



SAFE | Save a
Forgotten
Equine

2018 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

As one of the co-founders of SAFE, I've been around since the beginning, when this horse rescue was little more than an interesting idea. Over the past fourteen years, I've seen a lot of changes, a lot of growth. We've had our ups and downs, but nearly all of the downs left us in a higher position from where we started. Year after year, our journey has been a steady climb. We scale one pinnacle to find an even higher peak beyond. At times, the ascent has been dizzying. At other times, it's felt impossible to take even one more step forward. Sometimes we can see the world for miles around. Sometimes the clouds make it difficult to see anything at all.

There were many notable achievements in 2018 that made it a year to remember. After 10 years without a pregnant mare in sight, three healthy fillies were born at SAFE last winter. A long held goal of becoming recognized by the Global Federation of Animal Shelters was finally achieved with SAFE's verification last October. We created two new staff positions, both of which have substantially improved our ability to provide for our horses, steward our donor base, and retain our volunteers. We adopted out more horses



in 2018 than ever before, which in turn allowed us to help more horses, both through Animal Control seizures and owner surrenders.

But looking back, 2018 doesn't quite feel like another record-breaking, dynamic, upward trending year for SAFE. The overachiever in me feels a bit dissatisfied about this, but the realist in me understands that the occasional year of quiet, steady growth is perfectly okay. After all, we're in this for the long haul. A sustainable organization needs a sustainable rate of growth and change. We spent time in 2018 trying to ensure that we have the strength and the courage needed to keep going. Rescue work is hard. Transformations and success stories keep

us moving forward, but the truth of the matter is that there are always more horses and horse owners that need us. The need never stops. And it's exhausting.

I wish there could come a time when SAFE would no longer be needed. I wish that animal neglect and cruelty would stop, that animal lives would be valued by all humans, and that kindness, respect, and responsibility for animals would become such a strong part of our culture that rescues like SAFE could close their doors. But that is not the world we live in. So to our friends and our supporters, our volunteers and our advocates, I thank you for all that you have done, and I urge you to keep fighting for a better tomorrow for all horses. Your kindness lifts all of us up, and keeps us moving toward the summit. Let's get there together.

Bonnie Hammond, Executive Director
SAFE | Save a Forgotten Equine



2018 Top Donors

SAFE received incredible support from our community in 2018. We received donations from 863 individuals and business, and 84% of those donors gave at an annual level of less than \$500. While our major donor program continues to grow, we are still very much a grass-roots organization!

\$25,000 and above

Microsoft Employee
Giving Program


The Gary E. Milgard Family Foundations

\$10,000-\$24,999

Carol Lescoulie
Jasper Family Foundation

Svanee's Foundation
Thomas Meyering

Tiffany Lindan

\$5,000-\$9,999

14 Hands Winery
Alice Pennels
Caren McMillen
Ellison Foundation
F5 Networks
Jack & Theresa Hodge

Jamie Hills
Jane Millar
Jeannie Nordstrom
Kim Filkowski
Kyle Putnam
Mary Ann Redeker

Maeve Harris
Pilchuck Veterinary Hospital
Trish & Seamus Markey
William Carrel

\$2,500 to \$4,999

Amanda Madorno
Barbara Gordon
Cheryl Cho
David Freeburg

Deborah Meyer
Deupree Family Fund
John Mabbot
Keith & Kelly Barnes

Omaha Community Foundation
Richard & Jolene Duncan

\$1,000-\$2,499

Andrea Ogilvie-Eisler
Ashley Farrington/The Blue Team
Barbara Lui Beachner
Barbara Slack
Bill Sweatman
Brandee Warren
The Butterfly Effect
Candi & Kerry Kintzley
Cari Sommer Charitable Fund
Casey Atchinson
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Donna Coombs
Geraldine Cherry

Google Employee Giving
Heather Andreini
IBM Corporation
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Judy Coe
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Lisa Johnson
Lisa Pascualy
Mark Johnson
Marv & Kaye Romsland


Mary Kathleen Hope
Nancy Pyron
Nicky de Reuck
Prodigious Fund
Rebecca Johnson
Robert & Judith Hammond
Robert Fleck, DVM
Ron Colton, DVM
Ruth Kennedy
Sarah Rosen
Stacey Griffin
Stephanie Holderreed
Suzi Puckett
Terry Phelps-Peddy

\$500-\$999

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Alicia Hull | Jan Boniface | Lynda Caughey |
| Asa Caditz | Jane Lagerstrom | Margaret Colony |
| Barb Ferderer | Jason Haworth | Martha Gonzalez |
| Ben Thompson | Jason King | Melinda Zopfi |
| Bruce & Mary Dodds | Jeff Knoth | Patricia & Anthony Hernandez |
| Bruce Robinson | Jennifer Schwartz-Anderson | Patrick Sinnett |
| Camille Johnson | Judith Crosby | Rachel Peters |
| Carrie Pedegana | Julie Nordstrom | Rebecca Pohlman |
| Cathi Champion | Kara Stearman | Robin Jacobson |
| Cheryle Lawson | Katherine Mason | Roxane Key |
| Christy Wallace | Kathleen Winder | Sharman Conner |
| Colin Winkley | Kim Carter | Sheridan Jones |
| Cynthia Romney | Kirsty Ellison | Sophia Archambault |
| Deanna Thronson | Lauren Carroll | Steve Mayer |
| Debbie Kinson | Les Kinney | Susan Schlepp |
| Debi Shatos | Leslie DiMaio | Therese Jardine |
| Elizabeth Mitchell | Lindsay Roe | Vernon & Mary Wells |
| Georgia Harper | Lisa & Paul Bialek | Victoria Corell |
| Gwendolyn Moore | Lisa Wilson | Wendy Mollat, DVM |
| Jackie Liles | Lola Michelin | Windermere/Woodinville |

