

HORSES AND GIRLS

"I DON'T WANT TO LIVE MY ENTIRE LIFE doing something and not giving back," says lifelong equestrian **MINDY NOLAN-MORROW**. She recognized her calling to help others early in her career thanks to a value instilled in her by her parents. As a child who was given lessons and spent her weekends showing horses, Mindy realized, "There are so many kids out there that probably would never have this opportunity." She wanted to find a way to bring horses



Mindy Nolan-Morrow, founder of Horses N Heroes

and disadvantaged youth together, and **HORSES N HEROES** of Marion County, Inc. was born in 1994 from Mindy's urge to pay it forward.

Horses N Heroes offers a refuge for girls who are experiencing poverty-level-and-below living situations as well as those who suffer from physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. Mindy welcomes these girls with open arms, and designed her program around a work-to-ride model. As a serious working farm,

Mindy's 25 horses are completely cared for by the girls in the program. From mucking stalls to feeding grain, cleaning tack, and general upkeep of the grounds, these girls do it all, and their lives are uplifted in return. "I hope that the few hours at the barn is their peace. They know that it's a safe place to be," Mindy shares. She teaches her girls everything from proper grooming techniques and saddle fitting to riding and even showing. The program yields incredible results,

CLOVER ESCAPES A HORRIFIC HOME

IN MARCH OF 2018, one-week-old Clover arrived at **DAYS END FARM HORSE RESCUE** (DEFHR) in Woodbine, Maryland, with her dam, Darby, as part of a massive, highly-publicized rescue effort on a 150-acre horse farm in nearby Wicomico County. Rescue teams arrived at a horrific scene—more than 100 horses were found in extremely poor condition and approximately 25 horses had already devastatingly succumbed to starvation and neglect.

Fortunately for Clover, being rescued at such a young age meant she had a fairly strong start to her life, thanks to being handled daily by DEFHR staff and volunteers and receiving proper care and nutrition.

Now two years old, Clover is healthy and thriving and part of DEFHR's training program where she is excelling at work on the lunge line and taking part in training exercises to help build her confidence, including working with



equipment and obstacles such as tarps, flags, bridges, a kiddie pool, and even a soccer ball. While horses do not typically start under saddle at DEFHR until at least three years of age, Clover has accepted a saddle and is completely unfazed by working with it on the lunge line.

Initially a bit of a worrier, Clover's trainers at DEFHR have enjoyed watching her develop into a more self-assured, independent thinker. According to Sara Strauss, Head Trainer at Days End Farm Horse Rescue, "If horses can learn how to process scary situations and think

through it for themselves, they will become safer equine partners in the long run." The hope is that Clover will become a trustworthy and reliable riding partner for a new, loving family.

Today, you can find Clover with her best friend, Harlow, another foal that was taken as part of the rescue case in Wicomico County. Two peas in a pod, Clover and Harlow are always first to investigate any person or any commotion going on in their field. "Clover and Harlow have lived great lives at DEFHR," says Strauss. "They have learned the ropes of being a good equine citizen and a well-mannered pasture mate. I'm excited that they are finally ready to find their person who will enjoy life with them for many years to come!"

For over three decades, Days End Farm Horse Rescue has been working to prevent equine abuse and, to date, it has rehomed over 2,600 horses. For more information about Clover, Harlow, and other adoptable horses, visit their website.