

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



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Executive Director's Message

2019 feels like a lifetime ago. The world has changed so much since then, and I think we're just beginning to realize that our lives won't be the same for a very long time. I'm writing this message in 2020, while our state is in lockdown due to the coronavirus crisis. Millions of people are out of work, and the future of the economy is bleak. And thousands have died in the United States alone. It's a rough time for everyone.

But horses don't concern themselves much with the state of the world. They're focused on the state of their hay feeders. As their caregivers, there isn't an option to stop what we're doing. We've made a commitment to the horses we've rescued, and we will not go back on that commitment. In a lot of ways, we were already prepared for a disaster like the one we're facing now. We had emergency funds set aside in case we had to get by for a time without new donations coming in. We could adapt our processes to be able to provide the highest level of care with fewer volunteers. Our response to the crisis is a testament to a strong and healthy organization that grew even stronger in



2019. Thanks to the efforts of our supporters and our volunteers, we will weather this storm and ensure that the horses never know what is happening on the far side of the fence.

We'll remember 2019 as the year that we won a huge victory for a group of horses we called the Fall City Forty. You'll read about this rescue effort later in this report, but the important thing to note is what we discovered about ourselves while facing this situation. We learned just how strong and resourceful we can be. We proved to ourselves that we don't give up on horses, even when it seems impossible that things will ever go their way. We found out just what an amazing and dedicated community we have behind us. And that together there's just about nothing we can't do.

2019 was a long and challenging year, but when the dust settled and we looked around ourselves, we were stronger, wiser, and braver than we ever imagined. I believe that we'll look back on 2020 the same way. This annual report is a snapshot of a time that's already passed, but if you look for the bigger picture, you'll see a rescue organization that is getting better all the time. Thank you for being part of SAFE.

> Bonnie Hammond, Executive Director SAFE | Save a Forgotten Equine

2019 Top Donors

SAFE received incredible support from our community in 2019. There were 1,681 individuals and businesses who made gifts in 2019, which was double the number that gave in 2019. And 88% 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

\$10,000-\$24,999

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Jane Millar Jasper Family Foundation

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\$250-\$499

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Millie's Story

Rescued horses come to SAFE telling different stories. Millie's was the story of a well-meaning owner who was unprepared for the misfortunes that life had to offer. It's sad when a horse is suddenly thrust into the rescue pipeline because there wasn't a plan in place if their owner dies suddenly, or suffers a debilitating illness. In Millie's case, her owner had a serious stroke, and just like that, she was homeless. Her situation was further complicated by the fact that she was nearly eleven years old and completely untouchable when this happened. This is why we stress the importance of handling and training starting at a young age, because you just can't know if you'll always be able to be there for them in the future. Fortunately for Millie, she landed at SAFE, where there were people who took the time to earn her trust, and show her a whole new world, filled with horses, people, and lots of lovely hay. Today Millie is brave and beautiful mare, who is affectionate, social and ready for anything. Millie got a second chance at life, and she would be the first to tell you how important SAFE's work is. A bright future awaits this horse, which is exactly what she deserves

Program Milestones

In 2019, we took in 22 horses, including three previously adopted horses (Honeycutt, Sinatra, and Kat) who were returned to SAFE. These intakes were made possible by the 17 successful adoptions that took place in 2019, as well as the sad passing of three of our horses, Boss Hoss, Honeycutt, and Rowan. Twenty other horses, rescued prior to 2019, remained in our care at the end of the year.



Program Milestones

In 2019, our "official" adoption and intake numbers dipped a bit from the previous year, with 22 new horses taken in, 17 successful adoptions, and three horses who were euthanized. But as mentioned before, 2019 was an unusual year due to our involvement with the Fall City Forty. We were able to successfully place 15 of these horses into new homes in 2019 through our Mayday Program,.



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 2019 was still 14 months. We have not abandoned our high standards of guality 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.



Average Length of Stay



When SAFE adopts out a horse, we make it very clear to the new adopter that their relationship with SAFE is just getting started. Most of the people who've adopted from us over the last 15 years remain in regular contact with us, whether through site visits, emails/phone calls, or our Alumni Facebook group. And most are more than happy to share updates with us, because they know we still care as much about their horses as they do.

So when an adopter starts refusing site visits...that's a big red flag.

Two of SAFE's most popular and well-known horses, Honeycutt and Sinatra, were adopted together in 2014. The first few years were great and their adopter was in regular communication with us. Then site visits became difficult to schedule, and their adopter began expressing irritation with us for trying. Soon they stopped responding to us at all. We continued to try to reconnect, and finally got through to them early in 2019. We again tried to arrange a visit. The adopter refused, then agreed, then became unavailable, all the while expressing considerable anger toward SAFE. But when we learned that the two horses were not receiving proper care, we told their adopter in no uncertain terms that we were on our way to pick up the horses. Thankfully, we were able to retrieve them both without incident, and Honeycutt and Sinatra were returned to SAFE.