\$250-\$499

| | | |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| AGC Biologics | James Hessler | Nancy Smith |
| Allison & Kinnon McDonell | Jane Barry | Parker Gordon |
| Andrea Logan | Janice Misner | Peggy Gregory |
| Anja Wuerminghausen | Jeanne Arredondo | Pella Rollscreen Foundation |
| Anne Biglow | Jeanne McKnight | Phoebe & Rick Trocano |
| AT&T Employee Giving Program | Jeannette & Les Parrett | Precor Employee Giving |
| Barbara Breckenfeld Movement in Balance | Jessica Smith | Rane MacDonough |
| Beck Wren | Jill Rand | Rebecca Sykes |
| Betsy Warren | Jim Landers | Rob Banga |
| Boeing Employee Matching Gift Program | Joanna Espinoza Rodriguez | Robin Gilbertson |
| Bruce & Rebecka Milne | Judy Glaser | Sally Gregg |
| Bruce Ambler | Julie Manheim | Samantha Guijarro |
| Carrie Zuther | Karen Moore | Sanda Putnam |
| Cedarbrook Veterinary Services | Katherine Cole | Sara Eggers |
| Charlotte Carrido | Kathryn Smith | Sarah Peach |
| Chase Wilson | Kathy Futrell | Shalisan Foster |
| Christina Ambrosini | Kellie Larsen | Sheila Lowthian |
| Claire Baddeley | Kimberly Watson | Sheila Ritchie |
| Craig Coombs | Kit Topaz | Shelia Otter |
| Daniel Rike & Jennifer Vierling-Rike | Kore Koubowlis | Shelley McKinley |
| David and Lucile Packard Foundation | Ksenia Nasielski | Shelly Navarre |
| David Wesche | LaFay Dillon | Sherry Hansen |
| Diane Gallegos | Larry & Patsy Neher | Shuyi Hu |
| Douglas Wright | Lauren & Bryan Engle | Siri Smith |
| Edith Logeman | Lisa Best | Stephani Siudmak |
| Elizabeth Stephan | Liz Lennox | Susanne Meslans |
| Ellyn Rose | Llyn Berry | The Whole Pet Shop LLC |
| Erin Belzer | Lori Page | Theresa Dodge |
| Girl Scout Troup 44325 | Lynn Trewin | Tina Hurley |
| Gwen Blake | Mark & LeAnn LeMaster | Tina Perovich |
| Gwendolyn Banchemo | Marsha Martin | Torrey Edwards |
| Hayley Forbes | Maureen Ellison | Victoria Guy |
| Home Depot Employee Giving | Meaghan Heberlein | William & Dawn Larkin |
| Ilse DePriest | Michael Riggins | |



