



**Merry Christmas 2012!**

# PTHA NEWS

Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association Newsletter

*We ARE Pennsylvania Racing*

Volume 6 2012



## PTHA Hosts THA National Meeting In Philly Leads Region in Medication Rules, Welfare of Horses

The PTHA hosted the Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association meeting at the Hotel Palomar in Philadelphia November 15 and 16. Medication and racehorse health and safety topped the agenda, with most of the second day devoted to review of the New York Task Force Report on Racehorse Health and Safety.

In attendance were representatives of THA member associations: Aqueduct, Saratoga and Belmont/New York; Arlington Park, Hawthorne, and Fairmount Park /Illinois; Laurel and Pimlico/Maryland; Monmouth Park/New Jersey; Delaware Park/Delaware and Parx Racing/Pennsylvania.

"This particular meeting solidified the support of the mid-Atlantic horsemen regarding the health and safety recommendations of the NY Task Force Report and certain reforms with regard to medication," said Alan Foreman, Chairman and CEO of the THA. "The THA has historically taken a leadership role on these issues, and this was another opportunity for us to do so."

With a round table format, Day One started with each horsemen's group updating the THA on current issues facing their tracks. Hurricane Sandy's



From left: PTHA board members Randy Swisher, Kate DeMasi, Edward Lehman, PTHA First Vice-President Mary Kernan, Treasurer Phil Aristone, President Salvatore DeBunda, and Executive Director Michael Ballezzi in attendance at the quarterly Board of Directors Meeting of the THA in November at the Hotel Paloma in Philadelphia.

aftermath, horsemen vs. management, workers' compensation, and the affects of slot machine revenue were just a few of the topics discussed.

A theme throughout was the relationships between track management and the horsemen, which New Jersey's Monmouth Park horsemen solved by leasing the historic track from its owners, the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority.

Early in the discussions, it became apparent that the PTHA itself has taken the lead in handling many of the issues and is a model in many ways for other jurisdictions. (continued on page 3)



Alan Foreman, Chairman and CEO of THA, Inc., and Dr. Scott Palmer, New York Task Force Chairman and owner of the New Jersey Equine Clinic in Clarksburg, NJ.

## PTHA Looks Back on 2012 Accomplishments



Between many meetings in Harrisburg, articles in our PTHA News and local papers, a personal appeal for members to contact their legislators, and our promotional video, it would be difficult to argue that the success in preserving our funding was not the most important accomplishment of 2012.

PTHA President Sal DeBunda and Executive Director Mike Ballezzi led the charge, along with members of the breeders and other PA racing organizations, that stopped the diversion of \$72 million from the Horse Racing Development Fund.

Many of the PTHA's other milestones are a direct result of the funding, including new benevolence programs, backstretch renovation, and the success of our retirement program for horses.

(see From the Desk of the Executive Director on page 3)

## President's Message

Salvatore M. DeBunda, Esquire



In mid-November, the PTHA hosted one of the quarterly board meetings of the THA. We were proud to show off the City of Philadelphia to our counterparts from Illinois, Delaware, New York, Maryland and New Jersey, and although there was socializing, great food, and good company, it was obvious during two full days of discussion that we all had many things in common and were all intent on securing the safe and solid future of Thoroughbred racing.

Our history with the THA goes like this: The PTHA was a founding member of the THA, but left in 2000, and we continued to operate independently until last December. It was our decision back then to focus on our situation in Pennsylvania, which at the time was an important turning point for us, due to the prospect of slot machines coming to the Commonwealth and offering the very real prospect of helping to move our breeding and racing industry to an elite status in the nation.

While the PTHA has achieved great results in our Commonwealth, many of the current and future issues impacting the racing industry will best be dealt with regionally, rather than just in Pennsylvania. There is strength in numbers!

One topic of concern came through clearly in every discussion on our agenda, and that was the clear interest that every horseman and horsewoman showed very passionately: The welfare of the racehorse, during and after his career. And that, of course, linked right into medication and the lasix issue.

