

Dear Friends,

We are, without question, in an amazing period of rebirth and growth for our Virginia Horse Center. This is a time of pride in what, together, we are accomplishing. It is also an era of bold and radiant ambition for our future.

The things for which we should be justifiably proud would not be possible were it not for the extraordinary contributions from those who love and have chosen to support the Virginia Horse Center. This support manifests itself in many different ways. We are grateful to those who have been generous donors, for those who serve on the Board of Directors and the Advisory Council, for those who volunteer their time and share their talent and, not least, those who have simply been loyal friends throughout the years.

The wonderful renaissance that we are experiencing becomes apparent when we see such things as the beautifully landscaped new entrance and the shining, newly painted cupolas upon all the barns. Projects involving storm water management, a significant barn renovation, and extensive landscaping improvements are just a few of the efforts we have underway to improve the exhibitor and spectator experience.

As we embark upon the 2020 show season, these impressive undertakings have been primarily funded by significant gifts from our family of generous donors. Thanks to this support, visitors will now benefit from improvements to the lighting and ventilation in the Coliseum, the introduction of the Isabel de Szinay Complex, Dee Dee Competition Arena, Roosevelt Warm Up Arena and major aesthetic and green space enhancements that will create a more natural environment within our immediate facility for the enjoyment of our athletes and visitors alike.

We are reaping the benefits of all of these positive developments. Event organizers are noticing the improvements and are once again considering VHC as a preferred venue for multiple uses. Early this year, VHC hosted the Blueridge BMX Nationals, a truly family-friendly event. April finds us hosting the Renaissance Convention and in June we will welcome for the first time the Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association's Appalachian Championship. These unique offerings join over eighty equestrian events scheduled for our one-of-a-kind venue in 2020.

We are not only looking forward to an exciting new year and show season, we are striding confidently into a most remarkable future. I join Board Chair Gardy Bloemers in expressing pride and gratitude that all of us who love and support the Virginia Horse Center are taking these strides together.

Sincerely,

John Nicholson
CEO