**My barn is no
longer empty, my
heart is full. And
I look forward to
many adventures
with my girl.**

Sherri, SAFE adopter

Tasara's Story

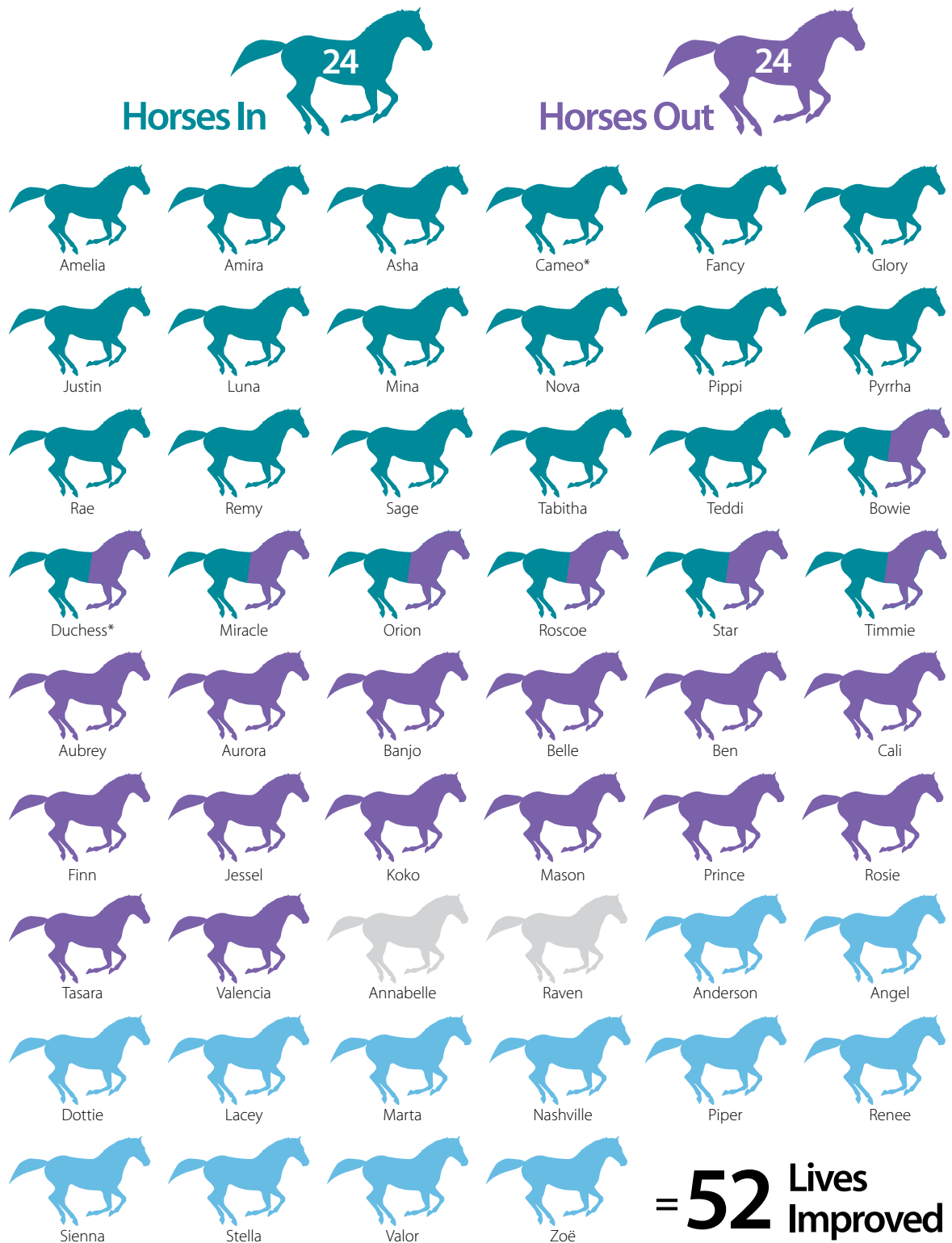
It started with a phone call. We were contacted by a woman whose sister was dying in hospice, leaving her beloved horse Tasara behind. Knowing that Tasara was safe and cared for would bring her tremendous peace, and fortunately we were able to offer that to her.

At about the same time that Tasara's owner was passing, another woman was bidding a heart wrenching goodbye to her equine soulmate. Sherri had owned her Peruvian Paso mare for 10 years, but her friend had developed DSLD, and Sherri could no longer keep her comfortable. Sherri felt completely lost without a horse of her own, but her heart was broken, and she wasn't ready to move on. And then a friend told her about a little mare at SAFE named Tasara who was looking for a home and a person of her own. Seeing Tasara's photos on SAFE, she felt something in her heart loosen up a bit. Sherri didn't hurry the adoption process...she wanted to be sure she was ready to give her heart to another horse. But Tasara didn't have to do much more than just be herself to win Sherri over. She was what Sherri needed to move on from her sadness and start a new life with a new horse.



Program Milestones

Here is the distribution of horses SAFE cared for in 2018. We took in 24 horses over the course of the year. That includes two previously adopted horses (Duchess and Cameo) who were returned to SAFE, and three foals (Nova, Pippi, and Rae) who were born at SAFE last fall. These intakes were made possible by the 22 successful adoptions that took place in 2018, as well as the sad passing of two of our horses, Annabelle and Raven. And there were 12 additional horses, rescued prior to 2018, who remained in our care at the end of the year.

