



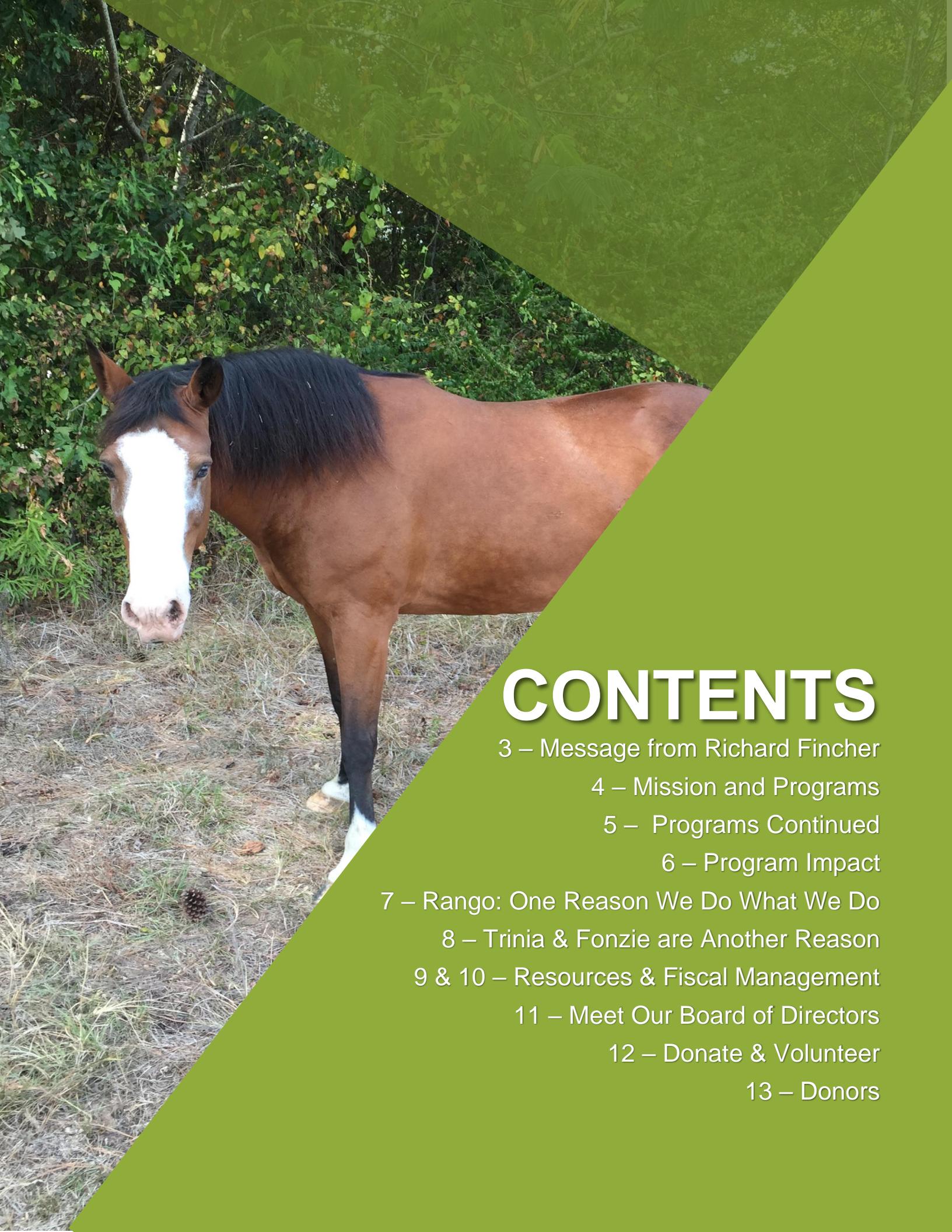
SAFE HAVEN

Established 1999

EQUINE RESCUE & RETIREMENT HOME, INC.