What came through most clearly in our discussions is that our PTHA has been more successful than many of our counterparts in securing the very necessary respect of track amangement at Parx. We listened to other horsemen's associations lament their frustration over the disconnect between track owners and the very people who put on the show. New Jersey had even gone so far as making management and horsemen one and the same: They leased their Monmouth Park oval from the State, and we all wish them the best of luck in this unusual endeavor.

In 2013, we look forward to coming much closer to closing the Lasix debate, and to secure better testing methods for medication. Both Executive Director Mike Ballezzi, the THA board, and myself will build on what we have gained in the last few years when it comes time to fight for our budget this year--a tough battle in 2012, which we won, but are definitely not ready to rest on our laurels. With our hard work educating legislators, and supporting those who have supported us, we are hoping to remain among the most competitive track in the East in regard to purse money, medical benefits and pensions.

In spite of the downturn in the economy across the nation, and the hardship many in our area endured during Hurricane Sandy this year, we have stayed together, kept our trainers, and backstretch workers secure, and can look forward with optimism to 2013.

Speaking for Mike Ballezzi, our PTHA board, and our staff, I'd like to wish everyone a very happy holiday season, a Merry Christmas and the best of luck in 2013.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Salvatore M. DeBunda".

PTHA PRESIDENT



**Six New Barns Completed in 2012**

The spacious new barns on the Parx backstretch now number 13, with trainers and their horses scheduled to be in the latest two by December 21. Parx management kept to schedule with the planned six new structures finished in the past year, and anticipate that the 2013 schedule will stay the same, allowing almost half of the backstretch to have new barns at this time next year.

Without exception, the new barns with improved ventilation, attached feed rooms and wash stalls have been met with rave reviews. The barn-building is just part of the \$35 million backstretch renovation plan.

## From the Desk of the Executive Director Michael P. Ballezzi, Esq.

### 2012 PTHA Accomplishments



- After an aggressive outreach and educational campaign by the PTHA and the members of the Pennsylvania Equine Coalition, the legislature and governor approved a state budget that did not divert \$72 million from the RHDF, as had originally

been proposed. Of the total amount, \$67 million in funding was restored

- The PTHA hosted the track's biggest day of racing on September 22 with two \$1 million graded stakes: the Gr1 Cotillion Stakes and the Gr2 PA Derby.



- Parx Racing cards four graded races, and on November 30, 2012, the American Graded Stakes Committee awarded Grade 3 status to two additional Parx races, the Gallant Bob Handicap and the Parx Sprint Dash, bringing the total to six.

- Along with other members of the PA Equine Coalition, the PTHA addressed media criticism of the treatment of racehorses in our industry in response to a series of articles in the New York Times.

- Inducted the second class of Parx Racing's Hall of Fame, and along with Parx Racing, created the Hall of Fame



room on the third floor, decorated with memorabilia, Peb caricatures, plaques and statues of leading horsemen and horses throughout the history of the track.

- The PTHA became a sponsor for It's Post Time, a live internet radio show hosted by JJ and Samm Graci. Transmitting live on PA Derby/Cotillion Day, It's Post Time added to the live television coverage of Parx Racing's two \$ million events.

- The PTHA sponsored both a soccer league for the third year, and the Parx gate crew's softball team for the first time.



on agriculture and the Commonwealth's economy. This video, along with the diligent efforts of PTHA President Sal Debunda and Executive Secretary Mike Ballezzi, helped to educate legislators and preserve our funding for the Racehorse Development Fund.

- The PTHA's Granny Youman's Scholarship Fund awarded a record number of scholarships in 2012 after opening applications up to dependents of backstretch workers.



- The PTHA rejoined the Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, and hosted its quarterly regional meeting in Philadelphia. The THA, comprised of horsemen's associations representing racetracks in MidAtlantic, takes a leadership role on issues that are important to the industry.

- The PTHA continues to fund state of the art medication testing with Dr. Lawrence Soma and the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center. PA has moved to the forefront of the industry supporting the research of the metabolism and withdrawal times of therapeutic medication.

