# On common ground: This Old Horse programs for horse lovers who do not ride.

## Hands on Horses

Seasoned veterans serve as mentors to volunteers who gather during regularly scheduled classes to groom and fuss over horses to assure that none are 'left behind' when it comes to kindness, time and attention.

Guest speakers with expertise in holistic healing, energy work and body work are invited to attend the sessions to teach and demonstrate techniques.

The "Muckrakers" formed out of this group--traveling to various sites to pick paddocks!



## **Soul Train**

New for 2019: When a horse has a lack of groundwork foundation, it limits their capacity for positive interactions with people, restricts easy access to health and farrier care by requiring tranquilization for procedures, and restricts opportunities that may be available to them for placement.

Soul Train provides a path to good citizenship for untrained horses by offering trained volunteers guidance and mentoring from an expert resulting in new opportunities for horses to develop good manners and basic groundwork skills.



## Hearts & Hooves

In this program, participants choose to sponsor a particular horse and are offered the option of participating in up to six facilitated arena sessions per month where they spend time grooming, handling and practicing groundwork exercises with their horse.

The instructor sets up various exercises and courses and the attendees work as a group and individually to achieve the objectives.

This has led to several adoptions with owners who continue to participate in the activities.



## This Little Horse

Our miniature horses that are certified therapy horses are busy spreading good will through site visits at local health care facilities, libraries, long-term care programs, schools and universities.

Another cohort serve as event ambassadors who help spread a 'little' love and promote the work of This Old Horse at community and private events.

They travel in 'mini' vans to their gigs and their drivers and handlers are the talk of the town when they arrive and disembark.



## Unharnessed

New for 2019: This program supports and serves the retired harness racehorse that is not on a path for a second working career.

Designed to develop, expand and improve retirement options and alternatives for Standardbreds to retire off the track while they wait for adoption options.

Potential sponsors and adopters can see and interact with the horses and participate in owner education programs onsite that market and promote the breed as well as facilitate adoptions.



#### Unbridled

This program is focused on off-track Thoroughbred racehorses that are not deemed suitable for a second performance career.

Beginners are paired with two experienced mentors—one of whom is an experienced horse person and the other an experienced horse, to learn the fundamentals of horse behavior and horse keeping through reading, guest speakers, hands-on horse time, group activities and field trips.

This program was originally funded by the MN Racing Commission.



## Wild Hearts

We welcomed 48 wild mustangs (19 are blind) from the Hallelujah Horses mission, 20 of the stallions live at our Wells Creek Wild Mustang Sanctuary.

Sponsors or teams of sponsors help support their cost of care through recurring donations. This active and engaged sponsor group is from all over the United States and they have formed a Facebook and email 'virtual' community that regularly follows their progress, antics and stories—celebrating their success and their role in it.

## **4H Horseless Horse**

Our award winning collaboration with the Dakota County Extension offers 4Hers that love horses but do not own one a chance for hands on horse experience through our Horseless Horse program.

4H kids attend hands on training sessions throughout the summer learning showmanship and trail in hand skills to prepare for the County Fair competition.

The County Fair board added in-hand classes specifically for these participants.



