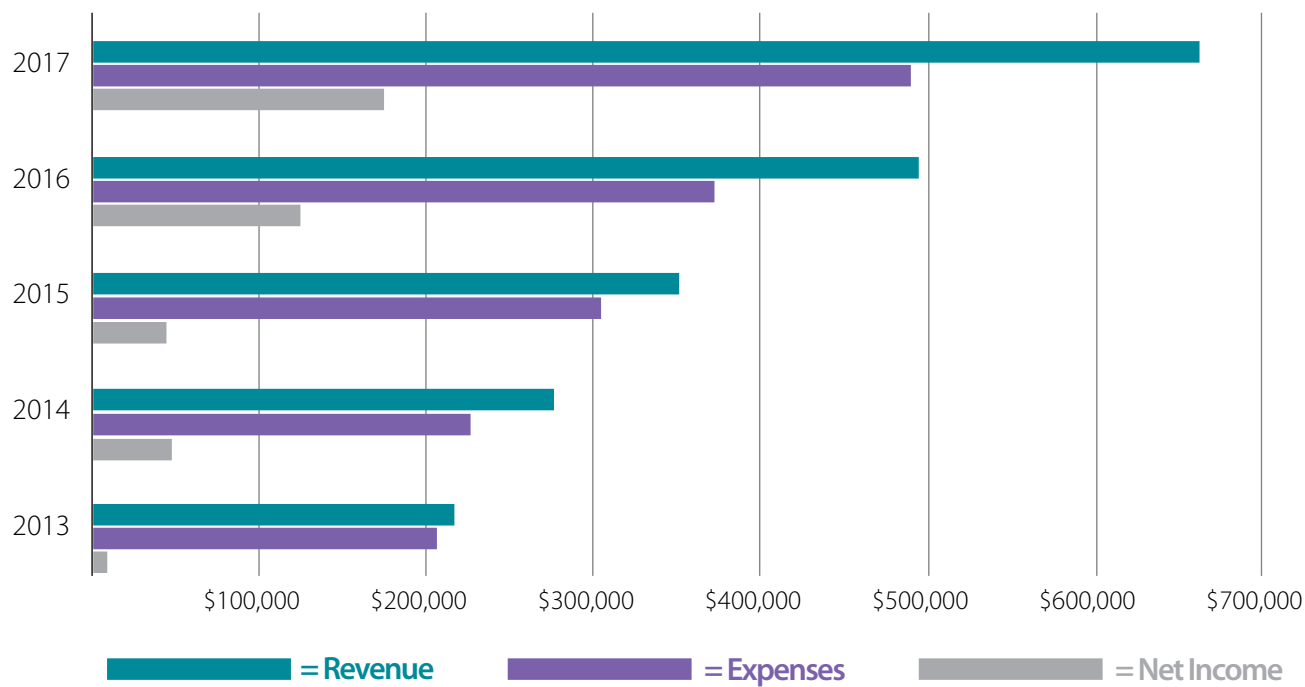


Five Year Trend

Growth

SAFE has shown a steady growth pattern over the past five years, with budgeted expenses increasing at an average rate of 20% per year. Because revenue goals have consistently exceeded expectations, we have been able to set surplus funds aside for emergency use, operational reserves, and capital improvement.

Five Year Trend





Financial Summary

Revenue

SAFE's revenue in 2017 was well diversified across many different donation streams, with a healthy emphasis on donations from the general public. We received an unexpected bequest in 2017 from the estate of Shirley Coffey, as well as several grants and foundation gifts. The remainder of our 2017 revenue came from a sustainable array of sources, including targeted fundraisers, special events, and corporate workplace giving programs.