- The PTHA's Turning For Home took in its 850th retiree, and was once again acknowledged by the industry as



a model program for other racetracks. TFH was invited to both national and international racing symposiums to speak on the program. In 2012, the program sponsored divisions in the newly formed all-Thoroughbred shows in the midAtlantic to help promote racehorses in their second careers.

## Granny Youmans Scholarship Fund Awards Five Students in 2012

This year, for the first time in its 11 year history, five students were awarded scholarships from the Granny Youmans Scholarship Fund.

Marcela Rodriguez, Ana Gonzalez and her brother Jorge received their scholarship money this fall, while cousins Jeff Evans and Matt Cowan were each awarded checks in February for programs at Lincoln Technical Institute



Three of the five 2012 recipients of scholarships from the Granny Youmans Fund: Marcela Rodriguez (left), Ana Gonzalez, and Jorge Gonzales. Ana attends Temple University, while both Jorge and Marcela are students at Bucks County Community College.

Chaplain Rick Bunker, who oversees the program along with Chairman PTHA Executive Director Mike Ballezzi and Office Manager Connie Youmans, for whose mother the program was named, believes more and more students will benefit from the funding.

"Changing the criteria this year to allow dependents of backstretch workers to apply has increased the number of younger people who are in college or technical school and can use the financial assistance," said Bunker. "It is a help for their families, as well, who may not be able to afford the increasing cost of education."

In 2012, a record number of applications were filed -- all were dependents of hotwalkers, grooms, exercise riders and other stable employees.

"The program is not just for college aged young adults, however," said Bunker. "Anyone who has a Pennsylvania license, has been working at Parx Racing fulltime for the past

six months, and wants to further his or her education, or go back to school to learn another trade, is eligible for scholarship money," he said.

Marcela Rodriguez is the 20-year-old daughter of Jose and Carmen Rodriguez. Her father works as a groom for the Dutrow Stable, while her mother is a hotwalker with Cynthia Reese.

Born in NJ and a graduate of Bensalem High School, Marcela is currently in her third semester at Bucks Community College plans to transfer to Holy Family University upon completion of her Associate's Degree. She has been working observing elementary school children in their classes at Faust Elementary.

"Although I used to help my dad at the track sometimes, I have always wanted to be a teacher," said Gonzales. "I especially love working with little kids, and I am looking forward to teaching first or second grade."

Gonzales, who speaks Spanish at home, believes that being bilingual will be helpful as a teacher, and is also fluent in French, scoring an A+ in her fourth year of the language.

Brother and sister Jorge and Ana Gonzales were born in Peru, and moved to the United States in February, 2009, following their father who arrived here five years earlier.

Although Jorge, age 21, works in graphic design as a hobby, his main interest is to become a chef.

"I am taking classes at Bucks County, and some on line, too," he said. "Right now, I take composition, introduction to business, and online communication, but after I earn 62 credits my course will be "Chef apprenticeship."

Ana is a biology major at Temple who hopes to become a dentist. She already plans to apply to dental school at the University of Pennsylvania in 2015 after a year off.

"I'd like to specialize in maxillofacial surgery," she said.

"But will take a year off after undergraduate to gain some experience as an intern. I have always wanted to be a dentist after my sister's friend went to dental school in Peru, and used to practice on me when I was a child!"

"The Granny Youmans Scholarship money really helped me," she said. "I was able to earn a certificate that states Spanish language will be used in a health care facility, and that was very important to me. I would not have been able to get that without the extra money."

**Applications, available in both Spanish and English, can be obtained from Chaplain Bunker's office in the rec hall, or in the PTHA Office in the Administration building.**

## Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for 2013

from Salvatore DeBunda, President  
Michael P. Ballezzi, Executive Director,  
the Board Members and Staff  
of the PTHA



**(THA meeting continued from page1)**

What most horsemen's groups shared was a concern for track management and horsemen to work together, a desire to maintain or increase their yearly number of racing dates, to protect their purse structure and to educate government on the importance of Thoroughbred racing to the economy in their states.