ANNUAL REPORT

2017



CONTENTS

3 – Message from Richard Fincher

4 – Mission and Programs

5 – Programs Continued

6 – Program Impact

7 – Rango: One Reason We Do What We Do

8 – Trinia & Fonzie are Another Reason

9 & 10 – Resources & Fiscal Management

11 – Meet Our Board of Directors

12 – Donate & Volunteer

13 – Donors

Message from Richard Fincher

Dear Friends,

After 11 years with Safe Haven Equine Rescue, I have met a lot of horses and have a lot of stories to tell. I am overjoyed that most of these stories have happy endings, while others are not so happy, but as we finish up this year's annual report, the story that I'm thinking of is one about volunteers...remarkable people, people from all walks of life, working together to make a difference in the lives of animals. There is no way that I alone

can save all these horses. It takes an entire team or maybe herd is a better word. Looking back over 2017, there is so much to be proud of, so many accomplishments and successes to revel in and

remember. To me, 2017 will be the year that grew beyond our dreams, building a network of people all over the U.S. to help more and more horses. We welcomed volunteers to become part of this rescue, to share remarkable experiences, and to grow Safe Haven Equine Rescue into a stronger and healthier organization than ever before. Horse rescue is exhausting, sometimes painful work, but the rewards that come from doing this work are more than worth the struggle. Safe Haven Equine Rescue is devoted to the rehabilitation of the horses it rescues, because of this devotion we get to witness the amazing physical transformation that takes place as a starved and frightened horse turns into a shining, healthy horse, unrecognizable from its former self. We love watching their personalities emerge as they start to feel safe with us in their new home. We beam with pride as they reveal their strengths and talents, and we celebrate as they head off to new lives with their forever families. This is all pretty soul-enriching stuff, and we love to be able to share these experiences with our volunteers, our donors, and our supporters. 2017 saw the addition of new board members and volunteers to our team. I can say without reservation that this organization is stronger and healthier than it has ever been. The leadership of Safe Haven Equine Rescue is dedicated to continuing this trend in 2018. If you're just learning about Safe Haven, I invite you to come out and see for yourself the difference we make when we work together. Horses have the ability to heal people while they themselves are healing. Meaning after all the hard work and sweat, we are the ones who benefit the most from saving these majestic animals... and the horses don't mind a bit.



**Richard Fincher, Executive Director
Safe Haven Equine Rescue and
Retirement Home, Inc.**

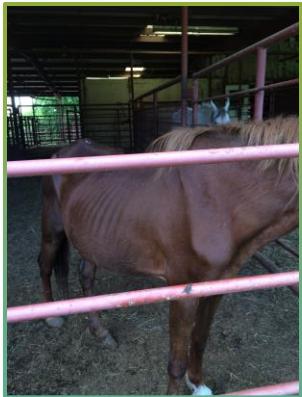
Thank you!

Richard Fincher

Mission

Safe Haven Equine Rescue and Retirement Home, Inc. is a volunteer based, non-profit organization accredited by the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries that is dedicated to the welfare of horses. Our goal is to rescue abused, neglected, or distressed horses, bring these rescued horses back to optimal health and to find them loving homes. In some cases, due to age or disability, a horse will not be able to be adopted. For these horses, Safe Haven Equine Rescue and Retirement Home, Inc. will provide a home where they can peacefully live out the rest of their life with love and dignity.

Programs



Law Enforcement Seizures / Strays

We investigate calls of neglect, collect evidence, assist in the pick up during a seizure, and testify in court when needed. These steps allow us to work closely with law enforcement officers to help save horses from neglect. Since our founding in 1999 we have rescued over 500 horses from neglectful owners and helped prosecutors convict many of them. These are the horses that we rehabilitate and find new loving families for. If these horses cannot be adopted out due to health problems, they are moved into our sanctuary program to live out the rest of their lives here at Safe Haven with love and dignity. Safe Haven also picks up stray horses for Law Enforcement agencies. Safe Haven acts as the holding facility while the owners are located. If unable to locate the owners, Safe Haven then moves these horses into our adoption program.

