



# Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd. NEWSLETTER

*Helping Starved, Abused & Neglected Horses in Georgia*

Quarterly Newsletter

April, May & June 2026

## GERL & EIP Host 4th Annual Equine Immersion at Ft. Stewart

*By Patty Livingston*

The Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) and the Equine Immersion Project (EIP) partnered once again to host our fourth annual week-long Equine Immersion program June 1–6, bringing the healing power of horses to active-duty military personnel from Fort Stewart, Hunter Army Airfield, and their families.

The first four days were held at the beautiful Trotters Walk property, graciously provided by Joe and Sabrina Wenum in Hinesville. After hosting the program there last year, we knew it was the perfect setting for this unique experience. The peaceful surroundings alone create an atmosphere that encourages relaxation, reflection, and healing.

Each day welcomed participants from different Army divisions. While a few had previous experience with horses, most had never been around them before. Watching the transformation that took place in just a few hours was nothing short of remarkable.

Upon entering the arena, each participant selected a horse and spent the first 15 minutes simply getting acquainted. Every horse seemed to find the right person, and every participant embraced the experience—even when their new partner showed a little stubbornness.



Throughout the day, Tara Mahoney, CEO of the Equine Immersion Project and the visionary behind this program, guided participants with encouragement and insight, continually emphasizing that successful communication begins with trust, patience, and understanding.

One of the biggest surprises for many participants is riding bareback before lunch—something most never imagined they would have the confidence to do.

Another highlight is learning to "join up" with a horse in the round pen, an experience that teaches the importance of trust, leadership, and communication without words.

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# GERL & EIP Host 4th Annual Equine Immersion at Ft. Stewart

By Patty Livingston

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After lunch, participants saddle their horses and continue building on the relationship they have established before heading out on a relaxing trail ride through the scenic property. At the end of the day, everyone gathers once more to reflect on the experience. Participants are given a blank sheet of paper and invited to write about their day anonymously, allowing them to express thoughts and emotions openly. Several participants enjoyed the experience so much that they returned the following day as volunteers, happily taking on chores such as cleaning stalls, picking up manure, and helping with other barn tasks. Their willingness to return spoke volumes about the impact the horses had made in such a short time.

One of the highlights of the week was a visit from military leadership, including a Brigade Commander and a Division Command Sergeant Major, who came to observe and support the program. Their presence was especially meaningful and represented an important milestone in the growth and recognition of this program over the past four years.

On Friday, our team traveled to Faith Equestrian Therapeutic Center in Guyton, where we served active-duty personnel from Hunter Army Airfield. We returned on Saturday for Family Day, welcoming the families of participants who had attended throughout the week. It was a wonderful opportunity for loved ones to witness firsthand the connec-

tions that had been formed and the positive impact the horses had made.

Faith Equestrian Therapeutic Center provides an ideal location for military personnel in the area who wish to continue working with horses as part of their healing journey, and we are grateful for their partnership and support.

As always, we left the week with full hearts. Every Equine Immersion reminds us why this partnership exists and why these remarkable horses continue to change lives. Watching confidence replace uncertainty, seeing strangers become friends, and witnessing the quiet healing that takes place between horse and human is a privilege we never take for granted.



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# GERL & EIP Host 4th Annual Equine Immersion at Ft. Stewart

By Patty Livingston

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## GERL Attends Canton Tractor Supply Equine Event

On June 6, GERL volunteers Ray Ziebell, Debbie Frampton, and Sue Wrensen represented the Georgia Equine Rescue League at the Tractor Supply Equine Event in Canton. The event featured farriers, a saddle fitter, and a trainer, along with equine treat tastings and opportunities for visitors to meet live horses.

The GERL booth attracted interest throughout the day, providing an opportunity to share information about the organization's mission and programs with members of the community. Volunteers reported that the event was well attended and enjoyed by all, making it a fun and successful day for everyone involved.



**EVERYTHING EQUINE**  
at Tractor Supply Canton

**SATURDAY, JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup>**  
★ 10:00 AM — 2:00 PM ★

📍 2860 East Cherokee Drive, Canton, GA 30115

- 🍏 Equine Treat Tasting
- 🐾 Visit with Live Horses
- 🐾 Horse Care 101
- 🔨 Farriers, Saddle Fitter, Horse Training & More!

POP-UP VENDOR MARKET

FEATURING

- GAHA GEORGIA ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION
- GEORGIA EQUINE RESCUE LEAGUE
- GEORGIA PASO FINO HORSE ASSOCIATION
- True Partner SADDLERY
- Amy's Whole Heart Horse Training & Care LLC



Ray Ziebell, Debbie Frampton and Sue Wrensen attend Canton Tractor Supply Everything Equine Event.



## Thank You to our Tack Store Volunteers



Cindy, Natalie and Jennifer.

A heartfelt thank you to Cindy Farris and Natalie and Jennifer, a couple of our loyal customers who generously donated their time and energy to help clean out the front room of the GERL Tack Store.

Over the years, the space had gradually become a catch-all for old tack, boxes, and items that no longer belonged there. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of these volunteers, the room has been completely transformed. It is now clean, organized, and much more welcoming for our visitors and shoppers.

We are incredibly grateful for volunteers like these who step up when help is needed. Your efforts make a real difference and help keep our tack store looking its best. Thank you for your support of GERL!



## GERL Attends Community Market Event

The Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) was recently invited to participate in the Community Market at Tift Park in Albany, Georgia, where we had the opportunity to share our mission with the local community.

GERL Area Coordinator Karen Henderson represented the organization by creating a beautiful, eye-catching booth that attracted the attention of many visitors. Her welcoming display provided an excellent opportunity to introduce people to GERL's work and the many ways they can support equine rescue throughout Georgia.

A special thank you to Karen for her continued dedication to GERL. Over the past several years, she has represented our organization at numerous community events, helping to raise awareness of our mission and the lifesaving work we do for horses in need. We are truly grateful for her commitment and enthusiasm in spreading the word about GERL.

### Community Market Tift Park Albany, Georgia



Karen Henderson, GERL AC  
Awesome GERL Display



# ***Protecting your Horse from Insects TIPS FOR INSECT SEASON***

*By Gloria Bell*

## **SANITATION (ELIMINATING THE SOURCE)**

Flies and mosquitoes need specific conditions to breed. Targeting these areas reduces the root cause of the insect population:

### **Manure management**

Although we can't eliminate insects all together, the first step, which isn't glamorous, involves a manure rake and some elbow grease. Insects are drawn to manure, which means keeping stalls and small turnouts as clean as possible. This will help prevent areas where insects will congregate.

Removing manure from pastures is a good way to prevent the spread of external and internal parasites. If complete removal of manure isn't possible, breaking up clumps of manure can be a good start to eliminating parasites by exposing them to sunlight and other environmental conditions. Move manure piles away from the barn and pasture if possible. Spread piles out thinly on non-grazed pastures to dry out.

### **Clean water supply**

There are numerous reasons why a clean water supply is important for your horse, and just one of those is insect control. A clean water supply is excellent for your horse population due to the amount of water they need to consume, and it keeps mosquito larvae away, prohibiting the growth of your mosquito population. Many equine diseases are spread through mosquitos, which makes controlling that population extremely important to the health of your horses.

Eliminate standing water around your barn and pasture. Mosquitoes breed in stagnant water. Check for clogged gutters, leaky hoses, old tires, and puddles.

## **PHYSICAL AND MECHANICAL CONTROLS**

### **Barn Fans**

Flying insects are generally weak fliers. Use commercial-grade overhead fans or heavy-duty floor fans in stalls to create a steady stream of moving air, making it difficult for flies and mosquitoes to land on horses.