PTHA President Sal DeBunda, offered that the reason Parx Racing management and the horsemen work so well together in Pennsylvania is a result of hard work, mutual respect and trust.

"Mike and I, along with our board helped to build that relationship," said DeBunda. "It was long, slow hard work."

On Day Two, attention centered on the New York Task Force Report on Racehorse Health and Safety, which was created in response to the number of breakdowns at Aqueduct early this year.

Discussion of the Task Force report led to concerns over the use of the steroid and bronchodilator clenbuterol, as well as the overuse of Intra-articular injections.

Dr. Scott Palmer, head of the investigation for NYRA explained the depth of the study and its final recommendations for medication.

"The problems are not just limited to New York," he said. "And the recommendations are for every racing jurisdiction. Increase the scrutiny of the horses that are in and racing and increase accountability to those responsible for those horses."

"We need to do this to build a fan base. It says we care about the issue and are moving forward."

PTHA Executive Mike Ballezzi indicated that the PTHA is on board with accountability, but says there is an inherent danger.

"We have a statute in PA that if a trainer is suspended twice, he can be barred from racing," he said. "His career is at stake, so as long as there are severe penalties, we need to push back with the science that can support it."

Alan Foreman said although safety is an issue that resonates with all of us, every jurisdiction has different rules. "There is the notion in the industry that Congress will not regulate our racing," he said. "The conclusion in Washington, however, is that our industry is totally unorganized, and that we don't have a united front. The New York Times articles are believed."

"The Task Force recommendations can be implemented nationally," he said. Everyone, including the media, is sitting back and saying 'now what?' New York has implemented everything quickly because of the Governor's orders, but the worst thing the rest of us can do is not do anything."

PTHA President Sal DeBunda felt optimistic about the outcome of two-day meeting.

"We rejoined the THA a year ago, feeling that the problems facing horsemen are multi-state, and we need to be a part of solving them," said DeBunda. "On the table during the last two days were many problems we had conquered, and we could offer our experience to those who were now where we had been in the past."

"We found that we share the need to continue to make it a priority to educate our legislators and management regarding the importance of our industry, we need to monitor the public perception of our industry and raise our fan base, and to do that we will continue put the safety of the horses and jockeys at the top of the list."

## LaSalle Nurses Finish Blood Pressure Project

Galyna Vorokhib, Milana Mazharska and Susan Kelly (photo, from right to left) are looking forward to their last semester of nursing school at LaSalle University this year.

But first, as part of their studies, the women had to finish up a three month project at Parx Racetrack which helped teach backstretch workers about monitoring their blood pressure and staying healthy.

December 1 was the last day this particular group of nurses would set up at a lunch table in Ron's Backstretch Cafe, complete with charts, a blood pressure quiz, and healthy treats of apples and pears for those who took part in the testing.

Under the watchful eyes of instructor Shainy Thaiparam (standing), the three students keep careful records of returning patients, and offer suggestions to the grooms, hotwalkers and exercise riders who otherwise may not understand the importance of monitoring their blood pressure.

"We have had almost 100 people sit and get their pressure taken," said Vorokhib. "Many of them return every Saturday that we have been here to have it checked again, some we do not see anymore. But those who take our four question quiz can detect symptoms and hopefully control their problem."

At least two of their "patients" have had blood pressure so high that the nurses had to refer them to a doctor's care.

"If they had not stopped to see us, they never would have known what a dangerous situation they were in," Vorokhib said.

Although the blood pressure project has come to an end, other LaSalle nurses are on the Parx backside every Tuesday and Saturday for precursory health exams, to answer questions, or administer flu, pneumonia and tetanus shots.



## Gallant Bob and Parx Sprint Stakes Assigned Gr3 Status for 2013

The American Graded Stakes Committee recently awarded Parx Racing with a new Grade 3 status for two of its previously ungraded stakes, bringing the total number of the Bensalem track's graded races to seven, including the Grade 1 \$1 million Cotillion Stakes and the Grade 2 \$1 million PA Derby.

