



**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

**2015-2016**



**30 YEARS**

*Virginia  
Horse Center*  
Foundation<sup>TM</sup>

**The Virginia  
Horse Center  
Foundation is  
a 501(c)(3)  
non-profit  
organization.**

## **Our Mission**

The Virginia Horse Center Foundation provides a world class facility hosting regional, national and international equestrian events.

## **Vision Statement**

The Virginia Horse Center Foundation envisions a unique, bucolic landmark to honor and celebrate the timeless, special bond between mankind and the horse through safe, fair and spirited equestrian competition.



**THE VIRGINIA HORSE CENTER FOUNDATION** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization which owns and operates the Virginia Horse Center (VHC). With the support of the Foundation, the Virginia Horse Center serves as an economic and cultural asset for the benefit of the Rockbridge County community and the Commonwealth of Virginia. An important resource to the East-Atlantic equine competition circuit, the Virginia Horse Center hosts all disciplines of equestrian sport, standing at the forefront of Virginia's \$1.2 billion equine community. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Mr. Ernest M. Oare  
*Chairman of the Board & President*

Mr. H. E. (Buddy) Derrick, Jr.  
*Vice President*

Mr. Timothy B. Harmon  
*Treasurer*

Ms. Gardner L. Bloemers  
*Secretary*

Mrs. Karin Banks  
Mr. Thomas M. Clarke  
Mr. William C. Heizer  
Ms. Elizabeth Mason Horsley  
Mr. Tim Jennings  
Mr. Patrick Mullins  
Mr. Art Perritt  
Mr. Brian Ross  
Mrs. Ann Tierney Smith  
Mr. Kenneth M. Wheeler, Jr.  
Mr. Christopher Wynne

# Dear Friends,

**MUCH OF WHAT WE DO AT THE VIRGINIA HORSE CENTER** involves choosing winners. The ultimate objective is to win a blue ribbon, no matter what sport, breed or discipline.

Unequivocally, the Virginia Horse Center is a winner. It is a winner because it enjoys the strength of its many friends, has overcome adversity, and is charting an exciting ambitious course for a great future.

The last year has seen historical developments for the Virginia Horse Center. Our partnership with Rockbridge County and the City of Lexington reached new heights with the expansion of the local lodging tax, enthusiastically approved by both the city and the county. These additional funds have made it possible, for the first time in recent memory, to address the much needed deferred maintenance needs of the Virginia Horse Center. These funds do not cover all of our needs, but is a huge step forward. These funds have also made possible the development of a master plan for the physical layout, infrastructure and the environmental viability of the facility.

In addition to enjoying a congenial partnership with the City of Lexington and Rockbridge County, we are actively reaching out to the Commonwealth of Virginia as well as agencies of the Federal government, examining every possibility for partnerships, funding and investments. Our robust message is that the Virginia Horse Center is an important contributor to the economic vitality of Virginia and the Eastern Seaboard. For the first time in a long time, that message is being well received.

Other developments were the creation of a comprehensive Strategic Plan, an inaugural Board Retreat, and new events welcomed in the past 12 months. The future is bright and the upbeat atmosphere surrounding the Virginia Horse Center is positive.

On a personal note, it is an honor to be the Chief Executive Officer of the Virginia Horse Center. Having worked in management of equestrian facilities for more than a quarter of a century, I am proud to say that there are no better people anywhere than the remarkable team at the Virginia Horse Center. These exceptional people, led by Chief Operating Officer Leigh Anne Claywell, along with Chief Financial Officer Sandra Thomas, enjoy the respect of horse people throughout the country. They not only perform their duties with great competence, but also with graciousness worthy of Virginia.

Having completed my first full year in an executive team with Leigh Anne and Sandra, it has been a great privilege working with these extraordinary professionals. In the past year they have risen to the occasion more than once in challenging times and often challenging circumstances.

We are also honored to welcome Jennifer Donovan to our team to coordinate our fundraising and development efforts. Her strong professional background, as well as experience as a rider herself, has already served to reengage our old friends and to win new friends.

After 17 years of proudly leading the Kentucky Horse Park as its Executive Director, and eventually making the decision to retire, holding a similar position never occurred to me. However, having witnessed Ernie Oare's passion and leadership, as well as seeing the dedication of the Virginia Horse



John Nicholson

Center's Board of Directors, I became convinced of the enormous potential of the Virginia Horse Center. It was an honor to be asked to become a part of the Virginia Horse Center family. These are exciting times.

The Virginia Horse Center will succeed as never before. We will succeed because we will foster safe, fair, and spirited equestrian competition. We will succeed because we honor Virginia and the heritage of her land. We will succeed because we honor the horse and value the people who cherish them.

The best days for the Virginia Horse Center are yet to come, and I look forward to welcoming you here to be a part of it.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Nicholson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Nicholson  
Chief Executive Officer  
Virginia Horse Center Foundation

Virginia Horse Center hosted approximately 100 horse shows representing a broad spectrum of breeds and disciplines.



