

# Old Friends

Thoroughbred Retirement in Georgetown, Kentucky

Accredited by Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA)



Fall 2020

## A Message from Michael Blowen

Some people they say are "glass half full" or "glass half empty" people. I'm, for better or worse, a "glass overflowing" person. Even in these dreadful times, at Old Friends joy explodes from every retiree to every autumn leaf.

While I'm a huge supporter of horses going on to second careers through the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance's (TAA) myriad of professional organizations, it sometimes creates the mistaken impression that complete retirement is a second-rate alternative. Nothing could be further from the truth. The idea that they need to be ridden, or otherwise serving humans, to fulfill themselves--or us--is, at best, inaccurate. They need us to feed them, provide health care and, basically, be their butlers. When they retire to Old

Friends, they finally get to train us. The shoe is on the other hoof.

I was also reminded of their inherent value while visiting our new location, Old Friends at Ashton Grove, a beautiful assisted-living complex for both our Thoroughbreds and their human friends. One human resident told me that his wife had died 11 months ago. Since then, he had not had one minute of joy. But now, coming to the paddock fence feeding carrots to Porfido and Daytona, he had his life restored. And he was in tears.

Personally, I think we've only touched the top of the iceberg when it comes to how much these horses give us. They are so much more than ornaments in a pasture.

Okay, here's the pitch. Thanks to all who have kept us going through the pandemic with your kind and generous donations. The continuing COVID-19 burden, shared by everyone, certainly has taken its toll - psychologically, physically, and financially. But everyone knows all that because we're all in this together. Some days I feel guilty (not often, just sometimes) because I get up in the morning and the air is clear and crisp and I can hear Silver Charm's hoof beats and I can scratch Birdstone in his favorite spot and bring carrots to all

the retirees. It's an unexpected paradise that, I hope, we'll all be sharing again very soon.

We can provide the retirement these athletes so richly deserve because of your commitment to their welfare. You make a world of difference to their world, especially now. On behalf of our retirees and staff, thank you from the bottom of our hearts!



Michael Blowen  
President & Founder



Photo © Laura Battles

*Silver Charm, Michael, and that thing they do.*



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Old Friends, Inc.

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

Old Friends is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

*Michael*



# Meet Our Newest Old Friends

After a months-long moratorium on incoming horses due to the COVID-19 pandemic, late summer saw a resumption of horses arriving at Old Friends, ready to begin the next chapter in their lives. They come from many circumstances with one thing in common—your commitment has helped make the dignified retirement they deserve a reality.

We are excited to introduce you to these (14!) new Old Friends:



Photo © Old Friends

**Syndergaard** (6) earned \$478,000, won the Funny Cide Stakes & was second in the G1 Champagne at age two, while racing mostly in New York.



Photo © Laura Battles

**Poshsy** (10) ran 76 times, earning \$823,000. He won the G3 Berkeley at Golden Gate in California and concluded his racing career on the east coast at Delaware Park.



Photo © Old Friends

**Afleet Accompli** (9) raced in Puerto Rico before Caribbean Thoroughbred Aftercare acquired him for repatriation to the US mainland. He arrived at Old Friends in August.



Photos © Laura Battles

Midwest Thoroughbreds retired two of their star performers to Old Friends in mid-August. (Left) Arlington Million victor and earner of \$2.1 million **The Pizza Man** (11); and (Right) 2014 Breeders' Cup Sprint champ **Work All Week** (11). They arrived together and are happy in their paddock together!



Photo © Old Friends

Marylou Whitney's 2004 Belmont winner, **Birdstone** (19), arrived at Old Friends in September. He earned \$1.5 million & sired Kentucky Derby winner Mine That Bird & Belmont winner Summer Bird in his first crop.



Photos © Old Friends

**Chocolate Ride** (10) finished second in his final start at Penn National racetrack on October 9 & arrived at Old Friends early on October 11, ready for his next career as an aftercare ambassador. Thanks to Doug and Caton Bredar, Florent Geroux, GenStar Thoroughbreds, trainer Brad Cox, and Brook Ledge Horse transport for making this happen. Chocolate Ride earned over \$700,000 and won 12 races during his seven-year racing career.