Rehabilitation of Horses / Adoption



This program is a process of love and good care for the horses that have come to Safe Haven. Some horses have been starved and neglected meaning they just need some weight on them but no major medical issues. Others have been abused and need to learn to trust again. This program has steps in it to allow that to happen. This program also allows us to take in horses that have medical problems that the previous owners were ignoring. After horses are rehabilitated they become available for adoption, where a loving forever family is found for them.



Emergency Rescue Team

Safe Haven has a trained emergency rescue team that can respond to a number of different situations.



Here are just some of the situations we can respond to:

- Natural disasters (flooding, tornadoes, hurricanes, fires, etc.)
- Searching for animals in these disaster areas
- Motor vehicle accidents involving a horse and/or trailer
- Veterinarian or Owner needing help lifting a horse that is down
- Rescuing a trapped horse that has fallen into a confined space
- Transportation of an injured horse

Education

One of the goals that Safe Haven sets for itself every year is to educate future owners in the proper care of horses. Through these programs we spread the word about what Safe Haven does and how people can help or get involved. We also set goals to continue our education so that we can provide the best services possible.



Community Outreach

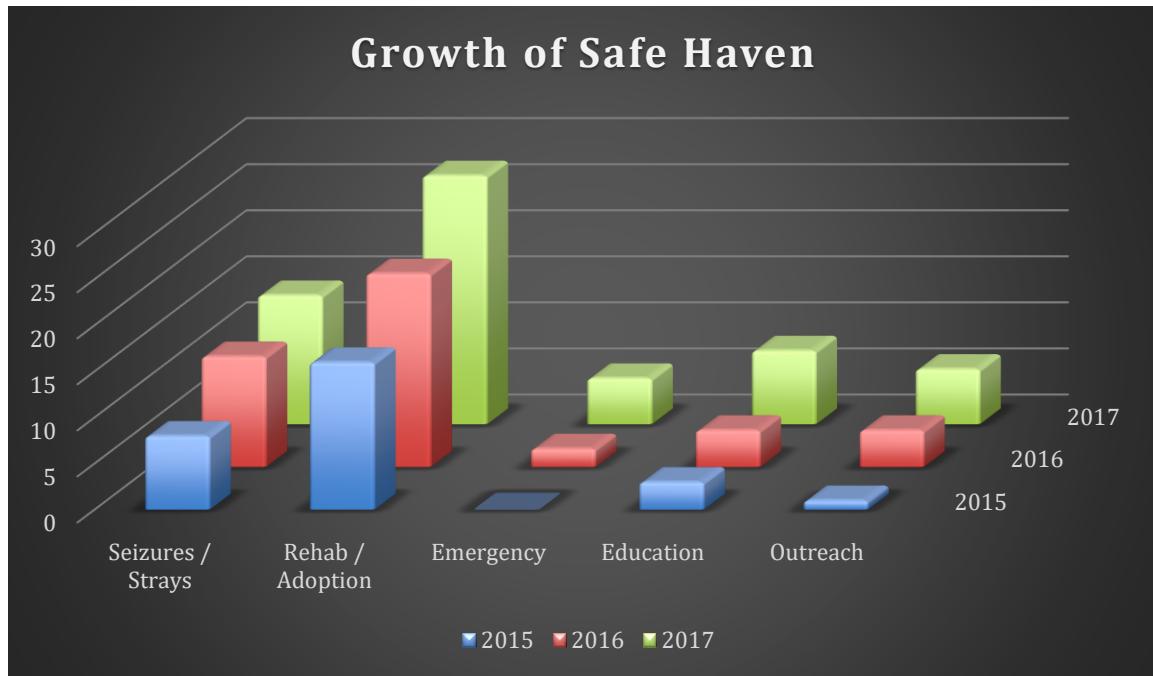
Supporting our community is very important to all the Board Members at Safe Haven. Not just because we rely on the community for their support but because it is the RIGHT thing to do.