Photograph © 2016 Cushman Brinegar

Brooks Cushman with Jazzy Letters and Elijah Blue

“*My biggest dream for the Virginia Horse Center is that we secure its future as open land for generations to come. My ongoing financial commitment to the Virginia Horse Center (through my Annual Gift, sponsorships and a Bequest) is to support the vision of being the premier horse facility in Virginia.*”

— Brooks Cushman, Virginia Horse Center Foundation donor and Equestrienne

# What We Do

**DURING THE SPRING, SUMMER AND FALL**, the Center is a busy place, particularly on weekends. Although we have wonderful indoor facilities, our schedule is not as full during the winter months. Our goal, to ensure financial viability, is to have our calendar filled with events, both equestrian and non-equestrian, every week of the year.

From July 2015 through June 2016 we hosted approximately 100 horse shows representing a broad spectrum of breeds and disciplines. In addition, our facility was used for numerous other, non-equine events such as the Rockbridge County Fair, 4-H livestock exhibitions & auctions, Alpaca & Llama shows, dog agility trials and Old Time Music Jams, to name just a few.

We hold two types of shows:

- 1. Horse Center Owned Shows:** First, we work with talented show managers to organize shows on our behalf where we collect exhibitor entry fees and pay judges, stewards and other show staff. When we hold an “owned” show all of the profit is directed to the Virginia Horse Center to cover the cost of operations, ongoing maintenance and, when possible, capital improvements.
- 2. Third Party Shows:** In other cases, we rent our facilities to associations, groups or individuals who pay us to lease the facilities. With these “outside” shows we receive fees for the use of our facilities, equipment and staff, and any profit goes to the show owner.

For both owned and third party shows the Virginia Horse Center generates revenue and profits from renting stalls, selling shavings, hay and feed as well as offering camper spaces and golf cart rentals to exhibitors. In 2016, we increased the operational hours of the Winner’s Ring and expanded our catering activities. We have an arrangement with Pure Eats to provide concessions in the Anderson Coliseum, as well as in an on-site food trailer during shows and events.

The long list of Owned and Third Party Shows underscores the fact that the Virginia Horse Center is a cornerstone of Virginia’s equine industry, which, according to a study completed by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia, generates an estimated \$1.2 billion in sales revenues for the Commonwealth each year.

## 2015–2016 SHOWS

### Virginia Horse Center-Owned Shows

Blue Ridge Classic Arabian Horse Show “A”  
Bonnie Blue National Horse Show USEF Rated  
Dressage with a View  
House Mountain Horse Shows (Hunter/Jumpers)  
Lexington Spring Encore “AA”  
Lexington Spring Premiere “AA”  
Lexington National Horse Show “AA”  
Maury River Horse Shows (Hunters/Jumpers)  
Rockbridge Regional Fair and Farm Show  
Polar Bear Shows  
Southern States Fair Horse Show  
Stonewall Country Horse Show I and II “A”

### Third-Party Shows Highlights

American Connemara Pony Society Region III Show  
American Saddlebred Horse Association of  
Virginia Show (ASHAV)  
Arabian Horse Association Region 15 Championship  
Baroque Equestrian Games  
Dressage at Lexington  
Eastern Arabian Show & East Coast Championships  
Eastern Regional Andalusian Horse Club  
Hear the Beat Shows  
(Therapeutic Riding Fundraisers)  
Hollins Spring Welcome Horse Show “A”  
International Andalusian & Lusitano Horse  
Association National Show  
Interscholastic Equestrian Association Zone 3 Finals  
Lee Jackson Classic Appaloosa Show  
Lexington Spring Dressage (Rosinburg Events)  
Maury River Horse Trials  
Maury River Hunter Trials  
Old Dominion Gaited Horse Association Horse Show  
Old Dominion Miniature Horse Club Spring Thaw  
Old Dominion Region Pony Club Jumping  
and Dressage Rally  
Old Dominion Saddlebreds Futurity Show  
Roanoke Valley Horse Show  
Shenandoah Blue Ridge Appaloosa Association  
Classic  
Spring Breakout Quarter Horse Show  
Southwest Virginia Hunter Jumper Association Finals  
US Eventing Association Intercollegiate Team  
Championship  
US Team Penning Association National Event  
Virginia 4H State Championship Horse and  
Pony Show  
Virginia Barrel Classic  
Virginia Classic Llama & Alpaca Show  
Virginia Horse Shows Association Championships  
Virginia International CCI\*/CIC2\*, Horse Trials  
and USEA Area II Championships  
Virginia Presidential Paso Fino Horse Show  
Virginia Quarter Horse Classic  
Virginia Starter Horse Trials  
Virginia State Barrel Finals  
Virginia Paint Horse Club Color Classic and  
Fall Futurity



## Our Passion

### HAVING BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE VIRGINIA HORSE CENTER

long before the first shovel of dirt was dug, the last 30 years have combined my passion for horses along with the evolution of this world class facility. Betty and I have wonderful memories of the many times we have shown our horses at the Virginia Horse Center, even more enhanced by the many friendships forged with the local community. Three decades of being a Virginia Horse Center Board Member, even with its recent challenges, has strengthened my commitment to reach out to the community and, as well, to renew outreach for support from the greater Commonwealth.

After 30 years, and coming to the realization that the Virginia Horse Center has truly been one of our life's passions, Betty and I actively support the Executive Board's visionary plans for an even brighter future. We hope you'll join us in our passion to make dreams come true for the best horse facility in Virginia—ours and yours—by supporting the Virginia Horse Center.