Ben's Cat broke the course record while winning the 2012 Parx Dash Handicap on June 17, and returned to win the \$350,000 Grade 3 Turf Monster Handicap at Parx two months later.



GSP Racing Stable's Well Spelled winning the Gallant Bob Stakes in 2013. Trained by Ben Perkins, Jr., the grey is 4 for 8 lifetime.



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# Chaplain's Corner

**Chaplain Rick Bunker**

**After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." - Matthew 2:1-2 (NIV)**

This year, as we enter the "Holiday Season", I find myself focusing on the Wise men. I am not sure why that is, but as I have been asking myself that question, I thought maybe it is because of the perilous times we are in, that will require us to exercise wisdom in order to navigate through. I will try not to lecture on the fact that it was the exercise of things other than wisdom that got us into these times – thinking that fundamental principles were no longer operative in these postmodern times, ignorance of foundational truths, or not particularly caring about long term vitality. I will just share some observations that I have regarding these Wise men from the New Testament book of Matthew.

The one thing that I have liked about them since I was a boy and still admire them for is that they were up for an adventure. The trip that they took was roughly a thousand miles and would take several months; it would take serious planning to prepare for and significant persistence to complete. In the movie, *The Nativity Story* (12/2006 in theaters), my favorite scenes are of the Wise men getting ready to travel and traveling. There is humorous dialogue about dietary demands, scheduled events that would be missed, what they would tell others they were doing, and what others would think – in the end they go and do what they are being led to do.

This brings me to the next observation – their awareness. Their awareness was what caused them to see the star. They were alert and attentive and this led to an awareness of something new and different; and an excitement that led to this historic journey. One thing leads to another, as so often is the case and there becomes an ever growing awareness that something really big is happening. Something that had been prophesied since the beginning in many different ways and at many different times throughout the Scriptures is now unfolding before their eyes (and everyone else's although they did not see it).

Jesus often would say to crowds and to even His own disciples, "Do you have eyes and fail to see". Well the Wise men saw the star and they didn't "just stand back a let it all be" like in *Jungleland*. They paid the price, bore the burden, and journeyed into the unknown following the new light that had shown into their awareness, beginning to increase it in ways they could scarcely begin to imagine and would have never realized but for their willingness to follow what may have been little more than a hunch that would have caused lesser persons to just roll over and go back to sleep. These men were not lightweights in any sense. They were priest kings who were highly educated, highly sought after, and highly consulted on all sorts of issues. They were from the highest socio-economic stratum of their day. They had important things to do. They considered following this star and finding this new born King to be most important.

Their awareness led them to an acceptance of what needed to be done next – follow that star – knowing it would not be easy or safe. They were not disappointed. After the long journey with plenty of twists and turns that I am running out of space to tell you about, "they were overjoyed...coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him."

There is something overwhelming about realizing that these powerful and wise men, as Scripture tells us, were "overjoyed" by seeing a baby in these humble circumstances and "they bowed down and worshiped him." They were not disappointed, or doubtful. They would be rewarded again and again as they would certainly recollect the events silently and with one another; perhaps, speaking of them in light of reports in years to come of a miracle man in Palestine.

It is hard for me to imagine that others did not also see the star, but if they did, they did not follow it.

I pray that in the closing days of 2012 and into 2013 we will not fear adventure, we will have growing awareness, and wisdom of acceptance to accomplish the missions of our day following the light that God still shines into our world. This is your mission if you should choose to accept it – do this and you will not live a life of regrets but rather one of rewards beyond your wildest imaginations.



# Backstretch Views



Chelly Martinez and her 24-year-old son, soccer player Vladimir Cespedes, taking a break from morning work in Ron Dandy's barn, where Chelly is assistant trainer.

## Chelly Martinez Proud of Soccer Player Son

Chelly Martinez is hard to miss: she's got dark pink hair and is usually seen zipping around Ron Dandy's barn in a colorful blurr as she organizes a busy morning in Barn 29 as Dandy's assistant. In the afternoons, she ponies horses to the gate.