### **Fly Gear**

Turn horses out with protective equipment like well-fitted fly masks, fly sheets, and leg wraps.





# ***Protecting your Horse from Insects TIPS FOR INSECT SEASON***

*By Gloria Bell*

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## **CHEMICAL CONTROLS**

When insect pressure is heavy, chemical solutions provide quick relief. Before saddling up to ride or show, apply fly spray to your horse's skin and coat. This will often result in a much more pleasurable ride, as your horse won't be bothered by flying insects. Repellent ointments can also be very useful, and they often last longer than your average fly spray.

## **Feed-Through Supplements**

Feed-through fly control additives are ingested by the horse and pass into their manure, which prevents fly larvae from developing.

## **Topical Sprays**

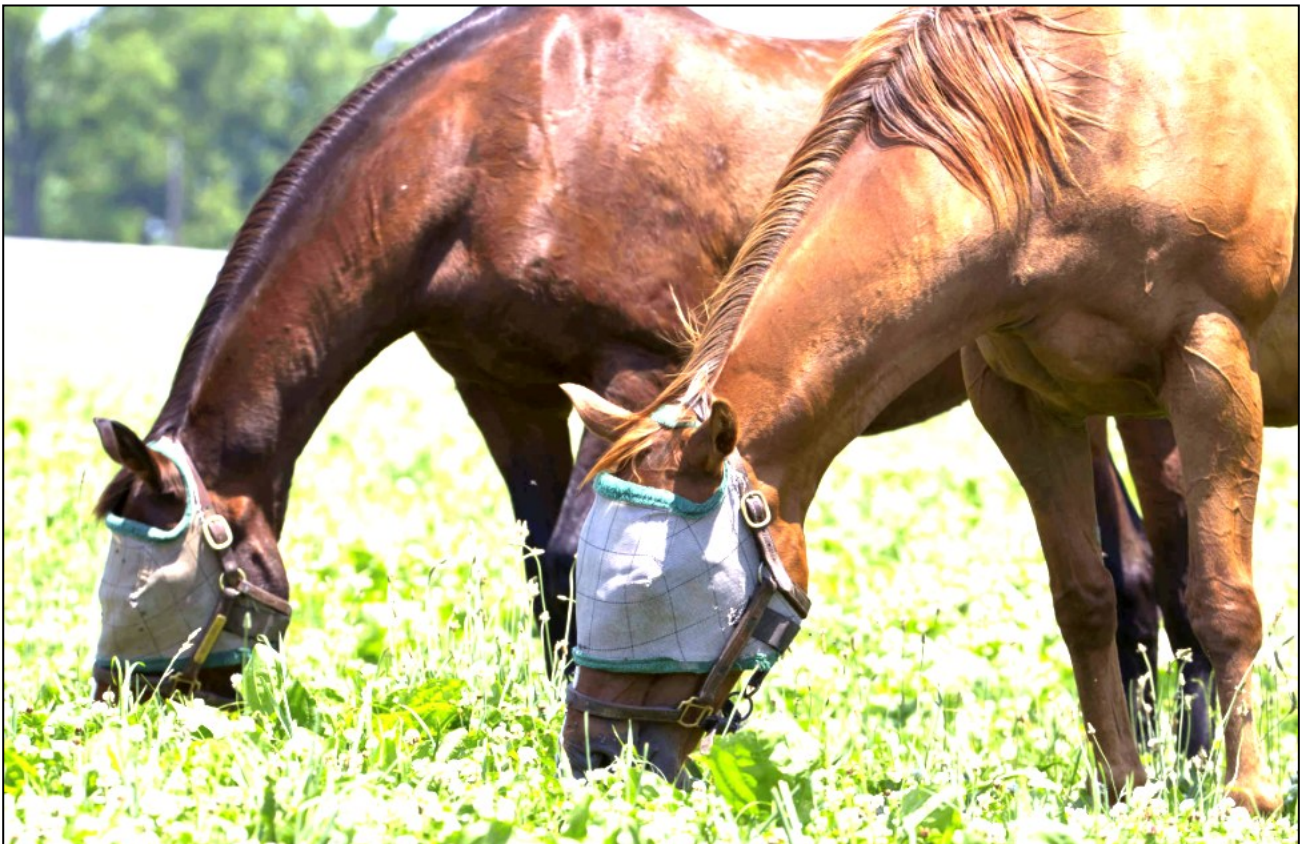
Apply equine-safe fly sprays containing active ingredients like permethrins, pyrethrins, or geraniol just before turnout to repel biting insects.

## **Premise Sprays**

Treat the walls and ceilings of your empty barn with livestock-safe insecticides to maintain residual protection against flies, lice, and mites.

## **Strategic Trapping**

Place sticky traps, electric zappers, and attractant jugs outside the barn and away from the horses. If placed inside the barn, traps will attract more insects to your horses.





# ***Friends, Freedom and Forage***

*By Gloria Bell*

Horses, by nature, don't want to be alone. Even when they appear comfortable with isolation, their welfare can be compromised by prolonged separation from other horses. Horses are intensely social animals. They are prey animals that are safe in herds.

A horse in isolation can take a toll on their mental and physical health. Give horses the seemingly safest, most luxurious box stalls in the world, with clean, deep bedding and big windows, and they will most likely be dissatisfied. Put their buddy in the next stall, everything changes.

They need to see each other and touch each other and engage in social grooming. That really makes a big difference.

## **Acute Stress Response to Equine Isolation**

When we separate horses from other horses, the autonomic nervous system shifts toward a stress response, says Kelly Yarnell, PhD, principal lecturer in equine health and welfare at Nottingham Trent University, in the U.K. She has documented increases in cortisol (the

stress hormone) along with notable behavioral changes in isolated horses.

Chronic stress can also affect physical health. Persistently elevated cortisol levels might suppress immune function, Yarnell explains. If very high levels of cortisol are present chronically or on a highly repetitive basis, then this can be detrimental for our horses' health. Their heart rates tend to rise, and normal heart rhythm patterns can become disrupted, says Iwona Janczarek, PhD, of the University of Life Sciences, in Lublin, Poland. Behaviorally, isolated horses often become highly active and pace, whinny, and defecate more frequently.

When social isolation continues for months, the effects can become chronic.

## **Horses Isolated from losing a Companion**

This study examined behavioral changes in horses following the death of a companion. Of 325 owners who responded to the survey, many reported noticeable changes in their surviving horse's behavior after the loss.



Horses have a fundamental need for what is called "the threes F's": Friends, Freedom and Forage

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# *Friends, Freedom and Forage*

*By Gloria Bell*

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What the study found that within the first 24 hours after the death of a companion, most horses showed changes in behavior, heightened arousal, changed behavior toward humans, more vocalization and injuries resulting to themselves from aggressive behavior.

It is recommended that if you must euthanize a companion horse, the surviving horse(s) have another companion available and available medication to assist in keeping calm.

The grief of losing a horse is surreal, however, the surviving horses grief and stress of losing a horse companion, being left alone after being with the other horse as long as they have known, is traumatic. All stresses that are possible are now present for this horse to deal with.

It is extremely important to have measures in place to help your surviving horses from harming themselves and becoming severely depressed. A hurt horse that is not eating or drinking is a serious condition that can be alleviated with the right stress management in place.

People will tell you that a horse will have a tough few days, but they (the horse) will be okay. That isn't true for all horses when all they have known is a trusted companion by their side.