Each year Safe Haven takes our mascot, Rescue, to the hospital to visit kids. These visits are some of the most humbling experiences our Board Members and Volunteers face. Most the kids we visit with have never seen a horse and some do not speak any English. All of them have their own special needs, some are in wheelchairs, others are in portable beds, while a few are able to walk and run on their own or with the aid of a walker. No matter the struggles they face or needs they have - whether it is their first time or the hundredth time petting a horse - their eyes light up when they see our gentle giant Rescue come around the corner.

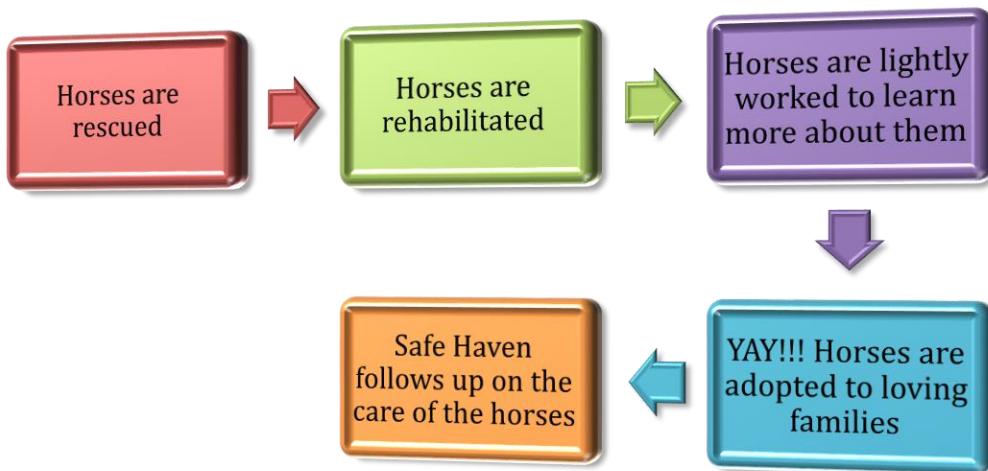


Program Impact

Below is a graph to show both the growth and impact of the different programs that Safe Haven Equine Rescue provides.



The chart (above) shows the change from Programs 1-5 between 2015 and 2017.



The illustration (above) shows the process for a horse moving through Safe Haven.

Rango – One Reason We Do What We Do...



Sunshine the day she was rescued.

Sunshine was rescued mid-February 2015. She was starved, neglected, and pregnant. On March 31, 2015, she gave birth to a small, weak colt, named Rango. Rango was under developed due to his mother being starved and could not nurse. He could only stand a few minutes at a time. Safe Haven volunteers spent the day with Rango while waiting for the vet to arrive. Volunteers tried holding him up to nurse and even tried bottle feeding him, but he was too weak to eat. One volunteer was holding Rango when he stopped breathing. His will and a lot of rubbing from a volunteer got him breathing again. That afternoon was scary for all the volunteers at Safe Haven. Had Rango been born in the field Sunshine was rescued



from, he would have been abandoned by his mother or killed by the stallion also kept in that field



The vet came to the rescue with IVs and bags of plasma for Rango. Rango started to bounce back that night and by the next day was standing and nursing all by himself. Everyone at Safe Haven had huge smiles as we watched him play in the water for the first time at 2 days old. By the time he was 1 month old, he was filling out, a little nosey and loving a life he wouldn't have if not for Safe Haven Equine Rescue.



Now at 2 years old, Rango has a loving family who will cherish him forever and Sunshine has found a forever home of her own.



Sunshine 6 months after being rescued.



Rango – 2 years old

Trinia and Fonzie are another reason

Art and Michelle looked for over a year. They searched and called around looking for that special horse that would mean the world to their 31-year-old daughter, Trina. Trina has special both mental and physical disabilities meaning she needed a very special horse. By luck, one of the people they contacted told them about Safe Haven Equine Rescue and Retirement Home in Gilmer, Texas.