As difficult and distressing as this ordeal was, it showed us how vital our Alumni Program is and how important it is to keep contact with our horses even after they go to new homes. But it also shows how hard we will fight to protect our horses, even if things get ugly. Most of all, it shows that no SAFE horse will ever be forgotten.

photography donated by Oden Photography

Lessons Learned

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 2019, SAFE was contacted by **222 horse owners seeking help**

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



and spent \$10,689 for vet care to stabilize and rehabilitate them in just their initial year at SAFE

In 2019, SAFE provided \$19,222

in Community Outreach services, which included:

9 humane euthanizations, 6 stallions gelded, plus vet care, hay purchases, and over 100 waterproof blanets given away for free.

Rowan's Story

In October, we took in a timid, lonely, emaciated mare with no name. A day later, Rowan had a new outlook on life: a new name, a comfy bed, high quality food, veterinary care, and people who near and far who couldn't wait to see her get healthy and strong.



By morning, it was clear that Rowan's fight was over. We fed her small handfuls of lovely alfalfa hay as we waited for our vet to return. We surrounded Rowan with love, with peace, and with sincere gratitude for having known her. She left this world calmly and quietly, with bits of alfalfa in her teeth and memories of what we hope was the best week of her life. And we began the process of grieving.

With grief comes disappointment. We wanted to save Rowan so badly. To contemplate letting her go was unbearably difficult. It makes you want to scream, to fight back, to refuse to give in. How many of us had hoped to someday see Rowan heathy again, kicking up her heels, her black mane blowing in the wind? Now we would only see her like that in our imaginations.

With grief comes consolation. We tell ourselves, at least she didn't die alone in a field. At least we gave her one week of the life she should have had. At least she will never be forgotten. We console ourselves as a means of protection, because there's a limit to how much the heart can take. We lose another horse and the world keeps turning. We have no choice but to keep going.

And with grief comes acceptance. Perhaps Rowan felt safe enough in our care to let herself go? If that is true, then our grief is a tiny price to pay to have been able to give her that gift. Beautiful Rowan, our time together was short but you live in our hearts forever.

But it was not to be. One night, a week after her rescue, Rowan laid down in her stall and didn't get back up. We called the vet out, already knowing the grim reality we had face up to. Rowan had been starved to a Body Condition Score of 1. And although we had done absolutely everything that anyone could do for a horse in that condition, the fact is that in about 25% of these cases, horses who have been that badly neglected are going to die.

It's not in our nature to give up, and this little horse was a fighter. We wanted to give her every chance possible to defeat what had happened to her. Our vet came and went throughout the night, running tests, hooking up fluids, trying to get her moving again. We sat with Rowan through the night...petting her, talking to her, keeping her warm and comfortable. All the while knowing that for every minute she was down, her chances of survival, already so low, were dwindling even further.

Balance Sheet

We appreciate every dollar and every hour donated, and strive to be strong stewards of the donations we are granted. In 2019, we managed our costs well and leveraged the investments made in past years in facilities and equipment. We finished the year in the same solid position from which we started it. Little did we know at that time how useful that disciplined stewardship would prove to be in 2020.

Total Liabilities & Equity	\$396,686	\$387,443	(\$9,243)
Equity	364,380	358,880	(5,500)
Total Liabilities	\$32,306	\$28,563	(\$3,743)
Long-Term Liabilities	19,816	14,294	(5,523)
Current Liabilities	\$12,490	\$14,270	\$1,780
Liabilities			
Liabilities and Equity			
Total Assets	\$396,686	\$387,443	(\$9,243)
Total Other Assets	(26,162)	(42,013)	(15,851)
Total Fixed Assets	157,221	174,922	17,701
Total Current Assets	\$265,627	\$254,535	(\$11,092)
Assets			
	12/31/2018	12/31/2019	Change

Five Year Trend

Stewardship

In 2019, our staff and volunteers showed that we had learned to deftly manage the growth SAFE has experienced since 2016. Despite new challenges, we held tight on expenses by discovering innovative, effective ways to manage costs. 2019 was still a year of growth, with an increase in revenue from 2018, and a balanced budget at year's end.



Statement of Cash Flows

	2018	2019
Net Operating Income	(\$76,459)	\$9,601
Cash at beginning of period	\$361,593	\$265,627
Cash at end of period	\$265,627	\$254,535

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. Other revenue in 2019 came from a sustainable array of sources, including targeted fundraisers, special events, and corporate workplace giving programs.