Ernie Oare  
*Virginia Horse Center Foundation*  
*President*



Ernie Oare with Jay Trump following his victory in 1964 of the British Grand National.





Photograph © 2016 ACD Systems Digital Imaging

- **2 cross-country courses, including international levels**
- **19 riding rings**
- **4,000 seat coliseum**
- **8 barns for 750 horses**

## The Facilities

### **OUR FACILITY REMAINS ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST**

accessible of its kind. We are conveniently located in a beautiful part of the Commonwealth, close to Lexington, VA, a small, historical city attractive to many kinds of tourists. The area has over 1,500 hotel rooms to accommodate visitors, which are a mutual benefit for the community and the Virginia Horse Center.

In 2007, when the partnership between the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Virginia Horse Center was dissolved, the Virginia Horse Center became wholly private. Despite the absence of state support, the Virginia Horse Center, a non-profit 501(c)(3) Foundation, its management and Board remain committed to maintaining a standard of excellence seen at state and privately run facilities around the nation. We are committed to the well-being and safety of horse and rider. This commitment is evident for the 100+ events we host at our facility annually. The Virginia Horse Center is also proud to have Hoofbeats Therapeutic Riding Center located on site.

In its 30th year, the center's age and size present daily challenges. However, our new Chief Executive Officer, John Nicholson, is addressing these head on. Nicholson came to the Virginia Horse Center after seventeen years as the head of the Kentucky Horse Park and is routinely credited with the KHP's unprecedented growth and for bringing the first World Equestrian Games to the US. John's experience and abilities are complemented by an experienced and creative management team including Leigh Anne Claywell, Chief Operating Officer, whose experience includes several years in the equestrian industry, including the USEF and Horse Shows in the Sun (HITS) and Sandra Thomas, Chief Financial Officer, a CPA and former CFO of a NASDAQ listed company. We are confident that this management team together with their experienced staff are highly competent and together will launch us into the next decade.



“

*Success for the equine industry in Virginia is of the highest importance to me. Over these many years I have had the honor to be appointed to the original Foundation Board and the Virginia Horse Center Board of Directors numerous times.*

*Luckily, my Bent Tree Farm has experienced the Virginia Horse Center for these last 30 years. Competing six different breeds and disciplines allows us to witness the facility and how it functions for each type of competition. There are beautifully designed indoor and outdoor arenas as well as cross country courses that can offer all equestrians in Virginia, and across the country, the perfect venue for their competitions. All one needs to do is stand on the hill above the stables and arenas viewing the vistas of mountains with extraordinary beauty to realize that this is Virginia's premiere equestrian facility. It must be preserved in its finest form for future generations, for competitors, for education and for spectators that have a great passion for all things related to horses.”*

— Karen Waldron, Bent Tree Farm, Ltd



Karen Waldron and Shawn Ricci

Photograph © 2016 David Bell



The energy and devotion of so many of the Virginia Horse Center's special friends has been nothing less than remarkable.

## Into the Future

**LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT TEN YEARS** of growth and improvement, the Virginia Horse Center Foundation Board began implementing a major planning process, the first part of which was to create a strategic plan. The strategic planning committee solicited input from a broad range of interested parties, including staff, external stakeholders and board members. During the process, the committee developed this strategic plan to provide a disciplined approach to address certain weaknesses and expand on our strengths. Importantly, the plan shows the need to address financial sustainability while working to promote existing and new events.

### GOALS AND STRATEGIES

**Financial Sustainability.** We must ensure the Virginia Horse Center is on solid financial ground for the future. For the first time in the history of the Virginia Horse Center, there is a 10 year financial plan along with the road map on how to achieve our goals. Our long-term goal is to make donations critical to our expansion, not to our bottom line. The intent of the Goals and Strategies is to put the Virginia Horse Center Foundation in a position to fund operations and general maintenance through revenues so that future donations may be used for deferred maintenance and future growth.



Claudia Sarnoff

© 2016 Brant Gamma Photos



Betty and Ernie Oare of EMO Stables



Photograph © 2016 Brant Gamma Photography

Bennett Camp-Crowder on the Cross Country Course at the Virginia Horse Center.

**“***Our extended family lives in central and south-east Virginia and has been involved in the Virginia Horse Center since day one in some capacity. Over the last three decades there have been rewards and some tough challenges. The new management team in place under the leadership of John Nicholson has reinvigorated the horse center. We are excited about the future and invite all our Virginia horse lovers, friends and users to support the Virginia Horse Center.”*

— **Carrie Camp**, Virginia Horse Center donor and long-time supporter

**Create a Master Plan for Capital Improvements.** An effective master plan describes and illustrates the Virginia Horse Center in three dimensions, explains the method of developing the site and illustrates what delivery strategy to use to implement project improvement. This master plan will address the 600 acre site as a whole and improve on horse, pedestrian and traffic flow, physical facilities and renovations, storm water management, environmental impact relating to the Maury River and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, potential rain water capture and alternative energy sources, open space, community land use, landscaping and future equestrian expansion.

**Capital Improvements.** In order to attract and increase the number of exhibitors, we must improve facilities for horses, riders and audiences.

**Increase Revenue Generating Programs.** In order to be a world class facility, we need to increase revenues generated by the number and caliber of events hosted each year.

