

Old Friends

Thoroughbred Retirement in Georgetown, Kentucky

Accredited by Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance (TAA)



Fall/Winter 2021

A Message from Michael Blowen

The last few weeks with the heat of summer transitioning to cooler weather have been a microcosm of our previous 18 years.

Zulu Alpha was scratched from a million dollar stakes race at Kentucky Downs. Two days later, thanks to devoted owner Michael Hui, he arrived at Old Friends.

Rocketry, who broke Man o' War's 100-year-old track record at Belmont Park, was donated by Centennial Farms' Don Little, Jr.

Richard Baltas' **Next Shares**, who won the 2018 edition of the Old Friends Stakes, pulled in this month from California.

Private Charm and **Gottagoallday** were purchased by their supporters from dubious auction situations and arrived at Old Friends ready to start their brand-new lives.



Photo © Laura Battles

Twilight celebrates the shimmering presence of the incomparable Alphabet Soup.



Photo © Tammy Crump

Dawn breaking over retiree Logansport.

Lou Brissie is now permanently retired after a second career as a riding and event competitor, and **Groundshaker**, the last horse bred and raced by Penny Chenery, came in from Virginia.

As you can see, we're an equal opportunity retirement facility. Whether it's a millionaire stakes winner from California or a barren mare from Louisiana, we welcome them all. The only thing that stops us is room. We're always working to expand capacity.

Fortunately, our supporters continue to be extremely generous. Our partnerships with Matt Welch, a local developer who sold us the land at Winding Oaks development, and our relationship with the senior citizen homestead at Ashton Grove has really helped.



Michael

While we celebrate the past accomplishments of our amazing Thoroughbred retirees, more importantly, we look forward to their future at Old Friends. That future is bright. Because of you that has never been more true. From all of us at Old Friends—
Thank you!



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Old Friends, Inc.
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Georgetown, KY 40324
(502) 863-1775
www.oldfriendsequine.org

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



Meet Our Newest Old Friends

The months of late summer and early fall have seen a steady stream of new retirees 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 9(!) new Old Friends:



Photo © Old Friends Farm

Last Judgment (5) was injured while finishing second in the July 2 Cornhusker at Prairie Meadows. Owner & supporter Michael Dubb called Michael, and Last Judgment arrived a few days later.



Photo © Laura Battles

Private Charm (19) arrived at Old Friends in September after being found in difficult circumstances. She is a daughter of our own Silver Charm, and is a third generation of her family to live at Old Friends.



Photo © Laura Battles

Our unnamed filly (2) (Mineshaft-High Heels) After she suffered a training injury, her owner opted for a safe retirement for her, and she arrived in August. She needs a name. We'll be having a contest!



Photo © Old Friends Farm

Grounshaker (10) is a mare that was the last horse ever bred by Secretariat owner Penny Chenery. She has been an attraction at The Meadow Stables in Virginia, and arrived at Old Friends in October.



Photo © Mary E. Greene

Rocketry (7) is the setter of three track records, including a 98-year-old record set by the great Man o' War. Thanks to Centennial farm for trusting us with their marathon star!



Photo © Old Friends Farm

Gottagoallday (25) last raced in 2001 as a low-level claimer who earned \$12,845 in his career. He was removed from a kill pen in Pennsylvania by our sister organization, The Race Fund, and Stone Farm's Staci Hancock. He arrived at Old Friends in October.



Photo © Laura Battles

Bordonaro (20) comes to us from California's United Pegasus Foundation in California. He shared a trailer with Next Shares as they made their way east to Kentucky, and they are now true Old Friends.



Photo © Laura Battles

Next Shares (8) arriving at Old Friends in September was the culmination of promises kept. Winning the 2018 Old Friends Stakes at Kentucky Downs earned him a guaranteed spot at Old Friends and, after a career that saw him bankroll \$1.8 million, here he is!



Photo © Antonio Marin

Zulu Alpha (8) is a major graded turf stakes winner of \$2.2 million. His marquee win came in the 2020 Pegasus World Cup Invitational at Gulfstream Park in Florida. He arrived home to Old Friends in September.

♥ We have sadly said good-bye to these wonderful Old Friends ♥



Capture the Power
2007-2021

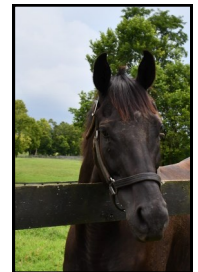


Special Image
1994-2021

It was our privilege
to care for them.