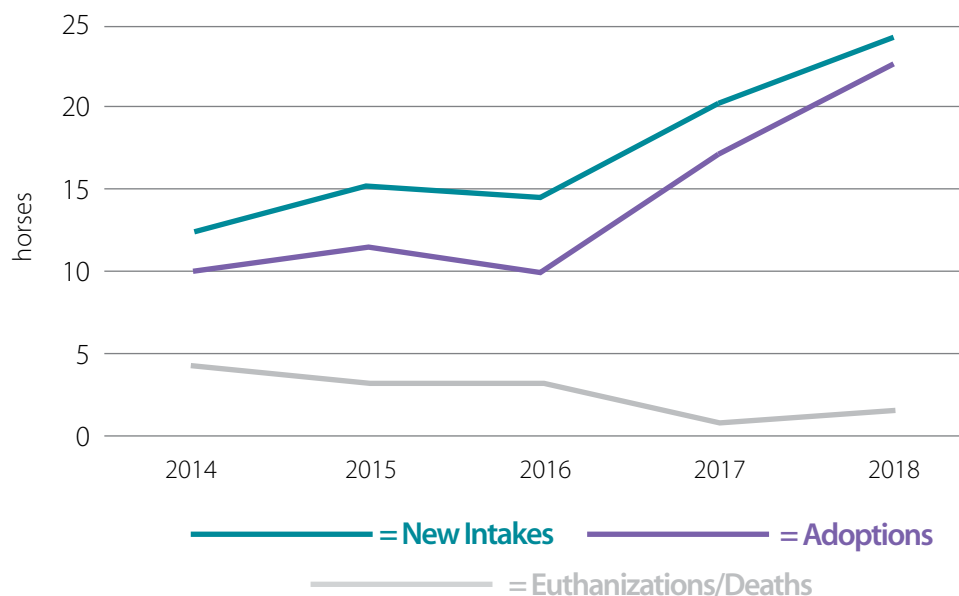




Program Milestones

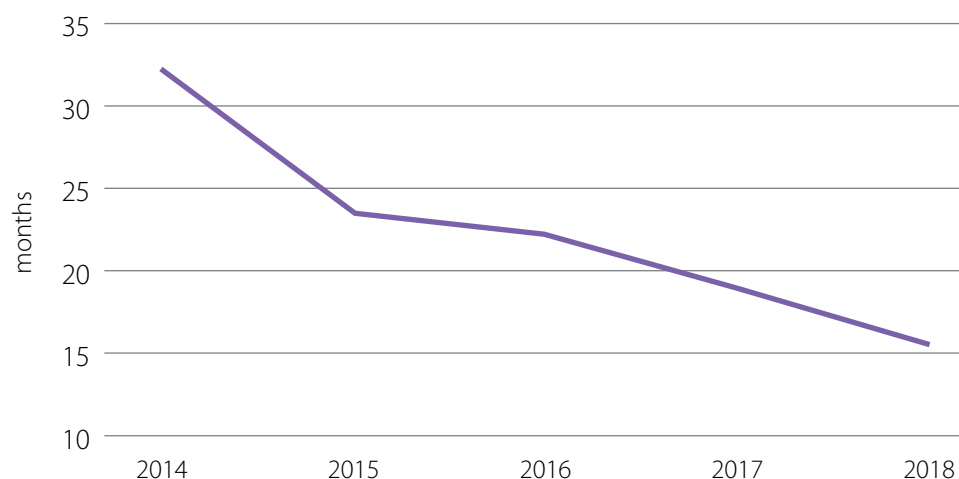
2018 was another record-breaking year for successful adoptions. We used to target adopting about twelve horses per year, to create room for twelve new intakes. In 2018, twenty-two SAFE horses caught the eye and then the heart of a perfect adopter. Why the upturn in adoption numbers? Our Training Program and our Volunteer Rider Program are producing well-started horses that are rewarding to work with. And our Adoption Team is becoming more savvy at matching the right horse to the right adopter.

Intakes and Adoptions by Year



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 2018 was still 15 months. We have not abandoned our high standards of quality that each potential adopter 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.

Average Length of Stay



Orion's Story

Most of the rescue work that SAFE does is fairly straightforward. A horse facing neglect or abuse is taken in, rehabilitated, and retrained, then we find it a new home. The circumstances of neglect may vary, but the basic storyline is the same.

In 2018, we found ourselves changing the script in an unusual situation. A group of 21 neglected horses, abandoned on a foreclosed property.

9 of these horses were stallions, running in a herd with mares. SAFE was given a three week window in which to coordinate an emergency herd dispersal. With no time to get to know the horses well or check out potential adopters, this situation called for us to make decisions very differently from our normal way of doing things. But we ensured that all the horses received needed vet care and were safely removed from the property before the deadline.

Three of these horses ended up being taken in by SAFE. One of them, a young stallion we named Orion, had been badly injured by other horses in the herd. His body was covered in scrapes and cuts and he had apparently been struck in the face at some point,

resulting in a fractured lower jaw and several teeth knocked askew. He underwent two surgeries: one to remove broken teeth and clean up infected tissues, and another to turn him into a happy gelding. Once he was healthy again, Orion was sent to a trainer, and was exceptionally easy to start under saddle. Finding him a forever home was just as easy. This young man has had his life turned completely around, and we love seeing him shine.





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 2018, SAFE was contacted by
279 horse owners seeking help**

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

**We could only
take in**



owner surrenders,
due to the large number of
Animal Control cases in 2018

**In 2018, SAFE spent
\$11,894 for vet care
to stabilize and rehabilitate
owner surrendered horses
(in just their initial year at SAFE).**

In 2018, SAFE provided
\$18,746
in Community Outreach services,
which included:

9 humane euthanizations
7 stallions gelded
vet care for 15 horses
and **92 bales of hay!**

We also **gave away** more than
100 waterproof horse
blankets and rainsheets
to horse owners in need
through our **2018 Blanket Bank.**



Balance Sheet

Balance Sheet

In December of 2017, we received a \$100,000 bequest that was used in 2018 for investing in facilities and staff. As a result, our cash and investments declined accordingly. Last year we were also contemplating a potential capital campaign, and we are still in the assessment phase.

| | 12/31/17 | 12/31/18 | Change |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Assets | | | |
| Cash and Investments | 361,593 | 264,032 | (97,561) |
| Fixed Assets, net | 103,281 | 121,994 | 18,713 |
| Lease Deposits | 13,298 | 9,654 | (3,644) |
| Total Assets | 478,172 | 395,681 | (82,491) |
| Liabilities and Equity | | | |
| Accounts Payable | 14,512 | 12,536 | (1,976) |
| Loan Payable | 7,276 | 19,816 | 12,540 |
| Total Liabilities | 21,788 | 32,352 | 10,564 |
| Retained Earnings | 282,343 | 456,383 | 174,040 |
| Net Income | 174,040 | (93,055) | (267,095) |
| Total Liabilities and Equity | 478,172 | 395,681 | (82,491) |