Photo © Mary Greene

**Magic Weisner** (21) and girlfriend **Bo's A Ten** (21) arrived at Old Friends at Ashton Grove in October. Magic won the Ohio Derby in a three-year-old campaign that saw him finish second to War Emblem in the 2002 Preakness Stakes. Bo's a Ten is a daughter of Old Friends retiree, Patton, and won three races in 43 starts.



## Old Friends Announces Unique Partnership with LNJ Foxwoods

In September, Old Friends welcomed two new retirees as part of a unique arrangement with owners LNJ Foxwoods. Represented by Alex Solis II and Jason Litt of Solis/Litt Bloodstock, the Roth family— Larry, Nanci, and Jaime—owners of LNJ Foxwoods, approached Old Friends about securing aftercare options for several retired broodmares. LNJ has donated the construction of a new paddock as well as stipend for the mares.



Gold Round (23), a stakes winner in France, and Mystery Trip (16) a daughter of the superlative mare Weekend Surprise, making her a half-sister to Classic winners A.P. Indy and Summer Squall, were joined in late October by Hi Dubai (20), a stakes winner in Great Britain.

“We are always pleased to see such dedicated owners as the Roth family,” said Old Friends founder and President Michael Blowen. “They are great role models for the industry. The mares are magnificently bred, very sweet, and will be a wonderful attraction for our visitors.”

“Responsible ownership is the cornerstone of the LNJ operation,” said LNJ’s Jaime Roth. “Over a year ago, my family met with Michael Blowen with the idea of creating our own paddock for retired LNJ broodmares to peacefully live out the end of their lives. To now see that concept come to fruition is pretty awesome. Knowing that Gold Round, Mystery Trip, Hi Dubai and future LNJ broodmares will be celebrated by visitors while having a retirement haven is invaluable to my family,” Roth added.



## Adena Springs Stallions Take Up Residence at Old Friends

On October 31, Old Friends announced the arrival of two new stallions: 1998 Breeders’ Cup Classic champion Awesome Again and two-time Santa Anita Handicap winner Milwaukee Brew. Both were pensioned from stud duty in 2019 at Frank Stronach’s Adena Springs, near Paris, KY.



*Awesome Again*

*Photos © Laura Battles*

*Milwaukee Brew*

“We’re very grateful to Frank and Belinda and everyone at The Stronach Group for trusting us with these two great Thoroughbreds,” said Old Friends founder and President Michael Blowen. “The Stronachs have always been extremely generous when it comes to supporting their retirees. When Alphabet Soup’s cancer needed special attention, Frank made sure all of his medical bills were taken care of. And I adore Awesome Again’s victory in the Breeders’ Cup Classic even though he beat Silver Charm.”

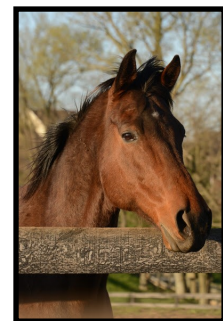
“When it comes to Awesome Again and Milwaukee Brew, they are two of the best-natured stallions I’ve been blessed to work with,” said Adena Springs Stallion Manager Bill Drury. “When it came time to consider retirement settlements, if not my own backyard, there was no place I would rather they be than with Michael at Old Friends. He has a reputation of exemplary care, and the fan access is exactly what these champions deserve in their twilight years.”

### ♥ Einstein ♥



October 23, 2002—October 28, 2020

### ♥ Count the Gold ♥



March 18, 2006—October 28, 2020

### ♥ Classy Charm ♥



February 18-2002—November 2, 2020

*Photos © Laura Battles*



## *The World according to Little Silver Charm*

I was a little taken aback when Michael asked me to help choose a miniature horse mascot for our new facility at Ashton Grove, the nearby retirement community.

I couldn't help but wonder if this was the first step in my own retirement. But Michael assured me that I have nothing to worry about. I am irreplaceable, he said. I know that, of course, but it was nice to hear him admit it.

I have never hired anyone before. Personnel decisions are not among my many accomplishments which, as you doubtless know by now, are too numerous to list here. But I'm sure I am equal to the task.