A native of the Dutch Island, Curacao, she and her two children, Vladimir and Dee, who recently graduated from nursing school, are United States citizens, although her son has been drawn back to the island to pursue his dream of playing professional soccer.

"I have played on club teams in both Philadelphia and Boston, but my uncle suggested I try out for the semi-professional team down in Curacao," said Vladimir.

In spite of a couple of injuries, he made the team, and has been playing in his native country for eight months. Home in Philadelphia now for a few weeks, he is walking hots and learning to rub horses for Scott Lake, but expects to return to the island, and soccer, at the end of December.

## Trainer Ramon Preciado's Son Confirmed

Parx trainer Ramon Preciado was a proud father who watched his 14-year-old son, Ramon, Jr., celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Bristol, PA on December 2.

Alongside his sponsor, family friend Sergio Marques, eighth grader Ramon accepted the sacrament from Bishop Robert P. Maginnis from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

The trainer and his wife, Rita, have three other children: Noe, 13; Romero, 9; and Alex, 7.

According to his father, Ramon, Jr. wants to finish school, and after college, would like to be a trainer. He often helps in the Preciado barn when he is not in school.



(From left) Sergio Marques, Ramon Preciado, Jr., and Bishop Maginnis celebrating Confirmation at St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

## PTHA Sponsors Gate Crew's Softball Team



Brian Petrovich, left, at bat, and Steve Clarkson. Sponsored by the PTHA, the Gate Crew made it to the playoffs of the Bensalem softball league this year.



## Ron's Free Raffle for 32" TV Ends December 21

Everyone knows about the free Christmas dinner for backstretch employees and their families in the track kitchen on December 25, but for the second year, Ron Finley will spread Christmas cheer by raffling off a Vizio HD TV, no purchase necessary! Winner announced 12/21.



## LOOK AT THE SAVINGS PTHA MEMBERS HAVE RECEIVED!\*



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## Winter Sale Specials

**At the PTHA's Feed and Stable Supply  
Store in Parx Administration Building**



**Wall or trailer bungee ties \$12**

**Vac's Polos, asst. colors, pkg. of 4 \$15**

**3M Patches, box of 50 \$99**

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Check out weekly specials at [www.patha.org](http://www.patha.org)**



## Summary of AAEP Guidelines for Transitioning the Retired Racehorse

*The following is a synopsis of the AAEP's guidelines for equine practitioners, adoption organizations, and horse owners. We have included the most common injuries seen in the horses retiring to Turning For Home and we hope that it may help owners and trainers understand why not all racetrack injuries can be cured in order for a horse to go on to full use. The entire report offers much more information, including the costs incurred by organizations that rehabilitate and transition these horses after racing. The full report can be found on the AAEP website.*

### MUSCULOSKELETAL CONDITIONS

#### Fetlock (ankle)

Horses with significant decrease in fetlock flexion, even if not exhibiting lameness, may be compromised for significant athletic use. In general, if a horse cannot be maintained for racing with appropriate therapy, it will be difficult to maintain that animal for any use other than very low level work in other capacities. In particular, these animals will be unlikely be sound enough for jumping or dressage.

Fractures of the proximal sesamoids vary greatly and must be individually assessed. Small apical fractures and basal (bottom) fractures without extensive degenerative joint disease and marked suspensory disease will be serviceable for moderate level use.

#### Carpus (knee)

If the damage to the joint surface is not extensive, the horse will be able to transition to low and moderate sport horse use including jumping. If there is extensive osteoarthritis involving any of the joint surfaces, the prognosis is quite guarded. Chip fractures can be removed and improve the athletic prognosis in many cases. Palmar fractures generally carry a less favorable prognosis for any use other than very light pleasure.

#### Tendon and Ligamentous Injuries

Tendonitis of the superflexor tendon is a common cause of retirement in racehorses. The severity of injury will determine the prognosis for other uses. The majority of "bowed" tendons, if treated appropriately and given enough time, will transition to most uses other than racing. Most cases require 10 to 12 months for the horse to be serviceable.