I will tell you from experience, as many well know, losing a horse is one of the saddest things to deal with,

having their companion left to figure it out through stress, aggressiveness and injury, is the worst experience ever. The depression alone cuts deeper than all of it combined.

Horses need friends, to feel safe and to count on through all the rough situations in all that surrounds them. From the leaf that blows in the wind to the monsters in the woods. Safety in numbers.



Horses can show a great deal of affection for each other.



## GHC Donates to Local Clubs

By Patty Livingston

The Georgia Horse Council (GHC) Board of Directors approved donating some of the monies that have accumulated from memberships over the past few years to a few organizations in Georgia's horse community. Why join? \$1,000,000 EXCESS LIABILITY INSURANCE included with your membership. More members means more monies available to donate.

Georgia Horse Council monies were awarded to the following non-profits:

1. Kel-Mac Saddle Club.
2. CTHA for trail maintenance.
3. Back Country Horsemen of N. Georgia
4. Back Country Horsemen of MS Georgia.
5. Georgia 4-H State Horse Show



## JOIN THE GEORGIA HORSE COUNCIL

*ALL BREEDS. ALL DISCIPLINES. ONE VOICE*

MEMBERSHIPS START AT JUST \$45/YEAR AND INCLUDE:

\$1,000,000 EXCESS EQUINE LIABILITY INSURANCE

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

MEMBERS-ONLY DISCOUNTS



Georgia  
Horse Council

Contact us for more info:  
[www.georgiahorsecouncil.com](http://www.georgiahorsecouncil.com)  
[info@georgiahorsecouncil.com](mailto:info@georgiahorsecouncil.com)

## Puttin' On The Feed Bag Recipe

### Zesty 4th of July Summer Salsa

#### Ingredients

- 1 (12 ounce) jar jalapeño chili peppers, juice reserved
- 6 medium ripe tomatoes, finely chopped
- 3 medium white onions, finely chopped
- 2 bunches green onions, finely chopped
- 2 (4 ounce) cans chopped green chili peppers
- 1 bunch fresh cilantro, finely chopped
- 2 medium limes, juiced
- salt to taste



#### Directions

1. Drain jalapeño juice into a large bowl. Finely chop jalapeños; add to juice. Stir in tomatoes, white onions, green onions, green chiles, and cilantro. Stir in lime juice; season with salt.



## Letters From Our Troops at Ft. Stewart

The military personnel who participated in the four-day event at Ft. Stewart were asked to write down their thoughts about their day spent with the horses. Below are a few of the many notes that let us know that we were over the target.



This is an excellent program for learning how to connect, not only with the horses, but also with other people and for understanding how our energy influences the reactions of others. I consider it an outstanding program. The effort put into ensuring that the facilities were fully equipped with everything necessary to make this a fantastic experience for both participant and volunteers alike is clearly evident.



This program has been a huge positive experience. Overall has a huge impact on mental health for the better. This program has potential to have a great positive impact and influence for the army.



Overall, I would rate my experience with this program as extremely enjoyable. I felt connected to the animal I was working with and connected with the service members around us. It was awesome to see the guys in from leadership with a Brigade Commander and Division CSM show up to support and observe the program. I would recommend this experience and this program to any interested service members or veterans.



This was truly an incredible experience. Prior to today, the closest I had ever been to a horse was seeing one on television. Participating in this event was a once-in-a-life-time opportunity that allowed me to step outside of my comfort zone and learn something entirely new. The instructors were knowledgeable, patient, and encouraging, and I gained valuable skills and a great deal of confidence in myself throughout the experience. I am grateful for the opportunity and the lessons I learned along the way.



This program allows people who have a hard time connecting to or talking to other people to interact with a horse and other people allowing for individuals to decompress and focus on one thing that is meaningful and gives back to you. Working with the horses and this program helped me decompress and unburden myself of all the things that stress me out. This program will allow people to grow and hopefully help with mental and emotional stressors. Allowing for positive growth.



The training was not what I expected. It exceeded my expectations. Mrs. Due was my horse trainer. She taught me that the horses actually feel our energy, anxiety, and nervousness. She taught me to maintain positivity and assertiveness and the horse would follow my leadership.. And it did. This is a great course to learn more about yourself and our abilities and capabilities.



# Who's Who

## Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.

### Board Members

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**To report a case of equine abuse, call the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Equine Division**

Monday - Friday / 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

(404) 656-3713 or (800) 282-5852

If you would like GERL to assist with an Equine Abuse case call (770) 464-0138



**Interested in becoming an Area Coordinator?**

**Contact Our Area Coordinator Director:**

**Gloria Bell**

(706) 392-7520

gloria@decorinsights.com

## GERL Calendar of Events - *Mark Your Calendars!*

**2nd & 4th Saturday of the Month**

**Friends of GERL Tack Shop**

1460 Jim Edmondson Rd.

Good Hope, GA

**November 2026**

**Stallion to Gelding Castration Month**

Participating Vets Across Georgia

Check the GERL website mid-October for participating veterinarians.

Mark your calendars so that you don't miss any of these wonderful events that will benefit GERL. It's a guaranteed great time, a benefit for a wonderful cause and a way to see old friends and meet new friends!

*Visit our website for up to date information on events:*

*<https://gerlltd.org>*







# Join our Feed A Horse Program



Donations will be applied directly towards feed and hay for horses located in the Veteran facilities that GERL supports, as well as the horses taken into GERL's foster program. Currently, the cost for rehabilitating a horse is approximately \$150 per month, per horse.

Make your TAX DEDUCTIBLE donation through the Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd. "Feed a Horse" program. We need your help so that these horses can live.

Get involved! Ask your friends, family, co-workers and others to help raise money to feed the horses!



**BeBe Before**



**BeBe After**



**I would like to make a donation of:**

- ☐ \$150.00 per month for 4 months to rehabilitate one horse.
- ☐ \$600.00 one time donation to rehabilitate one horse.
- ☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month to help rehabilitate the horses.
- ☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_ any donation is gladly accepted!

**...or donate on our website @ <https://gerlltd.org>**

**"Feed a Horse"  
Program**

**<https://gerlltd.org>**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Make check payable to:*  
GERL  
Mail to: P.O. Box 328  
Bethlehem, GA 30620

**THANK YOU!**

*Your donation is  
tax deductible!*

# THE RESCUE

Pick the horse that nobody wanted, the one with hip bones showing out, cut, and scratched up. Pick the horse that doesn't dazzle them.

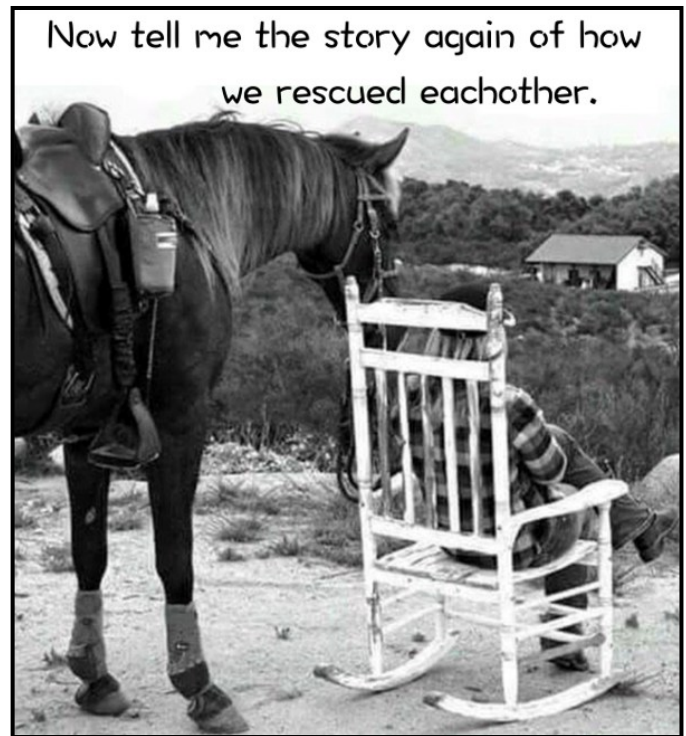
Pick the one standing at the back of the pen because she learned a long time ago that nobody was coming for her anyway.