I wondered: What should I look for when interviewing the candidates? I quickly realized that the answer is obvious. I should look for an individual who has all the qualities I have myself. He, or possibly she, should be highly intelligent and convivial, able to get along with everyone, horse or human, even other species, should they turn up.

He or she will be working with the herd at Ashton Grove, listening to their concerns, counseling them and motivating them to do their best. We will need someone mature and experienced and, ideally, as modest and self-effacing as I am.

Appearance is important, of course. I will be looking for a horse who has physical attributes similar to mine. A luxuriant mane. Bright eyes. A winning smile. Above all, I will be on the lookout for somebody cute, although perhaps not quite as cute as I am.

### Old Friends at Ashton Grove Debuts in October

On October 2, Old Friends welcomed press and supporters to the grand opening of our new satellite facility at Ashton Grove Senior Living Facility in Georgetown, KY. The first retirees to move into their new home were Porfido, Daytona, Ireland's Eye, Massone, and Secret Getaway. Two days later they were joined by Magic Weisner and Bo's a Ten, who were retired by loving owners from Pennsylvania. Michael: "Well, I always thought that retired horses and retired people belong with each other because I was retired and I liked it. I figured I couldn't be the only one who likes it."



Photo © Laura Battles

*Here I am, exercising Michael, Stormy Liberal, and Patch. My work is never done.*



Photos © Laura Battles

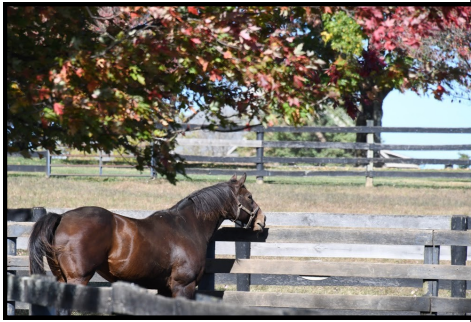
**ASHTON GROVE**

*Ashton Grove Senior Living, nestled in the rolling hills of Georgetown, KY, offers Independent Living Cottages, Assisted Living, and Memory Care in a senior retirement community. Residents enjoy maintenance-free living with all-inclusive pricing and assistance as needed. Ashton Grove is an active senior community within the Traditions Management family focusing on the importance of socialization, choices, dignity and service. For information call 502-777-2799.*



# Horses Healthy at Home: Autumn Splendor

Photos © Laura Battles



*The Splendor of Sun King*



*Sarava wants . . . something. Anyone?*



*Stormy Liberal & Patch Bookends*



*Silver Charm has mastered the art of the socially distanced tour*

*Alphabet Soup & Gorgeous George*



*Soi Phet & Hoky*



*Nicanor. Don't try this at home. Really. Don't.*

*Memories Live On*



*Mikethespike. Bringin' it!*



# Old Friends Giving Tree Wish List



The COVID-19 worldwide health crisis has caused significant disruptions to everyone's life. We are happy to say that our horses are doing well and while they surely miss their fans, they are maintaining good spirit. As are we. And during this tough time, we hope you are, too.

If you can, please consider a donation for our retirees from the Old Friends Giving Tree. Your generous gift this holiday season will help feed the farm and provide necessary medical care items for our 200+ residents. Thanks to your unfailing generosity, we know we'll be able to meet our retirees needs now and in the months to come. Today more than ever, you make a world of difference to their world.

Thank you so much for making their safe, secure retirement possible!

## FEED THE FARM

SQUARE HAY BALE \$4.25  
 ROUND HAY BALE \$53.00  
 WAGONLOAD OF HAY \$1,187.50  
 SENIOR FEED FOR A DAY \$367.50  
 FEED AN OLD FRIEND/YEAR  
 \$1,100.00  
 CHRISTMAS DINNER  
 FOR THE FARM  
 \$355.00

## EXTRAS & MORE

RUN-IN SHED \$2,000.00  
 HALTERS 2/\$100.00  
 GENERAL DONATION  
 ???