Hay Jude
1995-2021



Hogy
2009-2021

Memory Lane: Brick by Brick

**Nikki Bacharach Memorial Garden at Old Friends
is Now a Reality!**

We are thrilled to share with you the progress that has made Memory Lane a reality. To date, over 175 bricks have been carefully placed in a specially crafted design. They provide a powerful visual welcome to visitors experiencing this hallowed place at Old Friends.

Join us today on Memory Lane with your own custom brick. Memorialize your favorite Old Friends retiree, beloved horse, pet, loved one, or special occasion in the Nikki Bacharach Memorial Garden at Old Friends, where champions are celebrated.

Find out more and order your brick:
www.oldfriendsequine.org/memorylane.html



Go Long

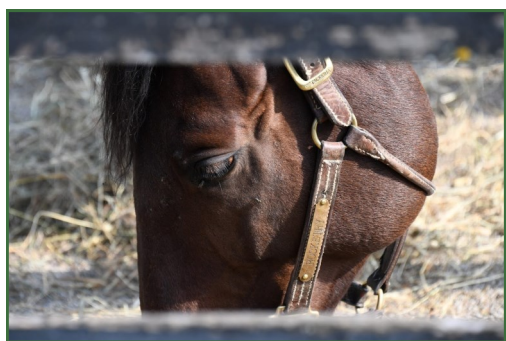
by Cynthia Grisolia



Off the van . . .



looking around . . .



. . . settling into our hearts!

Photos © Laura Battles & Old Friends Farm

New Old Friends retiree Rocketry, aka Rocky, (insert inspirational prize-fighter music here) was a contender right out of the gate, commanding \$195,000 as a 2015 Keeneland November weanling bought by McMahon & Hill Bloodstock. The following September, he was back in the sales ring, and this time the drop-dead-gorgeous son of Hard Spun out of the Smart Strike mare, Smart Farming, commanded \$450,000 from new owners, Centennial Farm.

Conditioned at Centennial's Middleburg Training Center in Virginia, the colt was then sent to veteran conditioner Jimmy Jerkens as a two-year-old. Once in gear, Rocketry proved he wasn't going to be pulling any punches. He broke his maiden impressively on turf at Belmont Park during his sophomore season. After the win, the *Thoroughbred Daily News* dubbed him a "Rising Star". No kidding! Rocky went on to beat older horses at Saratoga and mixed it up with future G1 winners Voodoo Song, Yoshida, and eventual Horse of the Year Bricks and Mortar in the G3 Saranac.

A fan favorite thanks to his thrilling, Zenyatta-esque, late-running style, Rocketry proved he could not only go the distance –the long distance--but he could go it *fast*! In 2018, his banner 4-year-old year, he captured the 1-5/8 mile Temperence Hill Invitational Stakes, besting a 98-year-old track record held by Man o' War in the process. Later that year he earned his first graded stakes victory in the G2 Marathon Stakes at Churchill Downs, again setting a new track record, this time for the 1 3/4 miles.

In his 6-year-old campaign Rocketry went for the total knockout, adding a third track record to his resume, this time going 1-5/8 miles in 2:42.57 at Keeneland, and picking up another graded victory in the G2 Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance Stakes.

Rocketry threw in the towel a few starts later, finishing 4th in the Birdstone Stakes at Saratoga. It was his 29th break from the gate and he closed his career with a whopping \$811,577 in earnings. At age 7 and still sound, he has earned his retirement.

Don Little, Jr., President of Centennial Farms, said, "Being involved with a horse like this was truly a joy, thrill, and one that will be cherished by all the partners involved. While he will be missed on the oval, we look forward to him showing off to visitors at Old Friends."

According to Michael, "Who doesn't love Rocketry? We're very fortunate that Centennials Farms trusts us to care for their great marathoner. Thanks to Don Little, Jr. and Jimmy Jerkins for allowing us to showcase him to his many fans!"

Welcome home Rocketry!

What Love Does To You

by Michael Blowen

When I was just betting horses, their lives were summed up by Beyer Speed Figures and assorted other numbers that crystallized their careers. The past performances are still a remarkable example of condensing each athlete's life into a digest of races, earnings, connections, age, breeding and dozens of other factors available to handicappers. I still read *Daily Racing Form* with an enthusiasm that my grandmother brought to her daily Bible readings. Over the past 49 years, through spectacular wins and excruciating defeats, their lives could be reduced to abstractions. Not anymore.