Michelle called Safe Haven and spoke with Richard Fincher, the Executive Director. Richard told her that there were several horses here at Safe Haven. He invited them to come visit the horses to see if Trina clicked with any of them. Trina saw Fonzie and fell in love; the love turned out to be mutual.

Fonzie now has an amazing life with a loving momma thanks to Michelle adopting him for her daughter Trina. Life for Fonzie hasn't always been full of love and kindness though. Before he was rescued Fonzie was kept in a small field with 8 other horses. They had no hay, no clean water, and owners who didn't feed or care for them.

In February of 2016, local law enforcement officers stepped in to seize these 9 horses. Safe Haven was contacted to pick up all 9 horses. Fonzie, known then as GW8, was a 9-year-old gelding, per the vet, and at least 250 lbs. underweight. The vet also said he was anemic, dehydrated, malnourished, had severe internal parasites, had a fungus called rain rot along his spine, and that he needed his teeth and feet taken care of. Volunteers at Safe Haven went to work spending hours caring for and feeding Fonzie and the other rescued horses. They treated the rain rot and parasites. The farrier came on a regular basis until his feet were healed from the abscesses and thrush caused by lack of care. The Equine Dentist also came out to Safe Haven to take care of his teeth. Fonzie had several sores in his mouth and along his cheeks from the sharp points on his teeth. After having the points filed down by a process called floating, Fonzie's mouth healed.

Fonzie was ready to be delivered to his new home 4 months after being rescued. Trina was there with loving, open arms to welcome him home. With the help of a riding instructor, Trina and Fonzie are now competing in the Special Olympic Rodeos. As you watch them work as a team you can see and feel the love and respect they have for each other. The latest accomplishments for this team has been at the Houston Rodeo. Together they received 4th place in barrels, 7th place in showmanship, and honorable mention in trails. However, the greatest accomplishment for them has been finding each other and sharing a love and admiration for each other that is as unique and wonderful as they are.