**Management and Staffing.** The continued growth of the Virginia Horse Center Foundation requires the direction and leadership of a visionary CEO, qualified staff, and employees who are committed to our goals and values, and who demonstrate that commitment in ways consistent with our mission.

**Marketing and Public Relations.** To be recognized as a world class facility, our mission, programs, services, and calendar must be communicated and marketed on a timely basis. In addition, communications among the Board of Directors, administrative staff, program participants and the community are essential to establishing strong working relationships.

**Investment in Philanthropic Development.** Earned revenue (including events) is not currently sufficient to support competitive administrative salaries, deferred maintenance, facilities upkeep, operating expenses, and other needs. We must generate sufficient financial resources and assets to accomplish our mission annually and insure long-term financial sustainability.

**Governance.** We must ensure the Virginia Horse Center Foundation is following best business practices.

**Implement Process to Measure Progress.** We must have definitive measures of success to be able to evaluate our performance.



Photograph © 2016 Judy Robichaux



Photograph © 2016 Judy Robichaux



From left to right: Patty, Laura, Allison and Stephen Lemon

“*The Virginia Horse Center has been the focus of so many happy days as we raised two horse crazy daughters. From pigtails and garters to gutsy handy trips, the girls were surrounded by riders of excellence and integrity. The Virginia Horse Center helped us raise them. One daughter now is a second year pediatric resident; the other daughter graduated from Washington and Lee University this spring and is working at The Chronicle of the Horse. How fortunate our family has been to have the Horse Center in our midst; how fortunate the community is to have such a treasured venue; how fortunate will be the next generations of pigtails and garters.*”

— **Patty Lemon**, Virginia Horse Center donor

We are grateful to supporters whose contributions help to cover the cost of operating and maintaining the Virginia Horse Center.



Photograph © 2016 Judy Robichaux

Faith Copenhaver with daughter Maggie at the Rockbridge Fair, 2015.

## Financials

**THE FISCAL YEAR THAT ENDED JUNE 30, 2016** continued our financial transformation. With a complete team in place and several large new shows added to the calendar, the business delivered an operating profit of \$205K as compared to an operating loss of \$318K in the prior year.

Our primary revenues are generated by shows that we own, followed by revenues generated by third party shows, which rent our facility. Both types of shows generate significant stall fees and in essence we are a “horse hotel.” Our food and beverage service garnered rave reviews but generated a net loss as we continue to grow this part of our business. Net income generated by sales of horse feed, hay and shavings continued to contribute positively to our bottom line. Total operating income is insufficient to cover the cost of operating and maintaining the center so we must rely on our supporters to contribute additional resources to meet our operating needs. As a result of historical resource limitations and the facility’s age, we have significant deferred maintenance challenges that we began to address in 2016.