Pick the one priced cheap because nobody can see past the ribs.

Save her and give her the things nobody bothered to give her before, consistent food sources, clean water, a farrier who shows up, a vet that looks at her teeth, a dry place to lay down, and a person who doesn't give up the second the rehab isn't so pretty.

Stand in the rain and hold her for the farrier, de-worm her, fix her feet, let her sleep when she finally feels safe enough to lie down. Teach her that your hands mean "brush and scratch the spot" and "here's dinner," not "hang on, this might hurt."

And then one day you'll realize she doesn't look like a rescue story anymore. You realize you didn't just rescue her; she rescued you too.



## GERL Attends Kubota Orange Day

*By Patty Livingston*

The Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) was honored to participate in Kubota Orange Days at Gene & Matt Tractor in Winder on Wednesday. The event provided a wonderful opportunity to share GERL's mission with the community, connect with supporters, and raise awareness about the work we do for Georgia's rescued horses.

A heartfelt thank you to Gene & Matt Tractor and Kubota for the invitation, their warm hospitality, and their generous donation. We truly appreciate your support and your commitment to helping us continue making a difference in the lives of horses in need.



Patty and Tuff at Gene & Matt Tractor Sales.

*With Your Help...we Will Make A Difference!*



**Karen Henderson**  
**Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL)**  
**Area Coordinator – Baker, Dougherty, Lee, and Terrell County**

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I have lived in south GA my entire life and have been an area coordinator with GERL in the Southwest Georgia area for several years. When I was 3, my parents acquired a few horses and that is where my love of horses started. I have owned appaloosas for most of my adult life. I currently have two appaloosa mares, one that I have raised is now 27 years old.

I became a foster home for a horse named Sizzlelena through GERL. She was a very thin mare that was brought to my attention by a friend that saw her gradually declining. She was a challenge at first, but eventually came around to complying with me, most of the time. I have enjoyed talking with horse owners about GERL and all the great programs that are available.

I recently discovered that several horse people in my area have joined GERL. Last month the local saddle club asked me to speak at their meeting. They also have joined GERL. I have had quite a few calls from area horse owners about different issues. I truly enjoy helping other horse owners and talking about horses!



Karen Henderson with her GERL foster horse Sizzlelena.

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## **GERL Assists South Georgia Equine Rescue Following Wildfires**

*By Patty Livingston*

More than 55,000 acres burned and at least 120 homes were destroyed as massive wildfires swept across southern Georgia back in April. Among those impacted was South Georgia Equine Rescue in Brantley County.

Founder Heather Gavitt and her dedicated team worked tirelessly as the fires approached, making difficult decisions under tremendous pressure. With the help of an incredible outpouring of support from neighboring communities, they were able to safely evacuate every horse and animal in their care. While no animals were lost, the rescue's barn was destroyed, along with its entire supply of hay.

To help with the recovery effort, the Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) donated \$500 through our Crisis Intervention Program to provide hay for the displaced horses.

Our hearts go out to Heather, her team, and everyone affected by these devastating wildfires. We are grateful that the animals are safe and hope this contribution provides a small measure of relief as they begin the long process of rebuilding.



Smoke billows above the tree line.

### Thank you for your donations

|                               |                                                      |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Anonymous                     | Judy Gore                                            |
| Angela M. Samuels             | Allison Herdic – We love horses and those who rescue |
| Allison Jenkins               | Jesse Murray                                         |
| Jan Smith                     | Suzanne Hanks                                        |
| Susan and Christopher Gregory | Art and Elizabeth Bartlett                           |
| Scott Lawler                  | Carleen Mauk                                         |
| Frances Kemp                  | Warriors Wellness & Recovery Ranch                   |
| Mary-Ellen Mateyka            | Allison Altman                                       |
| Rita Benfield                 | Gisela Dalton                                        |
| Craig Gaines for CeCe         | Lee & Jill Webb                                      |
| Debra Shaw                    | Kelley Mundrick                                      |
| Nancy Fitzgibbons             | Leeanna Dick                                         |
| Geo & Denise Mortensen        | Susan McCullar & Family                              |
| Lisa Clark                    |                                                      |
| George & Charlotte Zubowicz   |                                                      |
| Debbie Ferrell                |                                                      |

### Horses for Heroes

Teresa Dobrosky  
David & Earlene Livingston



### Your Donations Make a Difference!

Huge thanks to everyone who donates to GERL. Your donations help support our many programs designed to help alleviate Georgia's unwanted horse problems. Whether it is our foster/adoption, Feed a Horse, Stallion to Gelding, Crisis Intervention or Horses Heal Heroes program, we offer a variety of helpful, common-sense solutions for Georgia's equine communities.

Follow us on social media and sign up to become a member of GERL to receive a 32-page quarterly news- letter. [www.gerlltd.org](http://www.gerlltd.org). Thank you!

### Welcome New Members

Chelsea Smith & Family  
Charlotte Bryant & Family

### Feed A Horse

Erik Wittenzellner – In memory of Sara 4L Farm  
Buffie LaVoie  
Jane Buckler  
Edwina Hager  
Jim Januzelli  
Carol Bryson – Lola Beau & Fred  
Tanya Kingsley  
Margaret & Bob Wallace  
Victoria Daniels

### Tucker - GERL Foster Horse

Paula Umsted & Leslie Bladen  
Barbara Karlin & Linda George

### In Memory of

Mrs. Michael Chisolm by Steve & Carole Hansen, Dave & Erika Cuttino and John & Stephanie Underwood  
Michael Chisolm by Monya Barnes  
Michael Chisolm by Ann-Margaret Perkins & Linda Healy  
Stanley Coburn by Andrea Specht  
My mom by Brenda Allen  
Milly, beloved horse of Susan Stevens  
Sandra Kenney by Carol & Stephen Boots  
Chester, beloved dog of Marian Finco, by Jeanne Barsanti  
Uma, beloved dog of Linda Kundell by Marian Finco  
Paul Aloysius Frevele, Jr., by "Gypsy"

### In Honor of

Susan Bozeman & Rebecca Thomas on their birthdays!  
Storm, Sherry Masaschi's beloved mare, by Lisa Sikes.

### Nola - Mare with Injuries

Gene & Matt Tractor Sales  
Margaret Clower  
Renee Pilette-Bricker  
Karen Henderson  
Jaclyn Hardy  
Dixie Moss  
Barbara Brown  
Our sweet Mom on Mother's Day by Laine Scarritt  
John Lynn





# GERL ADOPTABLES

For adoption fees and additional information,  
please contact CeCe Calli, Adoption Coordinator.  
(706) 371-6804 / [adopt@gerlltd.org](mailto:adopt@gerlltd.org)



**Forrest** is an Arab X 14 hand Bay Gelding. He is one of the original 6 Amigo's. Forrest was in our program and adopted, however he's back due to no fault of his own. He is now in training and doing super well. Forrest is sweet and gets along with mares and geldings. He can be a knucklehead sometime to catch and would rather just play, once haltered, he is a gentleman.