Suspensory ligament injuries may range from a mild strain to complete failure. The latter is not amenable to transition, and unless extensive treatment is instituted, is a life-threatening injury with a poor prognosis for survival.

The external appearance of soft tissue structures (tendons and ligaments) may not reveal the extent of an injury, and it is advisable that ultrasonography be used as an adjunct to physical examination to document the degree of injury in cases where soft tissue is of concern.

### RESPIRATORY (Breathing problems)

#### Upper Airway conditions

Arytenoid chondroitis may severely limit a horse's athletic potential. An endoscopic examination prior to referral to the retirement facility is appropriate to clarify the athletic potential of affected horses.

#### Lower Airway disease

Inflammatory airway disease is not uncommon and must be managed if the horse is to be transitioned at all. Undiagnosed chronic cough may transition to lower level uses, but should be properly diagnosed for the best prognosis. Horses that "bleed" during racing will rarely experience bleeding at other uses unless speed is required such as eventing or barrel racing.

# Turning For HomePage



**Just Turn West** aka Justin enroute to winning Itty Bitty Jumpers Oct. 21 at the All Thoroughbred Show.



**Big Push** (above and right) is a 9yo gelding who came to us double bowed.

Time is all it took, as he is the sweetest, and now, sound, horse. Recently adopted by Elaina Billotte, here he is with Elaina's daughter, Alaura, near State College, PA. Thank you, After the Races in Nottingham!



**Abounding Angel** (from left) with event rider Lisa Fergusson; **Posse in Command** jumping clear in stadium with adopter (center); **Evenings End**, whose adopter Star Carter has nursed him through a badly fractured coffin bone! **Makewayformaizie** plays polocrosse AND makes beautiful wedding photos.



**Your Girlfriend** is the 807th Parx retiree who came into the Turning For Home program, retiring in mid-September and adopted to the wonderful home of Ruth Munroe. Since our start in May 2008, we have helped nearly 850 racehorses from Parx into new careers and safe homes. She is a lucky one - no rehab time needed, just a slow, kind introduction to a home where she took her first trail ride, learned some ring work, and mostly, is held in awe by Ruth and her trainer who constantly extoll the virtues of a Thoroughbred. (we know, as we get weekly updates!!).

The word is truly spreading. All-Thoroughbred horse shows have become the trend, and our horses have made quite a splash in their divisions at local shows in 2012. Like proud parents, we stand alongside the show ring, snapping away with the camera, crossing our fingers for a clear jumping round, and applauding madly when one of our "greenies" and her brave and patient rider (thank you, Jennifer Pennington on Reward the Lady in October) strut their stuff. Turning For Home plans to stay very involved in promoting and sponsoring these shows, as the more people who witness the heart, beauty and agility of these animals, the more will call to offer great homes. We hope all PTHA members who have entrusted us with the care of their injured or retired runners will continue to support our program. We'd love to have you join us grinning in pride at the in-gate when your former racehorse is toting around a child in lead-line, or showing off in the costume class, or pricking his ears over a jump. You'll be asking for the video!!

**Want a perfect Christmas gift for your horse-y friends? Support Turning For Home by purchasing a TFH Equi-robe, a warm cooler-type burgundy blanket made from soft velour and terry cloth, and embroidered on both sides with the TFH logo. just \$110. Proceeds go to our organization. Call 215-272-6716 for pictures and information.**

TURNING FOR HOME, INC. IS A 501 c 3 NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION WHOSE MISSION IS TO PREVENT PARX RACING'S RETIRED THOROUGHBREDS FROM SLAUGHTER.

CALL 215-272-6716 FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO MAKE A DONATION. WWW.TURNINGFORHOME.ORG. P.O. BOX 300, BENSALEM, PA 19020

**Pennsylvania Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association**  
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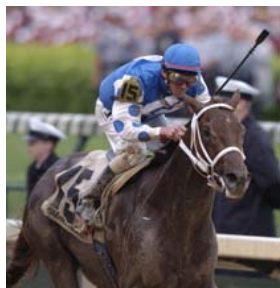
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Photos by Skip Dickstein.

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