Donations

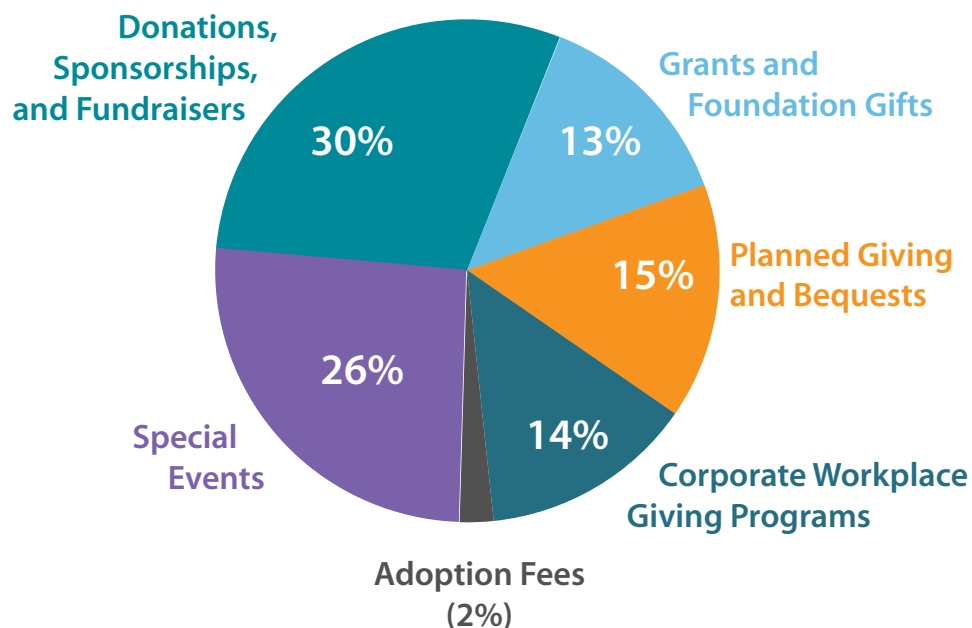
General Donations	\$122,194	
Planned Giving and Bequests	\$101,000	
Workplace Giving Programs	\$92,025	
Grants and Foundation Gifts	\$88,000	
Monthly Sponsorships	\$35,320	
Fall Into Winter Feed Drive	\$28,906	
GiveBIG Community Fundraiser	\$8,556	
Total Donations		\$476,001

Special Events, net of costs

Heart of the Horse	\$119,731	
Benefit Horse Show	\$31,574	
Other SAFE Events	\$19,822	
Total Special Events		\$171,127

Adoption Fees	\$14,482
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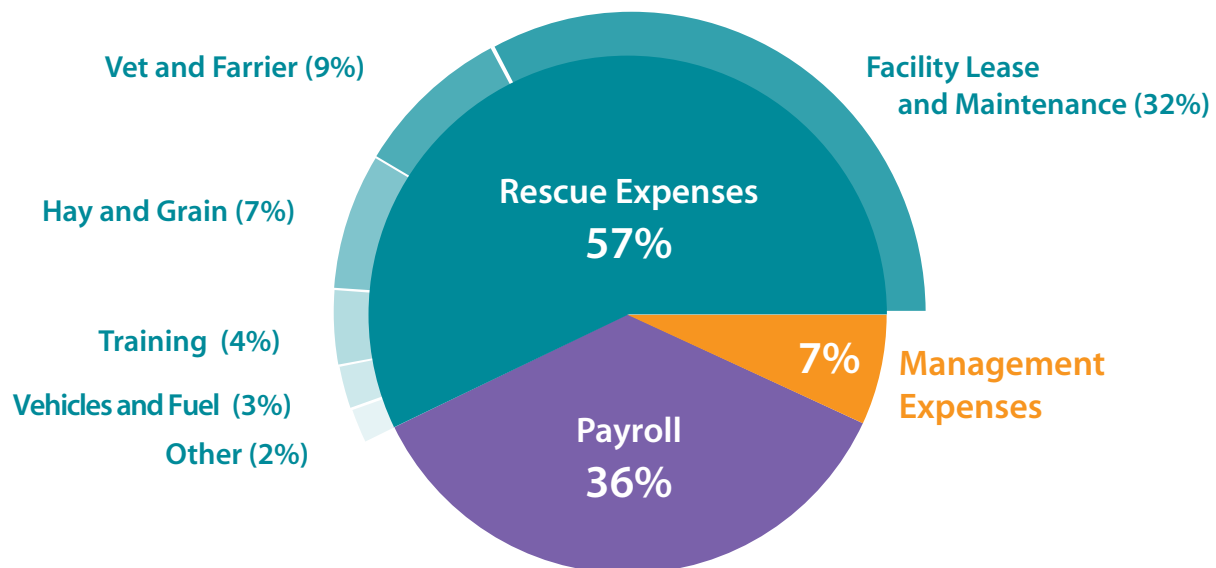
Total Income **\$661,610**



Expenses

In 2017, the bulk of SAFE's expenses were related to our facility, which is a crucial element for an organization that houses as many as 30 rescued equines at any given time. While our move to the new farm in 2017 did not represent a substantial increase in lease from our former location, the costs to maintain a facility of this size were significantly increased. We also chose to invest in improvements to benefit our horses and our volunteers.