## GERL Has New T-Shirts



The Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL) now has men's short sleeve T-shirts in two popular colors, Sage and Gray. Check out our new design. Shirts will be available on our website soon! Questions? Contact Patty Livingston at 770-309-6815 or email at [gerlpatty@yahoo.com](mailto:gerlpatty@yahoo.com).



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**-Aronson, Dr. Amy - Lowndes**

(229) 356-7991 / aaronson@valdosta.edu

**Balentine, Mark and Linda Kruszka - Randolph, Clay, Calhoun & Terrell**

(561) 762-4838 / owners@tagalongranch.com

**-Bell, Gloria – Coweta, Troup, Fayette, Harris, Merriwether and Muscogee**

(706) 392-7520 / gloria@decorinsights.com

**-Bell, Joan – Effingham, Bryan and Liberty**

(617) 460-0979 / jelisbell@hotmail.com

**-Benfield, Rita - Douglas, Haralson, Carroll**

(770) 330-0877 / ritabenfield@gmail.com

**-Bond, Susie - Newton, Morgan & Greene**

(770) 464-4353 / bond97@att.net

**-Brayton, Cynthia - Rockdale & Henry**

(678) 490-6266 / leaper12@hotmail.com

**-Bryant, Charlotte - Hall, Lumpkin, Dawson & White**

(770) 287-4313 / bryantcharlotte7@gmail.com

**-Calli, CeCe - Hart, Franklin and Elbert**

(706) 371-5804 / gerlfoster@aol.com

**-Cleghorne, Tina - Hall, White & Banks**

(678) 977-0441 / Tinacleg@gmail.com

**-Cowley, Robyn - Crawford, Houston, Jones, Monroe, Peach & Twiggs**

(404) 805-0922 / footlooserockies@gmail.com

**--Driggers, Sherry - Tattnall, Evans, Liberty & Long**

(478) 538-8688 / sherryodrigger@gmail.com

**-Greene, Brian—Walton**

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**-Hammond, Angie - Elbert, Madison, Franklin & Hart**

(762) 338-8786 / ahammond1023@gmail.com

**-Henderson, Karen - Dougherty, Lee, Terrell & Baker**

(229) 886-4057 / k3apps@yahoo.com

**-Jacobi, Lynn - Henry, Butts, Newton & Rockdale**

(954) 857-5217 / Ljacobi1953@gmail.com

**-King, Lori - Walton, & Newton**

(609) 517-3335 / ridefree34.5kawa@yahoo.com

**-Kingsley, Tanya - Jasper, Butts, Monroe, Jones & Putnam**

(706) 468-0794 / twkings@gmail.com

**-Kokkoris, Angelina - Jasper, Butts, Monroe**

**-McCullar, Susan - Morgan**

(678) 907-0771 / srmac49@gmail.com

**-Mitchell, Melissa - Troup, Harris & Heard**

(706) 773-7218 / southerngaitedstable@outlook.com

**-Niven Valentina (Tina) - Burke**

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**-Pieper, Donna - Gwinnett & Walton**

(404) 797-3333 / horsesdip@gmail.com

**-Pippen, Tasha - Banks, Barrow, Hall, Gwinnett**

(404) 713-8598 / trinitystables1736@gmail.com

**-Raybon, Annette - Paulding, Cobb, Bartow**

(770) 713-2244 / raybonta@bellsouth.net

**-Rockwell, Sabra - Clarke, Franklin, Jackson, Madison, & Oglethorpe**

(706) 224-9769 / spiritridgerescue@gmail.com

**-Smith, Chelsea—Marion & Taylor**

(910) 322-0865 / Chelsea\_smith89@hotmail.com

**--Scruggs, Amy—Cook, Lowndes, Colquitt, Thomas, Berrien and Lanier**

(520) 403-8949 / amy.scruggs1981@gmail.com

**-Ruttencutter, Gwen Scott—Brooks and Lowndes**

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**--Whitworth, Debbie - Elbert, Hart, Lincoln & Wilkes**

(404) 805-4409 / rlw73dpw@gmail.com

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(770) 775-8011 / cwilliams@buttscountyso.com

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(770) 331-6947 / swrensen@comcast.net

**-Ziebell, Ray - Dawson & Pickens**

(770) 354-0293 / razfences@msn.com



For updated Area Coordinators:  
<https://gerlltd.org/area-coordinators/>





# LET ME SAY THIS...ABOUT THAT

*By Patty Livingston, President*

My last article was a heartfelt plea for financial help, and wow...did you ever respond!

Because of your generosity, we were able to spend another incredible week in Hinesville, providing equine-assisted support to more than 40 active-duty service members from Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield.

We also became experts at stretching a dollar. To help keep expenses down, we made a few changes to the budget. Most of our meals were donated, including breakfast each day and two lunches from Chick-fil-A. Coca-Cola kept everyone hydrated with donated drinks, which was a huge blessing. We skipped renting a tent, tables, and chairs, the Equine Immersion Project (EIP) team graciously waived most of their fee, and horse rental costs stayed low because GERL supplied four of the horses ourselves.

One of those horses was our own Fred, who quickly became a participant favorite. If there had been a "Most Popular Horse" award, I'm pretty sure Fred would have won it. More importantly, the confidence he gained and the hearts he touched during the week helped lead him to his forever home. Just one week after returning, Fred was adopted. I'd say that's a pretty successful business trip!

Friday's session for Hunter Army Airfield participants was held at Faith Equestrian Therapeutic Center in Guyton, where they welcomed us with open arms. They generously loaned us tables and chairs and made us feel right at home. On Saturday, they hosted Family Day with everything from jewelry making to a bounce house, giving military families a chance to relax, laugh, and simply enjoy being together.

Faith Equestrian has a long history of serving children with disabilities and is now beginning to expand its programs for veterans and active-duty military. CEO and Program Director Elizabeth Todd, Ansley, and the

entire Faith Equestrian team were absolutely wonderful. They are the kind of people who make you feel like family five minutes after you arrive.

One of the biggest highlights of the week was a visit from a Brigade Commander and a Division Command Sergeant Major, who came to observe the program. Then the Command Sergeant Major handed me his personal business card and said, "Give me a call sometime."

Well...if my feet touched the ground the rest of that day, I don't remember it. I may have floated through the next day, too!

Their visit wasn't just exciting—it was an important sign of how much this program has grown over the past four years. We're hopeful it will lead to future financial support that will allow us to host not just one, but two of these life-changing events each year.

So let me say this about that...

When I asked for help, you answered.

Because of you, horses were fed. Service members found peace, connection, and healing. New partnerships were formed. Fred found his forever home. And together, we proved once again that a group of caring people can accomplish some pretty amazing things.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for believing in GERL, believing in this mission, and believing that horses really can change lives. I couldn't be more grateful.