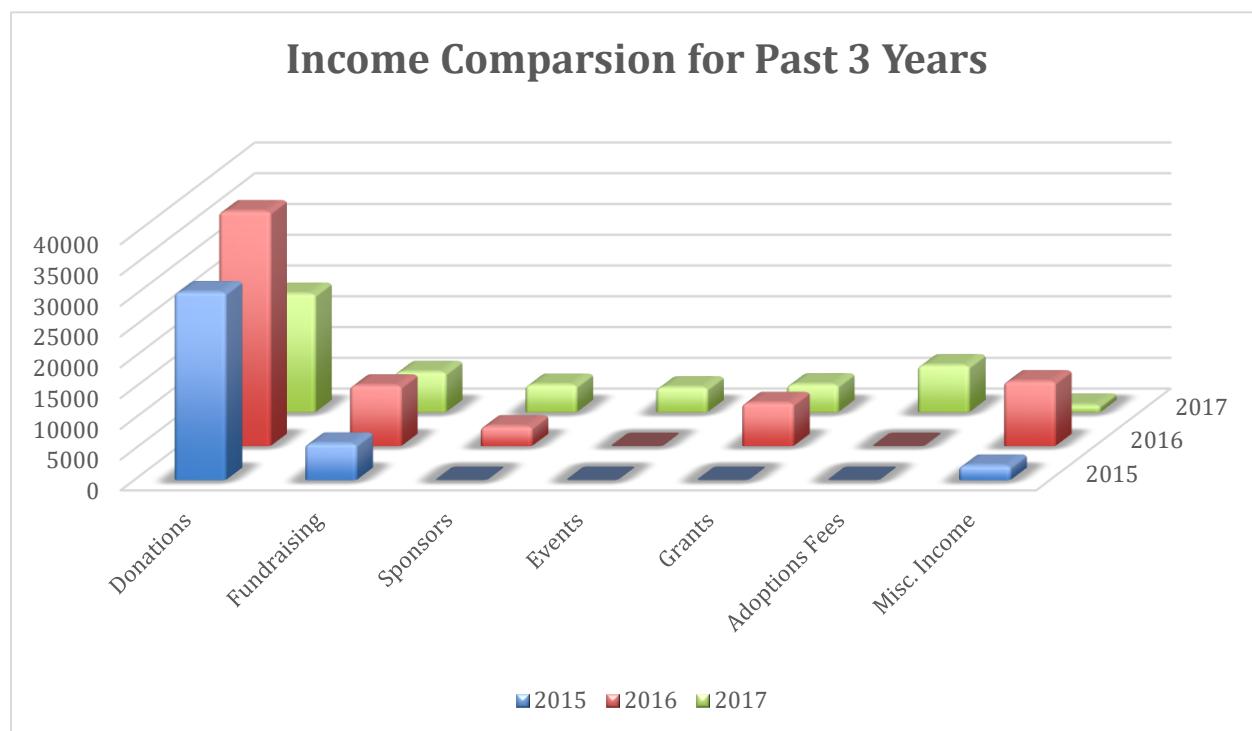
Resources & Financial Management

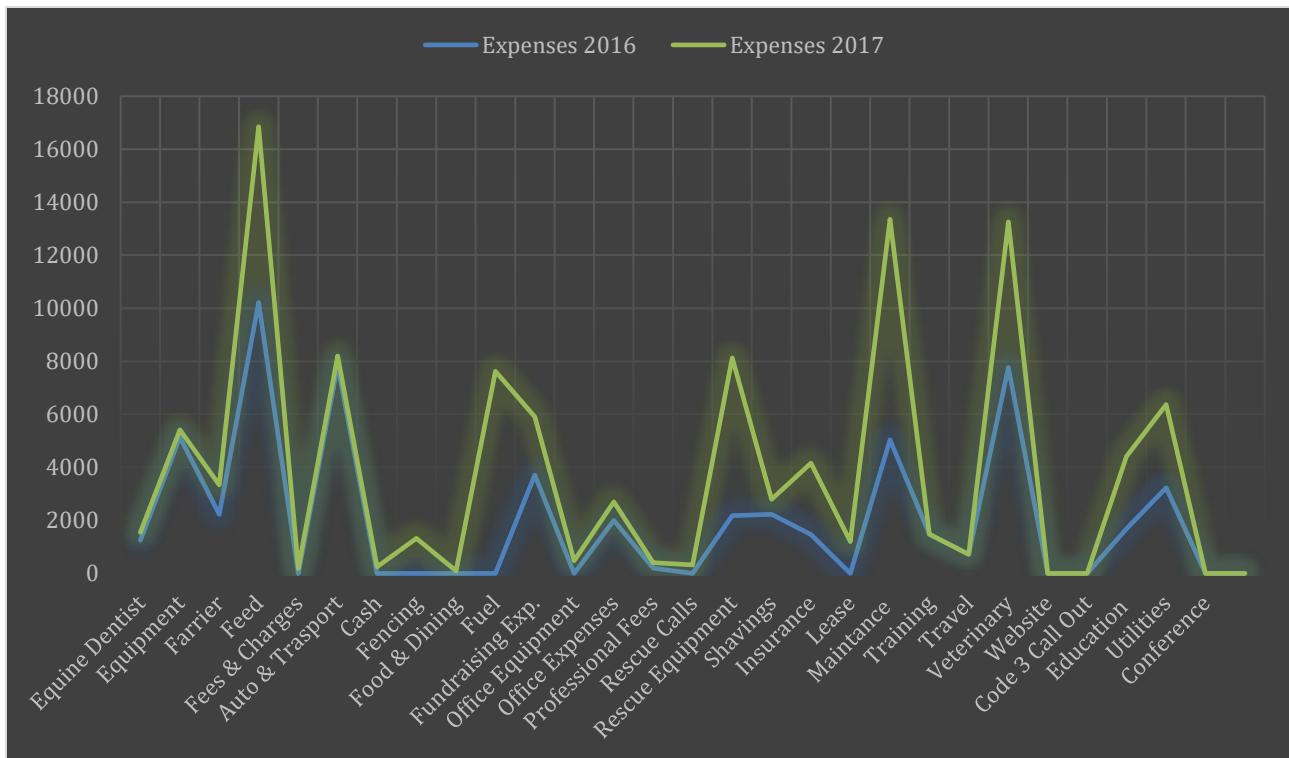
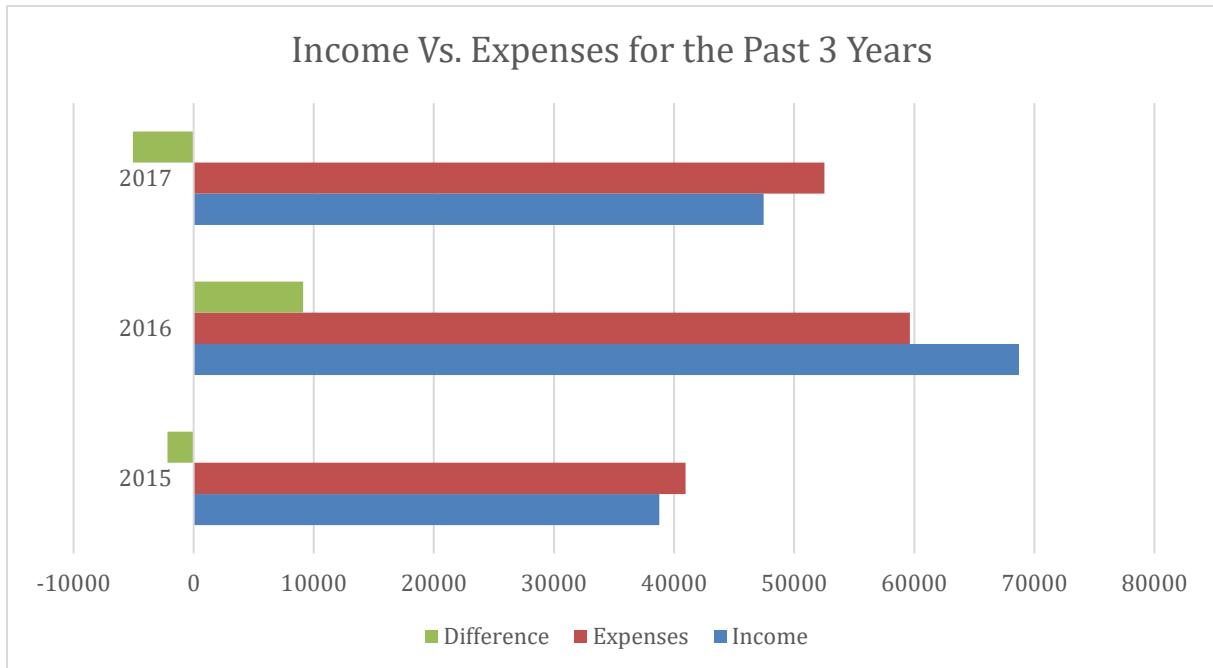
Below is information about the resources and the financial standings of Safe Haven Equine Rescue and Retirement Home, Inc. If you have any questions in reference to this information please contact our treasurer, Kerri Downs, at kerri@safehavenequinerescue.com

No One here at Safe Haven receives a paycheck, we are all volunteers.

What does this mean to you? It means whether directly or indirectly, all monies received by Safe Haven goes to the horses. We do our best to keep office expenses and other admin cost as low as possible so that more resources can go directly to the care of the horses.

Due to the major hurricanes in 2017, we saw a drastic decline in donations during the last 2 quarters. We are hopeful that donations will increase in 2018.