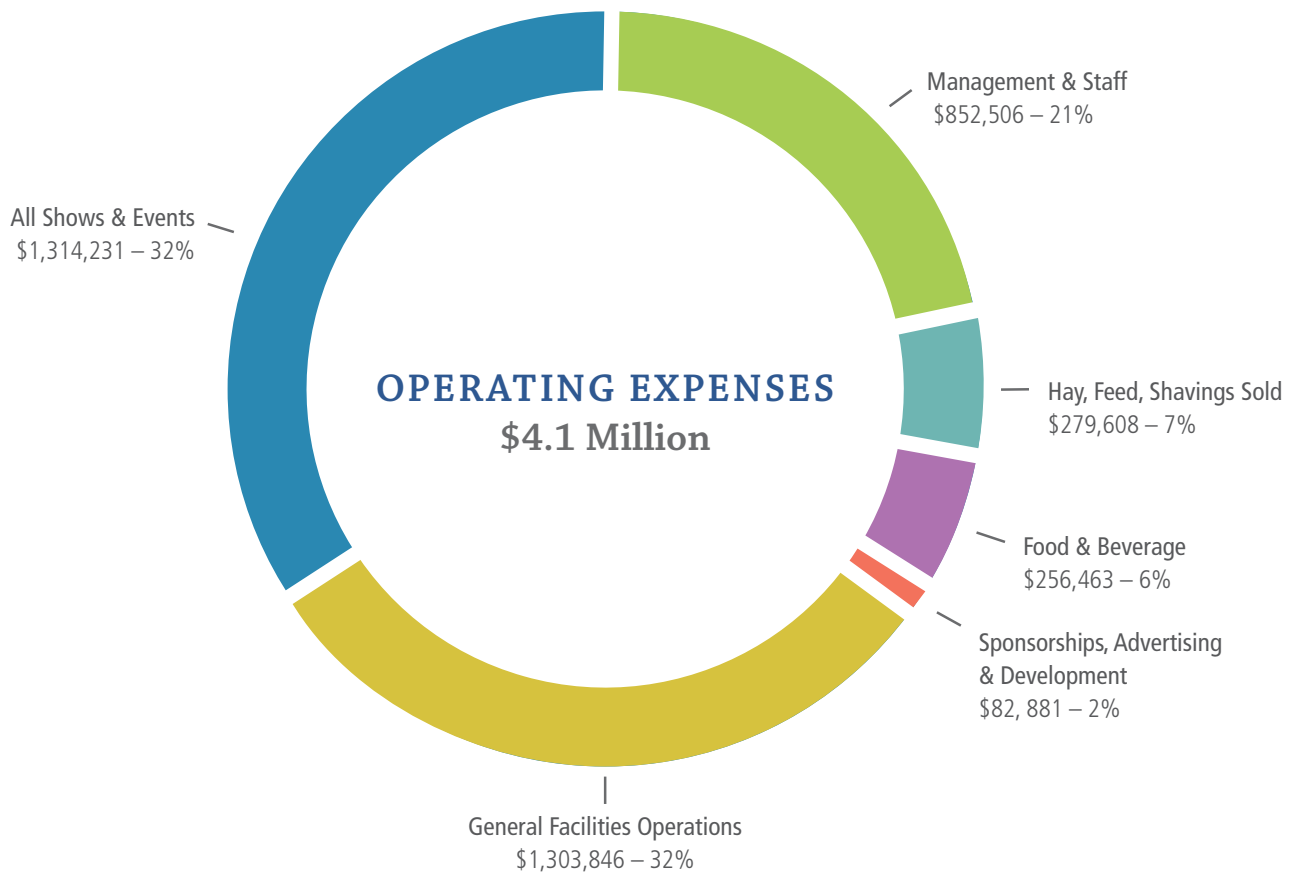
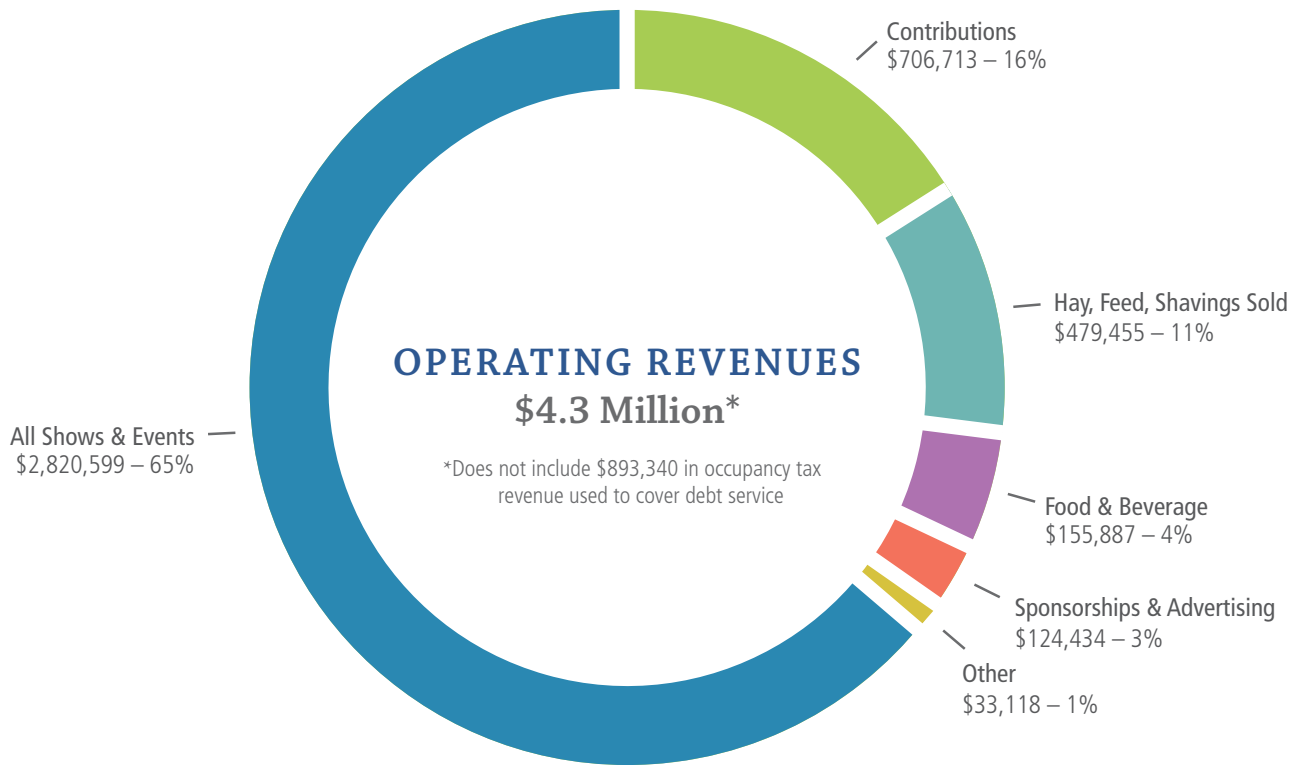
The Virginia Horse Center was originally established as a Public Private Partnership with the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1985. In 2007 when the Commonwealth ceased to provide further funding to the Virginia Horse Center, a newly formed non-profit organization, the Virginia Horse Center Foundation (VHCF) acquired the Horse Center assets through an \$11.5 million loan provided by the United States Department of Agriculture. To provide funds to meet our debt service requirements on this loan both Rockbridge County (“County”) and the City of Lexington (“City”) each

increased their hotel occupancy tax by 2%. In 2015, when it became apparent that these funds were insufficient to meet the annual \$604,555 payment, the County and the City added an additional 1% to the tax for a five-year period.