Statement of Cash Flow

| | 12/31/17 | 12/31/18 | Change |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Net Income | \$174,040 | (93,055) | (267,095) |
| Capital Expenditures | (32,965) | (36,248) | (3,283) |
| Change in Working Capital and Loan | 15,303 | 1,742 | (13,561) |
| Change in Cash and Investments | \$156,378 | (127,561) | (283,939) |

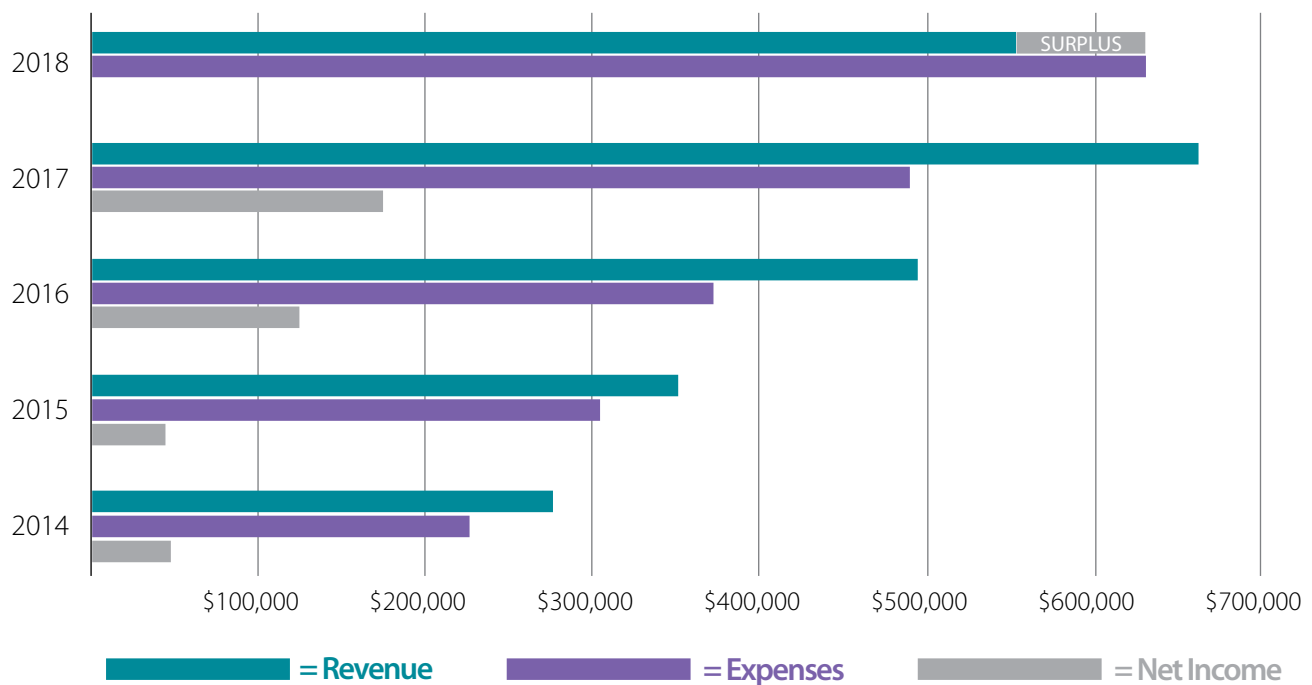


Five Year Trend

Growth

Excluding the bequest we received in 2017, revenue in 2018 was virtually even with 2017, which also benefitted from accelerated giving at the end of 2017 due to the tax law changes. As noted in the Balance Sheet comments, we also invested in adding staff this year to better meet the demand for saving horses. We expect to generate a profit in 2019 as we focus on increased development for revenue growth while continuing to manage expenses wisely. We are also not planning for the large facility investments that we have made in the past two years.