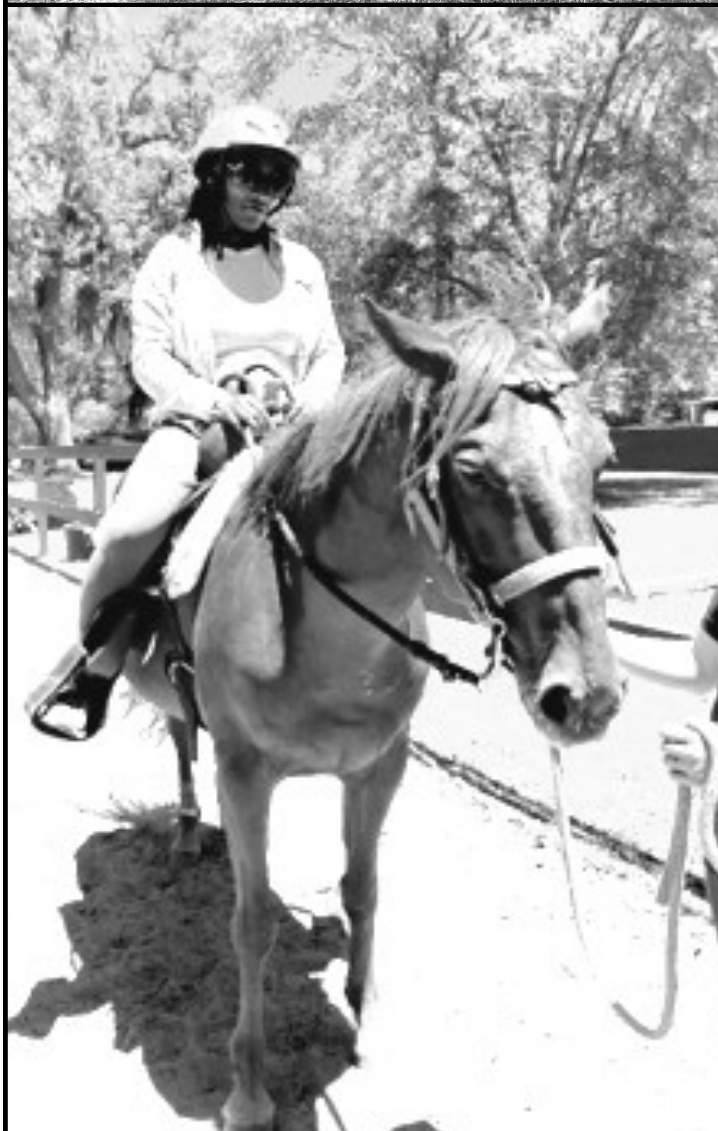
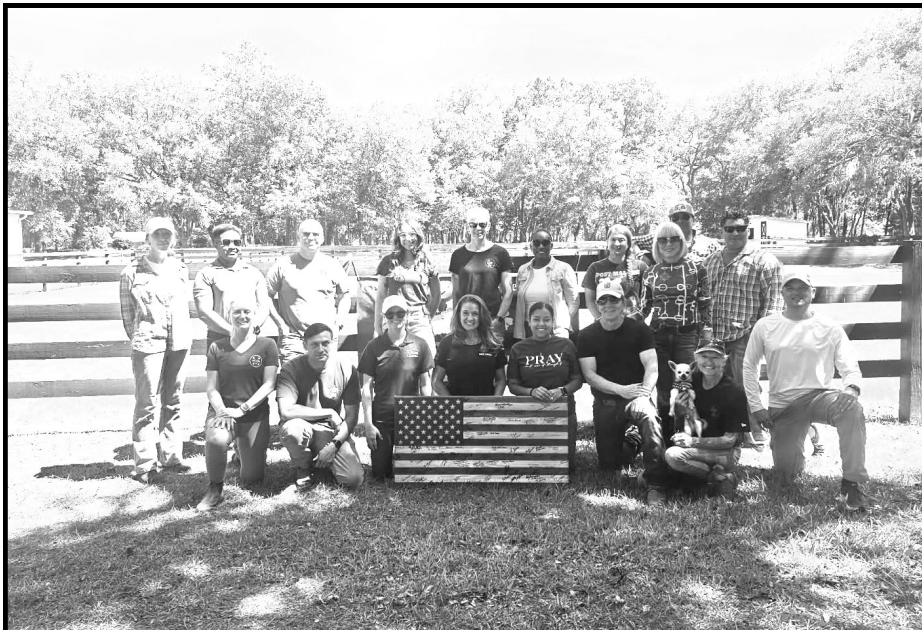


*With Your Help we...Will Make A Difference!*

# GERL & EIP Host 4th Annual Equine Immersion at Ft. Stewart - More Photos

By Patty Livingston

Continued from page 3





Friends of the Georgia Equine Rescue League, Ltd.

A silhouette of a person riding a horse, holding a hat aloft in their right hand. The background is a light, hazy sky.

# Tack Sale

Are you a member? Get an additional 25% off.  
Become a member, go to <https://gerlltd.org>

2nd & 4th Saturday of Every Month  
10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

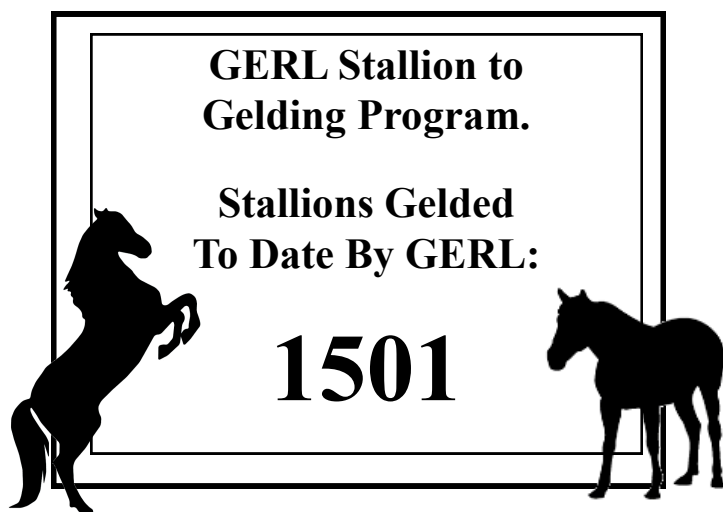
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INFORMATION CONTACT: Cindy Farris: (508) 769-2065 or  
Patty Livingston: [gerlpatty@yahoo.com](mailto:gerlpatty@yahoo.com) (770) 309-6815



## Horses in our Foster Care Program

**CeCe Calli**—Foster Care Coordinator  
(706) 376-2410 \* [foster@gerlltd.org](mailto:foster@gerlltd.org)

| Horse   | Age | Sex     | Ridable | Foster Farm      |
|---------|-----|---------|---------|------------------|
| Forrest | 7   | Gelding | Yes     | Angie Hammond    |
| Cisco   | 28  | Gelding | No      | Steven Neal      |
| Tonto   | 9   | Gelding | Yes     | Patty Livingston |
| Breezy  | 4   | Mare    | No      | Patty Livingston |
| Tucker  | 5   | Stud    | No      | Jacki Moore      |
| Skipper | 13  | Gelding | Yes     | Patty Livingston |
| Nola    | 18  | Mare    | Unknwn  | Cynthia Anderson |

## GERL Needs Help at Tack Store

GERL is looking for volunteers to help cover the Friends of GERL tack store/flea market that is located in Good Hope. The store is open the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month and hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.. Volunteers will receive a 35% discount! It's not hard and it's not really much of a sacrifice. If you've been thinking about getting involved and giving back, please consider volunteering to help.

Contact Patty Livingston @ (770) 867-0760.



## Please Help! GERL receives money for the following...

Please save Proof Of Purchase seals from bags of these feeds:

Southern States feeds, Legends, Reliance, Triple Crown and Pro Elite.  
*and send them to:*

Ginny Scarritt  
4835 Kendall Court \* Atlanta, GA 30342





## Obituary of Michael C. Chislom

Michael C. Chislom, age 75, of Waleska, passed away on Thursday, March 26, 2026, at Northside Hospital Cherokee.