Old Friends has taught me that each of these horses, whether a stakes winner or an old claimer, has an individual personality. Some I like, some I respect, some I tolerate, and some I love. And my latest love is Private Charm. She had only seven starts, all at Evangeline Downs in 2006 with two wins and one place and lifetime earnings of \$27,120. On July 28, 2006, she got a DNF (did not finish). Subsequently, she became a broodmare with offspring that mirrored her dismal racing career. But, when you're in love, none of that matters.

A few months ago, I got a call from Shirley Ford, a longtime supporter from Texas. She told me about a daughter of Silver Charm who was in a precarious situation and she, and many others, were mounting a campaign to give the 20-year-old a dignified retirement. It meant we would have to leapfrog her over several other deserving candidates and, as far as I'm concerned, nepotism matters – especially when my favorite horse of all time, Silver Charm, is involved.

Several weeks later, after some rest and relaxation, she arrived at Old Friends, looking a little rugged. But she was, and is, the spitting image of her sire. And, after all she'd been through, she was extraordinarily kind and generous with her soulful brown eyes and her beautiful way of nuzzling my chest. There I go again. But that's what love does to you.

After a trip to Rood and Riddle, where she was successfully operated on for a sinus infection by Dr. Scott Morrison, she settled in. And, even with a dozen or so staples looking like a zipper down her nose, she was beautiful. And Dr. Morrison, admitting that he didn't remember the last time he performed surgery on a 20-year-old barren mare with a dismal track record, said she was a marvelous patient.

Now, she's outside in a paddock where she'll eventually have a roommate. At dusk, when the sun's last rays filter through her gorgeous white mane and reflects of her beautiful body . . . oh, never mind. That's what love does to you.

I'm forever grateful to you for supporting us and helping Private Charm find her forever home.



**Private Charm (top—with Michael, and right);
sire Silver Charm (left)**

Photos © Laura Battles

The Grass and Nothing But the Grass

by Cynthia Grisolia

In late summer Old Friends welcomed two new retirees: Zulu Alpha, a son of Street Cry out of the A.P. Indy mare Zori; and Next Shares, the near-black offspring of Archarcharch—calling in his “Old Friend for Life” marker after capturing the 2018 Old Friends Stakes at Kentucky Downs. The two had different owners,



Next Shares

different trainers, and probably different jockeys, though they did cross paths at least once, back in January 2020 when Zulu Alpha blew by Next Shares to win the Pegasus Turf Invitational at Gulfstream Park. But the dynamic duo does have something significant in common: They both eschewed the dirt tracks most common in the U.S to triumph on the grass. (Or, in racetrack parlance, the turf.)

Grass, schmass, you say. What's the difference? Well, a lot. Grass or turf racing is the standard in Europe (where Zulu Alpha launched his career, by the way). Here in the states our racetracks offer primarily deep dirt ovals—though many also have additional grass courses. Dirt is cheaper to install, easier

to maintain, and less reliant on weather conditions. So there are fewer grass races and fewer opportunities to race and win over the turf.

But the grass isn't greener for everyone. Horses usually favor one surface or the other, just like some excel at shorter or longer distances (see *Go Long*, about Rocketry). And some horses are just better built for the lawn. Taller bodies, wider, flatter hooves, and heavier conformation are a few of the characteristics that help point a horse toward the grass, where skimming over the surface—as opposed to bogging down in the dirt—gives them more speed. There are also some horses with genuine grass roots: Both Zulu's and Next Shares's dams (Zori and Two Dot Slew, respectively), were grass horses, so a propensity for the turf was already in their blood. And then, of course, there are those freaks of nature that defy the odds and run on anything. Old Friends retiree Einstein, for instance, was a five-time G1 winner and was among the first horses to have victories on all three track surfaces: dirt, turf, and synthetic. (Yes, there are also synthetic track surfaces, but we'll open that crazy can of a Pandora's box in another article.)

Whatever the reason, both of these athletes did their best flying over the flora. Zulu Alpha began his career in Ireland where he made four starts before returning to the U.S. Claimed in 2018 by Michael Hui, he was immediately pointed toward the 2019 Calumet Turf Cup, which he won by an airy 3 ¼ lengths. Zulu Alpha went on to win seven graded stakes, retiring with 12 wins from 37 starts, for earnings of \$2,269,084.

A Richard Baltas trainee and owned in partnership, Next Shares retired this year after seven seasons with a record of seven wins from 49 starts and earnings of \$1,891,971. A multiple graded stakes

winner, Next Shares followed his Old Friends Stakes win with a victory in the 2018 G1 Shadwell Turf Mile at Keeneland, the G2 San Gabriel Stakes at Santa Anita, and the G2 Seabiscuit at Del Mar in 2019.