## CARROTS

50# BAG \$32.00  
 1 MONTH \$768.00  
 1 YEAR \$7,296.00

## EQUINE CARE

VETWRAP (CASE) \$27.36  
 FARRIER VISIT (FARM) \$300.00  
 DE-WORMER (6) \$74.74  
 DENTAL VISIT \$75.00  
 VACCINE (1 DOSE) \$45.65  
 PLATINUM PERFORMANCE CJ  
 \$754.00





# How You Can Help Old Friends



**Charity for Champions**  
 Breeders' Cup and Maker's Mark®  
 2020 Honoree James E. "Ted" Bassett  
 Thoroughbred Racing's "Gentleman Ambassador"  
 Limited-Edition Commemorative Bottle

Limited prior year bottles remain:  
 Cigar • D. Wayne Lukas • Mike Smith

A portion of all proceeds benefits Old Friends.  
 Call 502-863-1775 for Information.

## Clubhouse Annual Membership

Your \$150 membership includes leather & brass keytag, free tours, discount admission to Homecoming in May, and free general admission to Kentucky Derby Museum in Louisville, KY & National Museum of Racing & Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, NY.



## The Hoof Patrol

Support the 500+ hooves of Old Friends retirees who have short/long-term hoof issues. Hoof Patrol keychain, email updates, videos & more!

**Bronze (\$50)**  
**Silver (\$125) • Gold (\$250)**  
 Membership levels



## Old girlFriends Society

Do you appreciate great mares? Your \$100 lifetime membership donation includes an 8 x 10 photo of one of our *Old girlFriends*, an annual visit to the mares paddock, and your name on the *Old girlFriends* web page!



## Shares for Life

Show your love for an Old Friends horse! Donate \$100 to support your favorite horse and you'll receive a photo of your horse & a certificate suitable for framing.



## Friends for All Seasons

Is monthly giving right for you? Do you believe in dignified equine retirement to a forever home and the value of steadfast, reliable partnerships? Sign up as a monthly donor & receive a gift of Old Friends bookmarks.



## Thank You for Supporting Our Horses!

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

General Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Giving Tree Wish List \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Item: \_\_\_\_\_

Clubhouse Annual Membership (\$150.00) \_\_\_\_\_

The Hoof Patrol \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gold (\$250) Silver (\$125) Bronze (\$50)

Shares for Life (\$100.00) Horse: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Little Silver Charm & Gorgeous George (\$25.00 each)

*Old girlFriends Society* (\$100.00) \_\_\_\_\_

Friend for All Seasons Monthly Donor (credit card)  
 Indicate amount to be charged monthly \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Purpose \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check enclosed ☐ Credit Card

Account number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV# \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Old Friends is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.  
 Your contribution is tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

1841 Paynes Depot Road, Georgetown, KY 40324  
 (502) 863-1775 • oldfriendsequine.org


**Old Friends**  
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Old Friends is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to providing safe harbor & dignified retirement to Thoroughbreds whose racing & breeding careers have come to an end.



## What You Should Know About Old Friends Tours

Old Friends tour availability is subject to Commonwealth of Kentucky Public Health COVID-19 gathering guidelines & limitations, and current

 pandemic conditions in our local area and surrounding states. When we make a decision to open our farm for tours, our sole concern is the safety of our visitors, staff and retirees. We look forward to returning to our normal tour schedule as soon as it is safe to do so.

Until then, for information on current Old Friends tour availability:



Phone (502) 863-1775  
[www.oldfriendsequine.org](http://www.oldfriendsequine.org)  
@oldfriendsequine on Facebook  
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## 8 Ways to Keep Up With Your Old Friends

[www.oldfriendsequine.org](http://www.oldfriendsequine.org)  
Find the latest Old Friends news

@Oldfriendsfarm on Twitter  
Old Friend of the Day, breaking news & more

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Lots of videos, photos, farm news & more

oldfriendstv YouTube Channel Virtual Tours  
Alphabet Soup, Silver Charm, Patch,  
Game On Dude, Little Mike, Soi Phet & more

E-Newsletters  
Do we have your email address?

Snail Mail Newsletter  
What features would you like to see?

Our Blog  
Periodic posts on our website home page  
*Old Friends/Daily Racing Form Magazine*  
9<sup>th</sup> edition publishes February 2021