To begin to address the deferred maintenance issues, in 2016 we were able to secure a \$450,000 loan to be repaid over four years from proceeds of the occupancy tax in excess of those required to meet the annual USDA debt service. From the proceeds of this loan, we invested \$139K, \$124K and \$13K in footing, general maintenance and stall renovations, respectively. By June 30, 2016, we had \$154K remaining to continue to improve the facilities and fund the creation of a master plan.

# Financials

FISCAL YEAR 2016



# Statement of Financial Position

As of June 30

	<b>2016</b> <i>(Audited)</i>	<b>2015</b> <i>(Audited)</i>
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 10,569	\$ 103,658
Grants	330,508	143,167
Contributions receivable	185,684	144,978
Other assets	486,545	162,686
Property and equipment	19,368,590	19,854,453
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 20,381,896</b>	<b>\$ 20,408,942</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and other current liabilities	\$ 678,374	\$ 794,553
Notes payable and long term debt	11,838,009	11,745,837
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 12,516,383</b>	<b>\$ 12,540,390</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>\$ 7,865,513</b>	<b>\$ 7,868,552</b>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<b>\$ 20,381,896</b>	<b>\$ 20,408,942</b>

NOTE: The information above is derived from the Virginia Horse Center Foundation's audited financial statements. For a complete version, including the independent auditor's report, please contact the Foundation's office.

## THE EQUESTRIENNES

**WITHOUT A DOUBT THE EQUESTRIENNES** (our volunteers) have been an integral part of the experience that each visitor—and even staff member—receives the moment they walk on our show grounds. From being welcoming ambassadors, to fundraising, to helping with administrative needs, these incredible volunteers are dedicated through passion and hard work to ensure the Virginia Horse Center is a success.

*Thank you* so much for your commitment of time and energy to the long term success of the Virginia Horse Center.

**Left to right:** Melissa Sager, Donna Martin, Erin Tobin, Brooks Cushman, Martha Mungovan, Lucas Tobin, Ella Eavers, Jennifer Donovan, Henley Gabeau, Rebecca Cohen, Tracy Smith-Oliver and Chris Lego.  
**Not pictured:** Marynell Eyles and Wendy Higginson



# Support the Virginia Horse Center Foundation

Thanks to our supporters whose contributions help to cover the cost of operating and maintaining the Virginia Horse Center.

## RECREATION. EDUCATION. PRESERVATION.

Events hosted by the Virginia Horse Center generate millions of dollars for our local and state economies including agribusiness. They contribute to the physical agility and mental health of participants. Our educational programs teach adults and children the value of good animal husbandry, reducing the incidence of animal abuse and abandonment. The 600 acres we maintain are important in sustaining Virginia's rural character and historical heritage.

Throughout the year, visitors enjoy equine sport, art shows, dog agility, strolling the county fair, listening to music, or walking our nature trails. Not just wood, metal and concrete, the Virginia Horse Center is a dynamic organization of people and animals that provides a place to stage the reality of passions—whether it be a passion about animals or the land we love or the existence of a vibrant economy.

Thanks to you, the Virginia Horse Center can actively continue this proud tradition. All of us on staff value your continued support and look forward to seeing you in the ring, in the stands, on grounds or in town.

Photograph © 2016 Carol Turrentine



# Fiscal Year 2015–2016 Donors and Sponsors

## DONORS

### \$10,000 and above

Anonymous  
Ms. Gardner L. Bloemers and  
Mr. Nicholas R. Duke, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Derrick, Jr.  
Mr. Timothy B. Harmon  
Ms. Jacqueline B. Mars  
Mr. and Mrs. Ernest M. Oare  
JMM Charitable Lead Trust  
The Katharine B. Tierney  
Charitable Foundation  
VCLF Land Trust  
Virginia Horse Industry Board  
Ms. Karen Waldron and  
Mr. Shawn Ricci of the Waldron  
Family Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth M.  
Wheeler, Jr.  
The Wise Foundation

### \$5,000 to \$9,999

William M. Camp Foundation  
– Carrie L. Camp and Thomas  
Crowder

### \$2,500 to \$4,999

Mrs. Karin M. Banks  
Ms. Brooks Cushman  
Mountain View Farm Greenhouses

### \$1,000 to \$2,499

Mr. Henry K. Blair, Jr  
Bryant Crane Charitable Fund  
Carrie S. Camp Foundation, Inc. –  
L. Clay Camp, Jr., Carolina Camp  
Harrison, Page Camp, Bunny and  
Joel Gibbons, Jennifer Camp  
Ms. Diana Cummings  
Ms. Pamela French  
Mrs. Elizabeth Mason Horsley  
Ms. Anna McWane  
Mr. G. Otis Mead, III  
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Perritt  
Mrs. Carol S. Reedy  
Mrs. Louise B. Tardy  
Ms. Peta Jean Wyllie

### \$500 to \$999

Ms. Joan W. Alberti  
Mr. W. Earle Betts, III  
Community Foundation for  
Rockbridge, Bath & Alleghany  
Ms. Katherine Constable  
Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd L. Craighill  
Mrs. Lynlee Dutton  
Ms. Henley F. Gabeau  
Ms. Kim C. Gall  
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Heizer  
Ms. Alison O'Shanick  
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Perry  
Ms. Lynn Rice  
Rockbridge County High School  
Mr. Ray Keith Sears  
Mr. and Mrs. Swen P. Thompson  
The Honorable Laurance VanMeter  
Mr. and Mrs. Harry H. Warner  
Mr. and Mrs. Neil Wroten, Jr.