But all that running is behind them. These days, Zulu Alpha and Next Shares will just be enjoy the splendor of our grass...and mud.



Zulu Alpha

GUIDING GURUS

If you have visited Old Friends and taken a tour, you have met one of our wonderful volunteer tour guides. They are unrivaled when it comes to greeting visitors, showing them around the farm, and sharing—with compassion and enthusiasm, not to mention great aplomb--the tales of victories, agonies of defeats, and human narratives behind the careers of our equine athletes. Come out for a tour and let them introduce you to our fabulous retirees!

“The best job to have at Old Friends, by far, is that of a tour guide. We’re pretty much the face of the farm, the first people our wonderful guests meet when they come to visit our horses. Although our backgrounds are as diverse as the pedigrees of our retirees, we share one thing in common, and that’s our admiration of the great equine athletes whose stories we tell day after day, rain or shine. We’re all unpaid volunteers, so it’s not a job we have to do. To us it’s an honor and a privilege to share the legendary racing and breeding careers of our horses with the thousands of tourists who visit the farm each year.”

Tom Beatty, Senior Tour Guide



Tour Guide Tom in action. Can you spot him?

Barn Rehab

Your donations at work! Retrofit is underway on one of our old tobacco barns that will ultimately house 16 additional stalls to accommodate retirees requiring extra attention. The first stalls were ready for the arrival of **Next Shares** and **Bordonaro**, who arrived on the same trailer from California, and hiked the last quarter mile into retirement. Bordonaro is shown checking out his new digs.



Photo © Old Friends Farm



Photo © Mary E. Greene



Photo © Laura Battles

Handicapping Seminar featuring Michael . . .



Little Silver Charm . . .



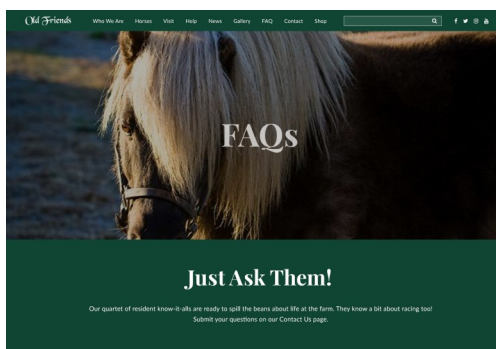
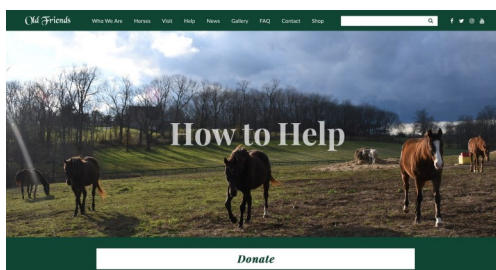
. . . and Birdiel!



They hit the 10¢ Super!

Photos © Laura Battles

Our New Website is Coming Soon!



The World according to *Little Silver Charm*

I'm not sure what Michael was thinking when he appointed me Old Friends' Official Wildlife Coordinator. How do you coordinate wildlife? The very word "wildlife" implies an unwillingness to be coordinated.

Michael brushed aside my objections and said, "I know it may be difficult, but if anyone can do it, you can, Charmie."



I suppose I can do it – or try to do it – along with everything else I try to do around here. But – and don't tell Michael – I think I'll be content to observe, not coordinate. Why ask for trouble?

For example, how am I supposed to set about coordinating raccoons? Those furry devils make mischief all over the farm. Our veterinarian says they are "opportunistic omnivores," which means they'll eat anything and everything. Indeed they do. But they'd better stay away from my gingersnaps.

Who would try to coordinate the flocks of Canada geese who hang around the pond and the adjoining paddocks? Most of the horses tolerate them, although Birdstone has been known to chase them and even try to stomp them. I think they're beautiful. I love to watch them flying overhead, honking as they go. It must be nice to be a wild goose.



The pond is full of wildlife, not just geese but turtles who sun themselves on the banks, a very shy heron who visits daily to fish, and a family of muskrats who never seem to tire of playing in the water.

It's a different world around here after dark, when no humans are around. The horses race around their paddocks, doing what they were born to do and having fun doing it. And the nocturnal wild animals emerge. Raccoons, skunks, possums, groundhogs.



Photos © Laura Battles

One of the skunks had a litter of six babies earlier this year. I have to admit they were very cute. But then they turn into full-grown skunks. Not that I have anything against skunks. I wouldn't want them to think I have any skunk-related reservations.