Five Year Trend



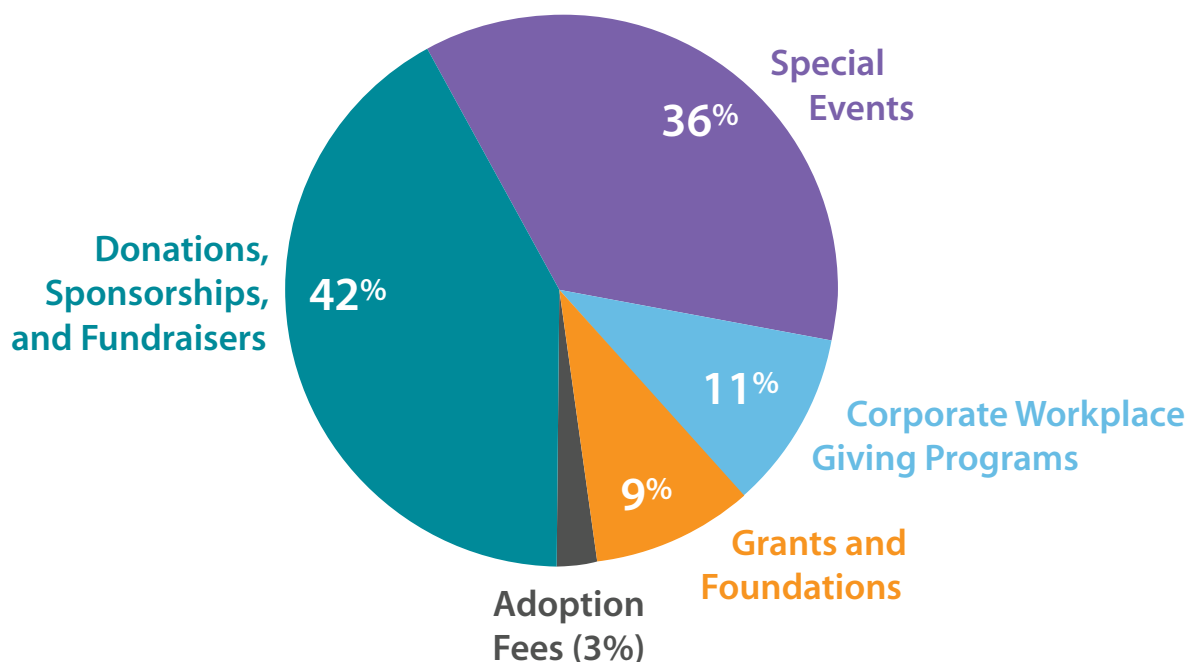


Financial Summary

Revenue

SAFE's revenue continues to be well diversified across many different donation streams, with a healthy emphasis on donations from the general public. The remainder of our 2018 revenue came from a sustainable array of sources, including targeted fundraisers, special events, and corporate workplace giving programs.

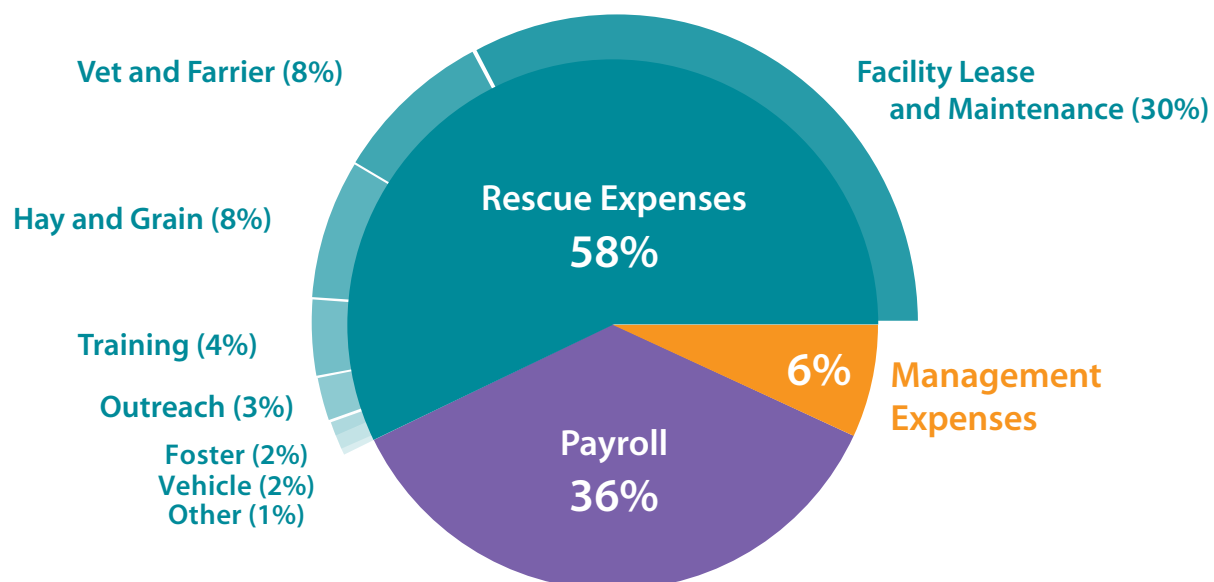
| Donations | 2017 | 2018 | Change |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| General Donations | 122,194 | 150,872 | 28,678 |
| Monthly Sponsorships | 35,320 | 37,869 | 2,549 |
| Fall Into Winter Feed Drive | 28,906 | 28,765 | (105) |
| GiveBIG Community Fundraiser | 8,556 | 11,597 | 3,041 |
| Total Donations | 194,976 | 229,103 | 34,127 |
| Special Events, net of costs | | | |
| Heart of the Horse | 119,731 | 155,272 | 35,541 |
| Benefit Horse Show | 31,574 | 26,936 | (4,638) |
| Other SAFE Events | 19,822 | 17,664 | (2,158) |
| Total Special Events | 171,127 | 199,872 | 28,745 |
| Workplace Giving Programs | 92,025 | 60,306 | (31,719) |
| Grants and Foundation Gifts | 88,000 | 52,000 | (36,000) |
| Adoption Fees | 14,482 | 13,205 | (1,277) |
| Planned Giving and Bequests | 101,000 | - | (101,000) |
| Interest Earned | - | 618 | 618 |
| Total Income | 661,610 | 555,104 | (106,506) |