Looking Forward

As Safe Haven Equine Rescue starts another year, we look forward to saving horses and continuing to grow our programs as we have over the last several years.

Executive Leadership

Our Board of Directors is a committed group of animal lovers.



Richard Fincher
President and
Executive Director



James Reed
Vice President



Debbie Fincher
Secretary



Kerri Downs
Treasurer



Brenda Sweeney
Board Member



Shannon Willis
Board Member



Robin Reese
Board Member



Kim Chapman
Board Member



Hailea Downs
Jr. Board Member



Charlene Hamm
Webmaster and
Social Media



Tim Irby
Advisory Board
Member



Larry Sewell
Advisory Board
Member

We Need Your Help

Your Pocket Change Could Change A Horse's Life -



Help Them Go From Dying To Thriving!

Every Penny Matters

There are many ways to donate to Safe Haven.

- On our website [https://www.safehavenquinerescue.com/donation](https://www.safehavenequinerescue.com/donation)
- On Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/safehavenquinerescue/>
- Do you shop on Amazon? If so use <https://smile.amazon.com/> and pick Safe Haven as your charity to give to
- By mail at:
Safe Haven Equine Rescue
4994 FM 2088
Gilmer, Texas 75644

Volunteer and Help Make a Difference

Not everyone can make a financial contribution and that is okay. Your time is just as valuable to us. Please consider volunteering, it helps us, it helps the horses and it will help you as you watch these rescued horses come back to life. Volunteering is a WIN, WIN here at Safe Haven.

- Volunteer at the barn
 - Volunteer with the Emergency Rescue Team
 - Volunteer in a different way: _____

Please visit our website <http://www.safehavenquinerescue.com> to learn more, or call us at 903.762.1432. Send this form by mail to our office at 4994 FM 2088, Gilmer, Texas 75644

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Thank You to All of Our Donors

Safe Haven cannot say **THANK YOU** enough to our donors. Thanks to the wonderful donations from these individuals and others like them we have been able to do so much for the horses in our care.

\$249.99 and Under

Amanda Weimer
Amber Exner
Barbara Rogers
Becky Crone
Betty DeWeese
Bobby Ziedy
Carol Fuller
Carole Pool
Carrie Noel
Charlene Hamm
Cheryl Grant
Dawn Powell
Donna Stanley
Dusten Karnes
Elizabeth Chapman
Gary McDaniel
Gene Dolle
Grayson Stokes
Harry Reaugh
J.S. Person
Jack Day
James Crittenden
Jan Branam
Jan Loya
Jennifer Church
Jimmie McKinley
Joan Smith
June Johnson
Kathy Lennon
Kathy Robert
Kay White
Larry Webb
Laurie Hanley
Linda Rio
Llano EAFD
Lola Cabaniss
M. Parish

Maranda Williams
Mary Nester
Michelle Anderson
Moneica Koehn
Patricia Derouren
Patricia Rambin
Starla Pelz
Veronica Allen
Vickie Boggio
Vickie Grinnell

\$250.00 – \$499.99

Carla Crocker
Cheri White Owl
Danna Fowler
Donna Elwell
James Reed
Janey Cone
Kim Chapman
Kim Kirkpatrick
Linda Toney
Matt Adams
Pat Kutch
Sandra James
Teresa Deshazer
Terry Brown

\$500.00 – \$999.99

Big V Feed
Bobbie McGee
Debbie Fincher
Doug Allen
Larry Sewell
NextWave

\$1,000.00 - \$1,999.99

Bobby Herriage
Chief Exterminating
Elise Moore
Fish & Still Equipment
Jack Fields
Janel Hector
Kenneth McFerrin
Stephen Duck
Tyler Fish Farms

\$2,000.00 and Over

Paws For A Cause
Redco Endeavors



[www.safehaven-equinerescue.com](http://www.safehavenequinerescue.com)

ANNUAL REPORT

2017

Connect With Us!

(903) 762-1432 | safehavenrescue@etex.net