Sometimes I share my carrots with the groundhogs who live under the gazebo, next to my little paddock. They grab the carrots and then complain that there aren't enough. I guess that's why they call them groundhogs.

Horses Healthy at Home: When You Have Friends

Photos © Laura Battles



*Farm Gossips
Fergus MacRoich, Riva Way, and
Disturbingthepeace*



The grass is greener for Sokitumi Samurai



*Sun King and his
sun-spangled mane.*



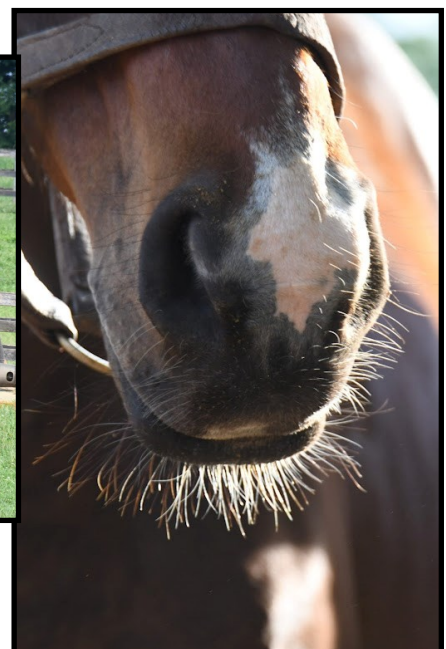
On guard! Diversify, Better, Soldat, Mr. Jordan, Cost Affective, and Bunker's Edge.



Ed Johnson



Eye of the Tiger and friend John Deere



Kharafa's nose

Old Friends Giving Tree

Looking for a perfect gift? This holiday season, you can help feed, shelter and care for our more than 200 retired Thoroughbreds. 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!

How to donate:

www.oldfriendsequine.org/givingtree.html ☎ (502) 863-1775
Old Friends, 1841 Paynes Depot Road, Georgetown, KY 40324



FEED

CARROTS FOR ONE WEEK
\$192.00

SENIOR FEED FOR A DAY
\$367.00

SQUARE HAY BALE
\$4.75

50LB BAG OF CARROTS
\$32.00



ROUND BALE OF HAY
\$53.00

WAGON-LOAD OF HAY
\$1,187.80

GENERAL DONATION
\$???.??

FEED AN OLD FRIEND
FOR A YEAR
\$1,100.00

CARE

3M VETWRAP CASE
\$27.36

TWO HALTERS WITH PLATES
\$100.00

DENTAL VISIT FOR THE FARM
\$75.00

ONE VACCINE DOSE
\$45.65



DEWORMER SIX-PACK
\$74.74

HEATED WATER BUCKET
\$42.00

RUN-IN SHED
\$2,000.00

ONE FARRIER VISIT
FOR THE FARM
\$300.00



CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR THE FARM
\$355.00



How You Can Help Old Friends

Memory Lane: Brick by Brick

Nikki Bacharach Memorial Garden at Old Friends
Choose your *memorial brick size, color, graphic and text* to create a lasting legacy!



www.oldfriendsequine.org

Clubhouse Annual Membership

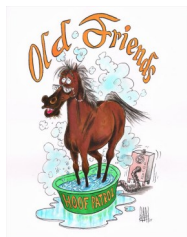
Your \$150 membership includes leather & brass keytag, free tours, discount admission to Homecoming in May, and free general admission to Kentucky Derby Museum in Louisville, KY and National Museum of Racing & Hall of Fame in Saratoga Springs, NY.



The Hoof Patrol

Support the 500+ hooves of Old Friends retirees who have short/long-term hoof issues. Hoof Patrol keychain, email updates, videos and 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 and 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 and 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: _____ \$ _____
_____ \$ _____

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
1841 Paynes Depot Road
Georgetown, KY 40324
(502) 863-1775

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



Old Friends Tours

Old Friends tours have been modified to comply with Commonwealth of Kentucky public health COVID-19 safety guidelines. Our tours are outdoors and socially distanced.
Reservations required · www.oldfriendsequine.org

General Tours continue through November 28, 2021

Thursdays—Sundays · 10:00am & 1:00pm

90 minutes · Meet 12-15 horses · Limited Availability · \$25 per person

No General Tours December—January—February

Private Tours by Appointment Year-Round

Single-party tour for groups of 10 and under

Limited availability · \$50 per person

For information and to book: 502-863-1775

General Tours Return March 2022