Rescue Expenses		
Facility Lease and Maintenance	\$157,941	
Veterinary and Farrier Care	\$41,955	
Hay, Grain, and Supplements	\$35,719	
Training Program	\$19,423	
Vehicles, Fuel, and Depreciation	\$13,700	
Other Expenses	\$11,886	
Total Rescue Expenses		\$280,624
Payroll		\$174,158
Management Expenses		
Organizational Expenses	\$10,756	
Banking Expenses	\$9,532	
Office Expenses	\$7,609	
Staff and Volunteer Expenses	\$4,891	
Total Management Expenses		\$32,788
Total Expenses		\$487,570

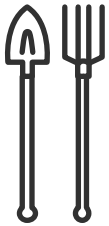




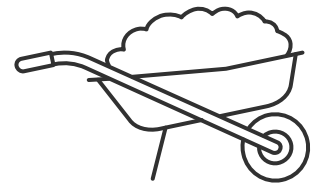
Volunteer Statistics

Volunteers: the Heart of SAFE

With only four paid employees on staff, the vast majority of SAFE's work is performed by volunteers. At our Redmond WA facility, we have three regular chore shifts each day. Morning shifts are manned by 4–6 volunteers who are responsible for feeding, turnout, and stall cleaning. Afternoon shifts consist of 3–5 individuals who bring horses in for the night and clean their paddocks. And night check serves one last late feeding and ensures that all the horses are tucked away safe and sound for the evening. There are also many other volunteers that keep SAFE operating at full capacity: our volunteer Board of Directors, the volunteers that make up the Operations Council, and the many individuals who work behind the scenes on special events, fundraising, marketing, and more. Our volunteer program is something we are extremely proud of.



In 2017, SAFE had a total of
204 active volunteers
84 were new in 2017

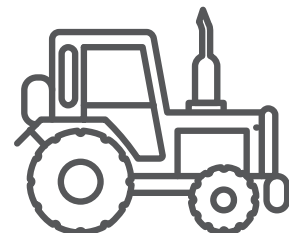


In 2017, we logged
19,147 volunteer hours

That's the equivalent of
9.5 full time employees



and **\$210,617 in payroll**
at minimum wage.



A photograph of a woman with long brown hair, wearing a light blue zip-up jacket, smiling broadly while holding the head of a dark-colored horse. The horse is looking towards the camera. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with green grass and trees.

**"I get the best of both worlds,
working with a great group
of volunteers on my morning
chore shift, and then the quiet
serene barn at night check
with just the horses."**

SAFE Volunteer Marie J.



Other Accomplishments

Finding a New Home

In February 2017, we moved from our 3-acre facility in Woodinille to a new home just 10 minutes down the road. This 11 acre horse facility includes a 30 stall barn with an indoor arena, a second large covered arena, a large outdoor arena, and a covered round pen, as well as paddocks and pastures that allow for year round daily turnout for the entire herd. In February 2017, SAFE signed a five-year lease on the property, located in Redmond WA, a suburban city east of Seattle that is home to Microsoft and other tech companies. In addition to the convenient location, the farm has a lovely feel of space and privacy. We're surrounded on two sides by large equestrian properties, and adjacent to a forested Redmond city park that features a perimeter riding trail. This farm is the perfect home for our rehabilitation and training programs. Our volunteers love it too!







Other Accomplishments

ASPCA Help a Horse Day

On April 23, 2017, SAFE participated in the ASPCA's Help a Horse Day, a nationwide competition of equine rescues and sanctuaries to raise awareness about rescue. Events were judged on creativity, effort, attendance, media coverage, and more. SAFE invited the community to join us for The End Hunger Games, which featured thirteen "Districts," each devoted to a specific stage of the work that we do. At each informative and interactive District, visitors learned about a facet of the rescue process, from intake and rehab, through diet and training, and all the way through to adoption. Over 400 people came to The End Hunger Games, and SAFE was selected as one of the 10 prize winners out of the more than 170 rescues that competed. We received a \$5,000 prize from the ASPCA to further our Community Outreach Program.





photography donated by Jessica Farren Photography

Stormy's Story

Stormy was seized by Animal Control in 2017 and removed from a life of abuse and neglect. To be ill-treated and uncared for is a nightmare for any animal, but for Stormy, it was made worse by the fact that she's blind. Stormy is an Appaloosa, a breed that is prone to developing uveitis and glaucoma later in life. Sadly, Stormy faced these issues without the benefit of vet care, and by the time help came, she was completely and irreversibly blind.