Michael was born on November 2, 1950, to Lawrence and Alnita Collier. She was raised in Lake Wales, Florida, and graduated from Lake Wales High School in 1968. She went on to attend Berry College and Florida State University, later earning her master's degree from the University of Georgia and her law degree from Georgia State University.

Michael established her own law practice in Woodstock, where she built a successful career specializing in family law. She was widely known for her strong advocacy and deep compassion, particularly for juveniles and senior citizens.

Outside of her professional and volunteer work, Michael enjoyed horseback riding and camping. She had a special love for animals and cherished her dogs and all her pets.

Michael will be remembered as a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and friend.



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# GERL Mail Bag



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To: GERL, EIP, et al.,

*Ladies, I really cannot thank y'all enough for today  
It was absolutely amazing in so many ways. I cannot  
even put it in words. Please know that y'all are all wel-  
come back at any point in time!*

*Thank you, thank you thank you*

*Elizabeth Todd  
Faith Equestrian  
CEO / Program Director / <https://www.faithetc.org>*

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Dear GERL:,

*I just read your email newsletter about Fred.  
Thank you for the work you do, day after day, to give  
horses like him a new life, and your outreach pro-  
grams that help people.  
Rescued horses rescuing people...*

*Warmest Regards, Mary-Ellen Meteyka*

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Dear GERL:,

*Please accept this donation in honor and memory  
of Paul Aloyisus Frevele, Jr., from "Gypsy".  
"Thank you for giving me a place along my life's  
trail!"*

*Love & appreciation always, Gypsy*

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Dear GERL:,

*I Please accept this donation I honor of Storm,  
Sherry Masaschi's beloved mare. This mare and  
Sherry were partners for many years and Storm's  
passing was unexpected.  
I hope that this donation will give Sherry some con-  
solation.*

*Lisa S. Sikes*

---



Dear **GEORGIA EQUINE RESCUE LEAGUE, LTD.**

The Kroger Co. Family of Stores is committed to bringing hope and help to the local neighborhoods we call home. Our stores are on a mission to not just part of, but to help create a stronger community. We recognize that every community has unique causes that need support. Thank you for being such an important organization in our community.

We encourage you to ask your supporters to link their rewards card to your organization. Community Rewards is easy to use,

The more your supporters shop with us, the more money your organization will earn!

We are committed to carefully protecting our customer's personal information. In order to meet their expectation of privacy, we have adopted a simple policy to never share a customer's personal information. Our privacy policy applies to Community Rewards participation as well.

Thank you for being such an important organization in our community,

*Community Rewards Staff*

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**March 15, 2026 - June 14, 2026**

**122 - Households - \$244.15 - Total Donations**

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***Join the Kroger Community Reward Program and help GERL***

***<https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>***

## ***Where Does the Money Go?***

For those of you who like to know where GERL spends your donated dollars, below is an update on our impact directly to horses since our last quarterly newsletter:

- GERL spent 5,536.00 for feed, hay, and farrier service for our foster horses.
- GERL spent \$700.00 on hay and feed for 2 individuals through Crisis Intervention Program.
- GERL SPENT A TOTAL OF \$6,236.00 THIS QUARTER DIRECTLY HELPING HORSES.





## *Hello members of GERL!*



I am a veteran science teacher, now in my 26th year of teaching teenagers. I love animals, especially Golden Retrievers and horses. I am blessed to share my life with both. Feather, my beloved late Golden Retriever, is the main character in my first books. She was my best friend for 13 years, and grew up in my classroom.

GERL receives \$1 for every book sold. This is residual income that GERL can benefit from with your help and the power of the internet. Carla's books, including her newest "The Pony Who Said His Prayers" are available on Amazon.

**Carla has a brand new book that is now available! Please leave a review on Amazon after you purchase books. More reviews means more exposure for us!**



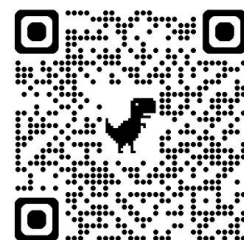
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# Fred Goes to Ft. Stewart

By Patty Livingston

Fred, a 15-year-old Quarter Horse standing 14.2 hands, joined the GERL foster program in February. After spending 30 days with a trainer, he returned to foster care and recently had the opportunity to participate in a week-long equine-assisted program supporting active-duty service members at Fort Stewart.

What happened there reminded us just how special Fred truly is.

Like many horses entering a new environment, Fred was a little uncertain at first. However, it didn't take long for his calm, gentle nature to shine through. As the week progressed, he embraced his role and formed meaningful connections with the service members who worked alongside him.

One participant who chose Fred as "his horse" for the day shared this heartfelt reflection:

*"I knew at once when I saw that chestnut coat that I needed to go greet that animal. Fortunately for me, that horse, Fred, was willing to let me greet him, too. An old soul with love to share. That is what I found within Fred. He had such a gentle demeanor and was so open to interaction and human exposure/socialization."*

*"My month has been made all the better (and it's only the 4th)! Having this experience helped me let go of things today, allowing me to be in a much more positive time and space. I believe that if more people took time to interact with animals—horses in this instance—*

*it would help them be better people."*

Fred's ability to provide comfort, connection, and confidence is a testament to his kind heart and wonderful temperament. He left a lasting impression on everyone he met and demonstrated the qualities that make him such a rewarding partner.

Following the Fort Stewart program, Fred was moved to Bethlehem, where he began work under saddle. It didn't take long for him to capture another heart. After just one week, Fred found his perfect match in Marion. Their connection was immediate, and it quickly became clear that they were meant for each other.

Marion is everything Fred needs, and we could not be happier for them both. Stories like Fred's remind us why we do this work. From foster care to helping our active-duty military and finally finding a loving forever home, Fred has touched many lives along the way. We wish Fred and Marion many years of happiness together.



Fred was a rockstar at Ft. Stewart!



Marion checks Fred before the trip to his new home.



# Tucker's Progress: Three Amazing Months

*By Jacki Moore*

## A Strong Start with Clicker Training

The past three months with Tucker have been truly incredible. When I started clicker training with him in March, my goal was simply to build trust and create better communication between us. Since then, Tucker has made more progress than I ever imagined. Today, I can comfortably touch and groom him, something that felt almost impossible when we first began.

## Building Confidence Through Hoof Handling

One of the skills we are currently working on is hoof handling. Tucker now willingly lifts all four feet when asked, which is a huge milestone. Although he is comfortable picking up his feet, he is still learning to accept having them handled while they are raised. We are taking things slowly and allowing him to gain confidence one step at a time.

## Learning New Skills and Equipment

Tucker has also become much more accepting of equipment. He now wears a halter and has started learning to work with a lead line. Every new lesson is introduced gradually, using positive reinforcement to help him feel successful and relaxed throughout the process.

## The Importance of Buddy's Friendship

One of the most important developments in Tucker's life has been the arrival of his friend, Buddy. Buddy plays a big role in Tucker's education. When introducing something new, I often let Tucker watch Buddy first. Seeing a calm and confident horse perform a task seems to help Tucker understand what is expected.

Buddy lives in the pasture next to Tucker. While it is not common to keep a gelding beside a stallion, the arrangement has worked surprisingly well. We introduced them carefully and monitored their interactions closely. Thankfully, there was never any sign of aggression.

Their bond has continued to strengthen over time. Buddy may roam around his pasture, but whenever Tucker calls, he usually comes right over. During training sessions, Buddy is often nearby, seemingly eager to participate. Naturally, he has also figured out that treats are part of the routine and is convinced that any reward Tucker receives should also belong to him.