### \$100 to \$499

Abe & Normas RX, Inc.  
Animal Care Center of Floyd, Inc.  
Ms. Pam Baker  
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Berglund  
Blue Grass Farms  
Mr. and Mrs. William Boyd, III  
Mr. Jim Burnett  
Mr. Thomas M. Chaffee  
Mr. and Mrs. W. Donald Clark  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Conatser  
Ms. Joy Crompton  
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Duhring  
Ms. Dottie Duval Nelson  
Mr. Del Dyer  
Ms. Ella Eavers  
Ms. Jennifer L. Eccles  
Elite Unlimited, LLC  
Ms. Jane Garland  
Mr. and Mrs. Jerald L. Geppert  
Mr. and Mrs. Fred D. Gianakouros  
Mr. and Mrs. Pearce S. Grove  
Dr. and Mrs. AB Hammond, III  
Ms. Joyce Hanson  
Ms. Roberta L. Hirshon  
Ms. Miriam Hirshon Honaker  
Ms. Hillary Thompson Horn  
Ms. Owen Jaeger  
Mr. H. Alexander Johnson  
Ms. Anneliesa King  
Mr. J. Michael Knight  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Lemon  
Mrs. Barbara J. Lindley  
McDaniel Contractor Services  
Ms. Meredith McLaughlin  
Dr. and Mrs. Douglas C. McPherson  
Mr. Patrick Mullins  
Mr. and Mrs. James D. Mungovan  
Mr. William E. Northern  
Old Dominion Region Pony Clubs  
Ms. Mary E. Palm

Pappagallo  
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald A. Perkins  
Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Porter, III  
Ms. Karen Sarver  
Ms. Rebecca Schad  
Dr. Gregory R. Schmidt  
Shenandoah Valley Driving Club  
Mr. Richard Short  
Mr. and Mrs. Preston R.  
Simmons  
Ms. Wendy K. Smith  
Southwest Virginia Dressage  
Association  
Ms. Linda Lee Sutton  
Mr. and Mrs. Mickey Tyler  
Virginia Frame Builders & Supply  
W. R. Deacon & Sons Timber,  
Inc.  
Ms. Susannah S. Via  
Mr. Harry Warner, Jr.  
Woodside Equine Clinic, Inc.  
Mr. Tony Workman  
Yew Hill Farm LLC

### \$99 and below

Ms. Prudence Anderson  
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Anthony  
Mr. and Mrs. Terry Arnett  
Ms. Katrina H. Becker  
Blue Ridge Enterprises  
Blue Ridge Equine Clinic, Inc.  
Mr. William E. Bobbitt, Jr.  
Ms. Judy A. Bonin  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. Buhler  
Mr. and Mrs. Darrell and  
Catherine F. Bush  
Ms. Mary Jane Ciraco Russell  
Ms. Elizabeth Donald  
Ms. Patsy S. Dubay  
Dr. and Mrs. Charles Durbin, Jr.  
Mr. Guy Eavers  
Ms. Stephanie Gonyaw  
Mr. Randall L. Hagan  
Ms. Joyce Herman  
Mrs. Cynthia S. Holbrook  
Mr. and Mrs. Vernon C. Honsinger  
Mr. Garland W. Jenkins  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Kalasky  
Mr. and Mrs. Carl K. Miles, Jr.  
Ms. Pam Milliron  
Ms. Tenney Mudge  
Mrs. Marjorie Phillips  
Ms. Anita F. Ramos  
Ms. Judy Ratcliffe  
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Ross  
Mrs. Kathy Rowse  
Shadow Fox Farm LTD.  
Ms. Mary Shannon  
Mr. and Mrs. DC and  
JM Schmauss  
Ms. Betty E. Skillman  
Mr. Gary M. Solamon

Ms. Lynne Spangenberg  
Ms. Jo Struby  
Mr. Dean Sutphin  
Ms. Mary Ellena Ward and  
Mr. James R. Slack  
Ms. Ann Wasko  
Mr. Larson Wile  
Mr. Christopher Wynne

## SPONSORS

### \$5,000 and above

Ms. Betsy Fauntleroy  
Ms. Lynn Rice  
Southern States Cooperative  
United States Equestrian  
Federation, Inc.

### \$1,000 to \$4,999

Ms. Karin M. Banks  
Ms. Gardner L. Bloemers and Mr.  
Nicholas R. Duke, Sr.  
Bryant Crane Charitable Fund  
Hollins University  
Hyperion Stud  
Mr. and Mrs. Smith S. Lilly –  
Mercer Springs Farm  
Lucky B Trailers LLC  
Markel Corporation  
McDonough Toyota & Scion  
Ms. Nancy S. Peterson  
Randolph College  
Spencer Home Center  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffry Sterba  
Take2 Second Career  
Thoroughbred Program  
The Jockey Club  
Tractor Supply Co.  
Ms. Karen Waldron and  
Mr. Shawn Ricci of the  
Waldron Family Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth M.  
Wheeler, Jr. – East Belmont Farm  
Ms. Janice Wright

### \$500 to \$999

Ms. Joan W. Alberti  
Anonymous  
Mr. and Mrs. D. James Bailey, III  
Blue Ridge Trailers – Ms. Donna  
Martin  
Breckinridge Manor  
Mr. and Mrs. Oliver L. Brown  
Carriage Lane Farm, Inc.  
Mr. Thomas M. Chaffee –  
Attochron  
Chatham Hall  
Ms. Brooks Cushman  
Dixie Gas & Oil Corporation  
Mr. Bob Ehle  
Goad's Body Shop, Inc.