In Kind Donations	19,496	\$7,215	(12,281)
	\$574,442	\$611,191	\$ 36,749
Workplace Giving Programs	60,306	69,807	+9,501
Grants and Foundation Gifts	52,000	14,500	(37,500)
Adoption Fees	13,205	11,024	(2,181)
Interest Earned	27	12	(15)
Special Events, net of costs Heart of the Horse Benefit Horse Show Other SAFE Events Total Special Events	155,272 27,336 17,250 \$199,858	133,652 32,279 18,795 \$184,726	(21,620) +4,943 +1,545 (\$15,132)
Donations	2018	2019	Change
General Donations	\$151,178	\$231,577	+\$80,428
Monthly Sponsorships	38,009	41,371	+3,361
Fall Into Winter Feed Drive	28,765	42,270	+13,505
GiveBIG Community Fundraiser	11,597	8,659	(2,937)
Total Donations	\$229,549	\$323,907	+ \$94,357



A decrease in expenses in 2019 was largely due to smart investing in facilities, equipment, and leasehold improvements over the previous two years. We continue to maintain tight control over spending whenever possible, while still providing the highest level of care for our rescued horses.

Rescue Expenses	2018	2019	Change
Facility Lease and Maintenance	\$186,167	\$141,665	(\$44,502)
Veterinary and Farrier Care	52,476	53,009	533
Hay, Grain, and Supplements	51,644	51,870	226
Training Program	28,062	26,434	372
Community Outreach	18,746	19,222	476
Foster Care and Board	13,039	305	(12,734)
Vehicles and Fuel	11,072	6,240	(4,832)
Other Expenses	5,571	3,043	(2,528)
Total Rescue Expenses	\$366,577	\$301,787	(\$64,988)
Payroll	\$228,689	\$250,364	\$21,675
Management Expenses			
Organizational Expenses	19,121	26,684	7,563
Banking Expenses	8,540	5,286	(3,254)
Office Expenses	9,742	11,677	1,935
Office Expenses			
	2,170	5,792	3,621
Office Expenses Staff and Volunteer Expenses Total Management Expenses*	2,170 \$39,574	5,792 \$49,438	3,621 \$9,865



Expenses

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 volunteers who are responsible for feeding, turnout, and stall cleaning. Afternoon shifts consist of 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 2019, we logged **19,769 volunteer hours**

That's the equivalent of

10 full time employees

and \$237,229 in payroll

at minimum wage.



Cyrus' Amazing Tranformation

Few things are sadder than seeing a beautiful horse reduced to skin and bones by a neglectful owner. Cyrus came to SAFE in critical condition after being seized by Animal Control in Lewis County WA.

When a horse has been starved this badly, it's dangerous to just put hay in front of them and let them eat as much as they want. Because Cyrus was so thin, his recovery was a long, slow process. Cyrus was fed small meals round the clock until his condition stabilized. This meant that volunteers and staff visited his stall in the wee hours of the night (and all through the day) to give him precisely weighed portions of hay on a strict schedule. These scheduled feedings continued for well over three months, with portions becoming larger and feeding intervals becoming longer as Cyrus put on weight. This careful regime was necessary to prevent him from gastronomical upset as his system adjusted to being fed again.

But look at the results! Today, Cyrus is strong and healthy, and learning to be a riding horse. Pulled back from the brink of dying, he is once again the horse he was meant to be. Your support meant that SAFE was there for Cyrus when he needed us, and we are reminded of that every time we see this beautiful horse.



Other Accomplishments

The Fall City Forty

2019 was the year that significant progress was finally made to stop an animal hoarder who had been active in our area for over four years. This case involved an individual who collected more than 100 horses from auctions and feedlots, who took advantage of property owners in our area by placing large groups of horses on their land, then neglecting to care for them and refusing to move them. Law enforcement was powerless to stop this hoarder because the condition of the horses was never "bad enough" to justify seizing them.

In June 2019, SAFE was called in to help with the emergency dispersal of a herd of horses abandoned on a property in Fall City WA. These wild, feral horses had been allowed to breed and multiply for four years until 12 horses became 40. SAFE found new homes for 15 of the "Fall City 40" before legal disputes over their ownership

forced us to suspend the rescue efforts we made on behalf of the property owners. Shortly thereafter, the hoarder removed the remaining horses and hid them at another remote location.

It took nearly four months to find them again, but SAFE never gave up trying. And on Saturday, Dec 7, 2019, the King County Sheriff's Office, in cooperation with Regional Animal Services of King County and SAFE, was able to remove 24 of the 25 remaining horses and take them into custody. To date, SAFE has found new homes for all but 9 of these wild horses, who remain in our care, enjoying consistent feeding, handling, and safety.





June 2019: Forty neglected horses in Fall City WA



January 2020: Gelding the stallions



Just a few of the Fall City Forty horses in their new lives



December 2019: The remaining horses are seized in Enumclaw WA







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.

2019 Board of Directors

W. Andy Carrel, Google Wendy Colebank, PACE Richard Duncan, F5 Networks, Inc. Barbara Ferderer Ani O'Hara Jeannette Parrett, Mt. Rainier Equine Vet Joseph Schick, Archdiocese of Seattle Deanna Thronson, Intel

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and the many dedicated and hardworking SAFE volunteers.