## Preparing for Future Care

As Tucker continues to progress, we are preparing for future visits from the farrier and veterinarian. Much of our training is designed to help him feel comfortable and confident during those experiences. Every small achievement brings us one step closer to that goal.

## Looking Back on Three Remarkable Months

This journey has taken patience, consistency, and a great deal of trust, but the results have been remarkable. Tucker continues to remind me that with understanding, positive reinforcement, and time, even the smallest victories can lead to extraordinary progress.





## Nola's Journey to Recovery

By Cynthia Anderson

On April 15, GERL received a call from the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) Law Enforcement Division requesting assistance with a severely injured mare that had fallen through the floor of a trailer and left by the side of the road. Josie Hardage and I immediately drove to pick her up, but nothing could have prepared us for the heartbreaking condition we encountered.

The mare, whom Josie named Nola, had a body condition score of 1 and was suffering from severe leg injuries that were heavily infested with maggots. She had very little hoof remaining on her hind feet and was in obvious, excruciating pain. Despite her condition, Nola displayed an incredible will to live, and we were determined to give her every opportunity to recover.

With the help of Dr. Cutsforth and veterinary technician Carla from Purrfect Pet Mobile Vet, Nola's rehabilitation began. The initial treatment required nearly four hours to remove the maggots from her wounds before additional care could be provided. She was treated with dewormer, antibiotics, pain medication, and supportive care designed to address both her immediate needs and long-term recovery.



Today, just two months later, Nola's wounds are healing, and she is steadily gaining weight. While she still faces a long road ahead, her progress has been remarkable and gives us great hope for her future. Her resilience and fighting spirit continue to inspire everyone involved in her care.

It has now been a while since our last update, and we are thrilled to report that Nola continues to improve each day. The photos we have shared, while graphic, demonstrate the incredible healing that has taken place and the steady progress she is making. As we focus on restoring her health, we are also beginning the search for the loving forever home she deserves.



With *Your* Help we...*Will* Make A Difference!

*Continued from page 29*



## Nola's Journey to Recovery

By Cynthia Anderson

*Continued from page 28*

Nola's recovery will be lengthy and expensive, but with your support, we can continue providing the specialized care she needs. We are deeply grateful for the generous donations already received, and we humbly ask for your continued assistance.

Please consider making a donation through the GERL website at [gerlltd.org](http://gerlltd.org) and earmark your gift for Nola so that all funds will go directly toward her care. Donations of hay, feed, bandages, and other supplies are also greatly appreciated. If you would like to donate supplies, please send us a message.

Thank you for standing with Nola on her journey toward healing. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in her life and help give her the future she deserves



## GERL Featured in Boom Magazine

By Patty Livingston



Boomathens Magazine is a 50+ Baby Boomer local publication based in Athens, GA, dedicated to showcasing the diverse culture and community of the area with the Boomers in mind. With a focus on highlighting local events, businesses, and stories, Boomathens Magazine(<https://boomathens.com>)

provides a platform for residents to stay connected and informed about what's happening in their city. GERL was lucky enough to have Betsy from Boom attend our annual meeting and take photos for an upcoming article on volunteering after fifty, written by Arlene Williams. The article is scheduled to appear in the Summer edition of Boom, so be on the lookout.



## Baby Samantha's Big Adventure

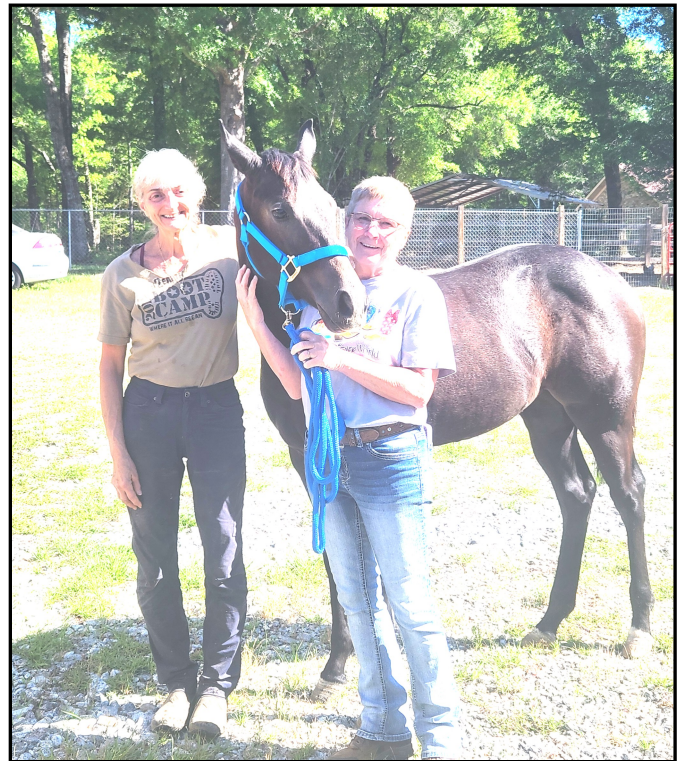
*By CeCe Calli*

Our sweet little foal, Samantha, has found her forever home and a wonderful new mom. From the moment Hope met Samantha, it was love at first sight. The connection between them was immediate, and it quickly became clear that Samantha had found the perfect person to continue her journey.

Watching our rescued horses find loving homes is one of the greatest rewards of what we do, and Samantha's adoption is no exception. It has been a joy to watch this little filly grow, and we are excited to see what the future holds for her.

Hope loves trail riding in the mountains and camping with her horses, so we have no doubt that Samantha will enjoy a lifetime filled with adventure, new experiences, and plenty of love. We look forward to following Samantha as she matures and becomes Hope's trusted riding partner.

Congratulations to Hope and Samantha! Thank you for giving this special little girl the loving forever home she deserves. We wish you both many years of happiness, unforgettable adventures, and cherished memories together.



Happy trails, to Samantha!

## New Forever Home for Beau

*By CeCe Calli*



Beau overlooks his new digs.

Beautiful Beau has found his forever home with Walter and Shawna!

Beau came to the Georgia Equine Rescue League alongside Fred and Lola through the new Georgia Department of Agriculture Law Enforcement Division. From the very beginning, he showed tremendous potential, and thanks to the dedication of his foster mom, Tina, he blossomed into the wonderful horse he is today. Tina did an outstanding job helping Beau gain the confidence and skills he needed to prepare for adoption.

Congratulations to Walter and Shawna on welcoming Beau into their family, and heartfelt thanks to Tina and everyone who believed in him and supported his journey. Stories like Beau's remind us that with patience, compassion, and a second chance, horses can truly find their happily ever after.



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"As a convenience you can donate or signup/renew your membership on our website <https://gerlltd.org>"

Sign Up Today to help starved, abused and neglected horses in Georgia!

Sign Up Today to help starved, abused and neglected horses in Georgia!

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County: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a horse owner

\_\_\_\_\_ Although I do not own a horse, I would like to support the GERL

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in becoming a GERL Foster Home

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in becoming a GERL fundraising event volunteer

Annual membership dues are:

\$35.00 Family: \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 Single: \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 Junior (12 & under): \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

\$50.00 Club, Organization or Business: \_\_\_\_\_ \$1000.00 Lifetime: \_\_\_\_\_

Miscellaneous Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_ for the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ for the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: GERL  
Mail to: GERL - P.O. Box 328 - Bethlehem, GA 30620

Visit our website: Donate, Membership and Current information: <https://gerlltd.org>



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