Expenses

In just two years at our significantly expanded new facilities, we have more than doubled the number of adoptions per year. We also added two new full time staff members in 2018. As a result, our expenses have expanded over the past two years: a staff Veterinary Technician and a Development Manager. Looking ahead, we have budgeted for 2019 expenses to be stabilized around 2018 levels.

| Rescue Expenses | 2017 | 2018 | Change |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Facility Lease and Maintenance | 157,951 | 186,167 | 28,216 |
| Veterinary and Farrier Care | 41,955 | 52,476 | 10,521 |
| Hay, Grain, and Supplements | 35,719 | 51,644 | 15,925 |
| Training Program | 19,423 | 26,062 | 6,639 |
| Community Outreach | 3,805 | 18,746 | 14,941 |
| Foster Care and Board | 4,261 | 13,039 | 8,778 |
| Vehicles, Fuel, and Depreciation | 13,700 | 11,072 | (2,628) |
| Other Expenses | 3,820 | 5,569 | 1,749 |
| Total Rescue Expenses | 280,624 | 364,775 | 84,151 |
| Payroll | 174,158 | 228,340 | 54,188 |
| Management Expenses | | | |
| Organizational Expenses | 10,756 | 19,121 | 8,365 |
| Banking Expenses | 9,532 | 8,540 | (992) |
| Office Expenses | 7,609 | 8,466 | 857 |
| Staff and Volunteer Expenses | 4,891 | 2,049 | (2,842) |
| Total Management Expenses | 32,788 | 38,355 | 5,567 |
| Total Expenses | 487,570 | 631,470 | 143,900 |

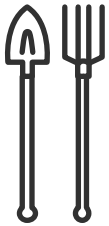




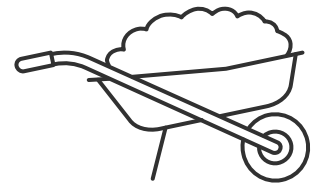
Volunteer Statistics

Volunteers: the Heart of SAFE

With only five full time 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 2018, SAFE had a total of
193 active volunteers
69 were new in 2018



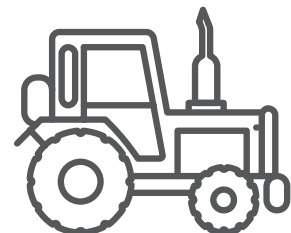
In 2018, we logged
21,827 volunteer hours

That's the equivalent of

11 full time employees



and **\$261,931 in payroll**
at minimum wage.







Other Accomplishments

The Year of the Babies

As a horse rescue organization, we recognize that our services might not be so crucial if humans made better decisions about horse breeding. The number of unwanted horses born each year who end up neglected and suffering is staggering. At SAFE, we do our part by gelding colts and stallions, and adopting our horses out with a firm no-breeding clause. We speak out against backyard breeding, overbreeding, and unplanned pregnancies. Our position on the subject of breeding horses is very clear.

But in 2018, we took in three mares from two different rescue scenarios who turned out to be pregnant. Based on the eventual foaling dates, we know beyond a shadow of a doubt that these mares were bred months before coming to us. One mare had been seized by Animal Control in a neglect case, and her pregnancy took everyone by surprise. The other two mares had been part of a surrender situation involving a band of 21 horses, 9 of whom were stallions, so their pregnancies were less of a shock. The deeds had been done, the mares were our responsibility, so we started making preparations for the first foals to be born at SAFE since 2008.

When all was said and done, three healthy and beautiful fillies were born at SAFE: Pippi, born September 1, and Rae and Nova, born within one night of each other at the start of November. Having three mares foaling out at our barn was eye-opening, terrifying, and utterly amazing. Seeing these little ones take their first steps was magical. And watching them grow has been simply delightful.

We've made a promise to these foals, that they will never suffer the neglect that their mothers faced. Pippi, Rae, and Nova are going to be with us for several more years, but we are committed to giving them the best possible start in life before we send them out into the world with their adopters. We've also promised their dams, Asha, Mina, and Luna, a new start as well—not as broodmares, but as riding horses or companions. Things are looking up for all of them. And this was an experience we'll never forget!

photography donated by Jessica Farren Photography



Asha on the foal cam



Pippi, born Sept 1



Mina with Rae, born Nov 1



Mina and Rae



Luna with Nova, born Nov 3



Pippi and Asha



Nova



Other Accomplishments

GFAS Verification

Building a horse rescue from scratch is not a simple undertaking. There are so many details involved in shepherding rescued horses through rehabilitation and retraining until they finally reach their forever homes, and no two cases are ever alike. We've spent fourteen years establishing our standards of horse care, developing our policies and procedures, learning from our mistakes, and creating our version of "responsible rescue." And we continue to refine the way we operate as we learn better ways to care for our horses. Through it all, we've kept one goal in mind: to create a rescue organization that does what's best for the horses at all times. It's meant having to make painfully difficult decisions. It's meant learning that you can't make everyone happy all of the time. It's meant turning our backs on what's easy, and going after what is right.