But in spite of her handicap, this remarkable mare lives a normal life here at SAFE. Stormy spends her days in a large pasture with her good friend Mason, who provides her with both companionship and comfort. At night, she's tucked into a warm and cozy stall where she can listen to the sounds of the horses around her. And several times each week, she is led into the arena by another good friend named Melinda who has used clicker training to teach Stormy to respond to voice commands and successfully navigate obstacles and complete simple patterns. The trust that Stormy has for Melinda is so beautiful. The work they do together has made this mare brighter and more engaged with the world around her.



"Working with Stormy has truly been one of the most rewarding things I've gotten to do at SAFE. I really love this horse."

SAFE Volunteer Rider Melinda C.



photography donated by Jessica Farren Photography

Ruger's Story

He was a champion, in both the reining world and the breeding shed. So to find him in such pitiful condition—starved, filthy, standing in ankle-deep mud—evoked many emotions in us. Anger and sadness that a horse could be so mistreated. Disbelief and confusion that such a valuable animal could end up in such a bad situation. And gratitude and relief that he ended up in SAFE's care.

Provided with good veterinary and farrier care, and a steady, healthy supply of food, Ruger transformed back into the stunning horse he was meant to be. At that point, we began to consider what Ruger's future would look like. The foremost authority on that question was Ruger himself. He made it pretty clear to us that he no longer wanted to be a riding horse, that he'd had just about enough of that life. We honored that decision and began searching for a permanent home for him where he could live out his life as a companion.

Ruger generated a lot of interest from potential adopters, many of whom had figured out who he used to be and were eager to find out what he could still do in the show ring. But we opted to wait for an adopter to come along who was more concerned about what they could do for Ruger than what he could do for them.

Someone who wouldn't mind feeding him a mash every day since his missing teeth make it hard to chew hay. Someone who would ensure he gets the best farrier care possible to keep him comfortable on his tender hooves. And most of all, someone who would love him for who he is now...not just who he was in his past life.

Ruger's perfect adopter turned out to be a SAFE volunteer who cared for him during his rehabilitation and grew to admire his quiet courage and his handsome exterior. Now known as Koa, he leads a peaceful existence with a tiny herd of horses and ponies and an adopter who respects him completely. Koa's future is secure to be just what he wants it to be.

"Koa means strength and courage in Hawaiian. Which is something this dear boy has definitely shown us."

SAFE Volunteer and Adopter Barb G.



photography donated by Jessica Farren Photography

Acknowledgements

SAFE is all about the horses, but helping them would not be possible without people who chose to make our mission their own. If you find inspiration from the members of the community that is reflected in the pages of this Annual Report, please consider joining us. You are welcome and encouraged to follow in their footsteps and become part of SAFE.

2017 Board of Directors

W. Andy Carrel, Google
Richard Duncan, F5 Networks, Inc.
Barbara Ferderer, freelance graphic designer
Barbara Gordon, Microsoft, retired
Maeve Harris, artist
Sheridan Jones, Microsoft
Jeannette Parrett, Mt. Rainier Equine Vet
Joseph Schick, Branded Entertainment Network
Deanna Thronson, The Allen Institute

Operations Council

Shar Conner, Alumni Program Manager
Jolene Duncan, Outreach Manager
Lisa Garr, Marketing Manager
Tiffany Lindan, Community Engagement Manager
Laura McCorkle, Foster Coordinator
Melinda Merryman, Herd Health Manager
Jane Millar, Volunteer Manager
Jeanne Stine, Facilities Manager

Staff Members

Bonnie Hammond, Executive Director
Terry Phelps, Operations Director
Lori McMasters, Barn Manager
Ian LeFay, Weekend Barn Manager

and the many dedicated and
hardworking SAFE volunteers.