Haven Hill Farm/Andrew Ellis and Catherine Thompson Ellis  
 Hidden Hollow LLC  
 International Friesian Show Horse Association  
 Ms. Brooke Kemper  
 Ms. Rachel Kennedy  
 Mr. & Mrs. Alan Lohman  
 Lucky B Trailer Sales  
 Mr. and Mrs. Stephen J. McVeigh  
 Micron Bio-Systems, Inc.  
 Mr. and Mrs. Ernest M. Oare  
 Mrs. Carol S. Reedy  
 Sirrah, LLC  
 Ms. Dorna Taintor  
 Virginia Eagle Distributing Company LLC  
 Virginia Hunter Championships  
 Winter Hill Farm  
 Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park

**\$100 to \$499**

Anonymous  
 Ms. Gail Aumiller  
 Bank of Botetourt  
 Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Beard  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jason Berry  
 Blankenship Insurance Agency  
 Mr. Snowden Clarke

Ms. Sharon R. Cohen  
 Ms. Katherine Constable  
 Cornerstone Bank  
 Ms. Ada Cosby  
 Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd L. Craighill  
 Ms. Virginia G. Edwards  
 Farm Credit of the Virginias, ACA  
 Mr. Eddie Federwisch  
 Mrs. Julie Forehand  
 Hammer Creek Farm  
 Hampden Row/Jan Simpson and Eric Dirks  
 Ms. Julie I. Harrington  
 Mr. and Mrs. Keith F. Helmer  
 LBs of Virginia Trailer Services  
 Mr. Charlie L. Martin  
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Mathews  
 Mercer Spring Farm – Lilly Family  
 Mrs. Carol J. Miller  
 Ms. Rebecca J. Mispel  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Morrison  
 Nunnally Lane  
 PA Saddlebred Horse Association  
 Mr. Gordon Reistrup  
 Sanmar Farm  
 Mr. Jackson Schurtz  
 Mr. and Ms. Terry Secker  
 Mr. and Mrs. Todd Smith  
 Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert B. Snider

Southern Classic Autowash  
 Dr. Michelle Sprengelmeyer  
 Tudane Farm, LLC  
 Vineyard Haven Farm  
 Virginia Tent Rental  
 Dr. Owen H. Weaver  
 West Riding Farm, LLC  
 Mr. Kenneth M. Wheeler, Sr.

**Gifts In-Kind**

Kubota Tractor Corporation  
 Rockbridge Farmers Co-Op Inc.  
 Spencer Home Center  
 Mr. Josh McMichael  
 Kerr's Creek Ruritan Club  
 Dover Saddlery  
 International Riding Helmets  
 Shapeley's  
 Southern States Cooperative

*In Memory of*

HANNAH WATTERS WEVER  
*by Mr. & Mrs. Karl Beier*

FELIX NUESCH  
*by Elsie and Mac Thompson & Mrs. Orne Wilson, Jr. and Blue Ridge Equine*

JANE D. LANIER  
*of West Point, Georgia  
 by Mr. John Lanier in memory of his mother*

BETTY JO SHIFLET  
*by Jay Pierce and Ceil Wheeler*

“For thirty years, the Virginia Horse Center has been a key component of the local economy, bringing visitors from across the country to participate in and observe diverse equine sporting competitions. The Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors, in cooperation with the Economic Development Authority, Lexington City Council and our local lodging proprietors, have made a commitment to the Virginia Horse Center in support of operations.

Now more than ever, the relationship goes beyond economics—we consider the Virginia Horse Center a community partner. In addition to providing a venue where residents can enjoy equine events, the Virginia Horse Center shares its grounds with the community, from utilization of the mezzanine for meeting space to the larger facilities and grounds for the Farmer’s Market, youth agriculture, and the County Fair. When such local needs arise the Virginia Horse Center asks only, “How can we help?”

Our relationship has never been stronger, as we collectively recognize and celebrate the unique opportunities afforded by being home to Virginia’s premier equestrian center.”

— Spencer Suter, Rockbridge County Administrator





487 Maury River Road  
Lexington, VA 24450

t. (540) 464-2950  
f. (540) 464-2999

[www.horsecenter.org](http://www.horsecenter.org)

Cover photograph: Andie Cait Coleman  
Photograph © 2016 Judy Robichaux

A special thanks to the following photographers  
generously sharing their beautiful photographs  
for this report: ACD Systems Digital Imaging,  
David Bell, Cushman Brinegar, Kara Hite,  
Brant Gamma, Judy Robichaux, and  
Carol Turrentine.

Design by Mary Michaela Murray



Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Permit No. 85  
Lexington, VA



Allison Brock at the  
Virginia Horse Center

Photograph © 2016 Kara Hite