The standard of excellence in how we run this organization is something we're very proud of. And this year, our efforts were validated when SAFE received verification status from The Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS). GFAS is a non-profit organization which provides certification for animal sanctuaries, rescue centers, and rehabilitation centers through verification and accreditation. There are only 167 GFAS accredited and verified sanctuaries, rescues, and rehabilitation centers in the world, and in October 2018, SAFE joined that elite list. To apply for GFAS verification, SAFE submitted an extensive 26 page application along with detailed documentation, and was subject to a thorough site check from a GFAS inspector. Having followed many GFAS standards to establish our best practices for caring for our horses and keeping our volunteers safe, we knew going in that our chances of getting approved were very good. We've worked extremely hard to build an organization that rescues responsibly and does things the right way, so it was extremely gratifying to receive GFAS verification.



Learn more about GFAS at

<https://www.sanctuaryfederation.org>

"Save a Forgotten Equine provides much needed rescue, rehabilitation, retraining, and rehoming services for horses through established partnerships with law enforcement agencies and education and outreach opportunities for local owners. Their programs are supported by an exceptionally knowledgeable group of personnel and volunteers, and solidified by a strong business structure, ensuring a sustainable future for the organization and the animals they care for."

Valerie Taylor
GFAS Equine Program Director

Amelia's Story

Amelia isn't one to dwell on sadness, but the story of her life before she became a SAFE horse is heartbreaking. Like most of the horses who come into our care, we only know bits and pieces of her back story. We don't know how she ended up in the Bastrop Louisiana Kill Pen. We don't know who pulled her out of that feedlot or when she was sent off to Washington state in the care of someone from the Internet who promised to care for her. We don't know why that individual made promises she couldn't keep. We do know that her lack of care was serious enough to warrant Animal Control stepping in to seize her. And we know that when we met this horse, she was suffering not only from neglect, but from a terribly painful case of mastitis.

Amelia's rescue and recovery became new chapters in her story. Healing her body stopped her pain, and brought the glow of life back to her. Regaining her trust didn't happen overnight, but in time, she learned to relax around us and let us care for her. It was then that we started getting to hear Amelia's side of her story, as she told us who she was really meant to be. A beautiful mare emerged from the troubled past, and Amelia was whole again.

There are still more chapters to be written in the book of Amelia's life, not the least of which is a fairytale ending in which she finds a person and a home of her own. That day is coming!



Raven's Story

We love all of the horses that pass through SAFE, but every so often, a horse comes along that works their way into the hearts of most everyone they meet. Raven was one of those horses. She was a stunningly beautiful horse: tall, athletic, and high spirited. She was so vibrant and full of life that it was easy to forget what a hard start she had had in life.

As a young horse, Raven and her dam were seized by Animal Control, starved and badly neglected. Sadly, help arrived too late for Raven's mother. Raven's chances for survival seemed bleak as well. She had two serious bouts of colic while in county custody, and nearly died before she could be released to SAFE. She came to us a pathetic little thing, sad and scruffy looking, covered in rain rot. But with good, consistent care, Raven blossomed, both in health and personality. She became a friendly, curious, and interactive horse, exceptionally playful, and very social. Out in her paddock, she entertained herself by digging enormous holes. We'd fill them in, she'd dig them back out again. She loved making people laugh, and loved being scratched and petted as much as possible.



But there was something not right inside Raven. We'll never know if it was caused by the neglect she suffered at a young age, but her digestive system could never seem to keep pace with her spirit. She had frequent colics. Most were short-lived and passed relatively quickly but sometimes she was uncomfortable for longer periods of time. She was tested for every digestive condition we could think of, to no avail. We tried numerous combinations of feeding for her: different hays, no hay, no grain, only grain, only pellets....Raven would do well on a particular diet or medication for a period of time, but the colics would return.

But in 2018, we finally came up with a feeding protocol that worked. Raven was stable for months, and it seemed she had finally overcome her digestive ailments. She was able to spend most of the summer out on grass: grazing, galloping, snoozing in the sun.

But it was not to be. In early fall, Raven colicked again, and this time, it was serious. She was transported to the emergency vet and treated overnight, but by morning she was showing no signs of improvement. Surgery was not an option for her. She was in pain. There was nothing more that we could do.

So we made the very difficult decision to let her go.

Saying goodbye to any horse is painful. To say goodbye to one so young is devastating. But it was the right choice to make. We loved her too much to let her be in pain. And as hard as it was to let her go, we knew that we couldn't let her face another colic like the one she was battling. There comes a point at which you have to face the hard reality that you've tried everything but some things are just not possible. But what we could do was ensure that she would never feel this pain again. So we let her go.

Raven passed peacefully, surrounded by people who loved her. We take comfort in knowing that we did everything we could possibly do to give her a good life. She had a lovely wonderful summer in which she got to run on the grass every single morning, and live life like a normal horse. Without the careful and loving care she received at SAFE, she might not have had that time.

We only had a short time with her, but the time that we had was precious and wonderful. Raven flies free now, and lives on in the hearts of everyone who loved her.

"The SAFE community poured its collective heart into Raven, and in return, she gave us hers. Fly home, sweet Raven. We will love you always."

**Melinda Couvillion,
SAFE Herd Health Manager**

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.

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