



VOLUNTEER WELCOME PACKET

Thank you for your interest in volunteering for Horses for the Spirit! We have a growing volunteer program within which we hope you will find a position that not only suits your interests and desires, but also furthers the success of our organization.

Horses for the Spirit

Horses for the Spirit (HFTS) is a non profit Equine-Assisted Learning (EAL) program targeting youth ages 20 and under, primarily those at-risk of failing in traditional settings.

- EAL is an emerging field in which horses are utilized as part of the teaching team.
- HFTS uses the Parelli 7 Games as the vehicle to teach life skills as well as natural horsemanship skills.
- Horses are utilized as metaphors in activities that build life skills and promote the exploration of behaviors. Horses offer immediate feedback about how behavior and attitude impact a person's ability to reach a desired goal with their equine partner and exhibit personalities, attitudes and moods as unique as any teenager's. This provides endless situations for discussion and learning. In our work we have noted that teens often pick a horse partner which seems to bring out just the right qualities to allow the student to learn and grow.
- HFTS offers programs tailored to meet the needs of the various organizations with which it works. We offer one-day classes up to 10-week courses where the students attend once a week for 5 or 6 hours.
- The longer programs combine classroom time with horse activities to enhance the breadth of understanding participants gain.
- HFTS's goal is to serve 200 youth per year with its various programs.
- HFTS is a 501(C)3 non-profit public charity organization.

Our People

Volunteers are the heart and soul of Horses for the Spirit. Without the dedication and hard work of our volunteers, we would not succeed.

At this time, we have a small, but growing number of volunteers who spend anywhere from a couple hours a month to 40 hours a month in service of HFTS.

Each individual is encouraged to give of their time and talents as suited to their availability and desires.

Board Members and Key Players

Robbie Maus, Board President /Interim Executive Director/Youth Program Co-Director/
Certified Parelli Level 2; Horse Trainer; Certified EAGALA Level 1 Equine Specialist, 30 years combined general horsemanship and training experience.

Erin De Los Santos, Board Treasurer /
Operations Director
Finance Graduate and Horsewoman

Juanita Chapman, Board Director
Certified EAGALA Level 1 / Licensed
Psychotherapist

RanDee Greif, Board Director
Certified Parelli Level 1, Ground Trainer / Certified

EAGALA Level 1 / Pediatric Nurse

Angela Dazey, Board Director

Deb Conrad, Board Secretary/Interim
20 Years Small Business/Marketing Experience /
Freelance Writer / Parelli Student

Jan Koval, Volunteer Coordinator
20 years Human Resources experience /
Independent consultant 10 years / Parelli Student

Diane Crowne, Youth Program Co-Director
Certified Equine Assisted Training Specialist /
Acupuncturist / Sound Healing



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Our Volunteer Needs

As a volunteer, you help fulfill HFTS's goals to provide a learning and working environment where clients feel challenged, respected and accountable, where participants in our programs experience a unique opportunity to make new discoveries, learn, grow and heal through horseplay, to serve at least 200 youth per year, to create programs that are valued by our clients and colleagues, in which a high percentage of our clients attain their program goals and return to work with us, generate a fiscally self-sustaining organization through fundraising, grants, and scholarships and enhance, enrich and improve the lives of humans and horses.

We need people to:

- work with the youth and horses in our programs;
- raise money on our behalf by seeking donations or helping with fundraising events;
- dedicate time and energy to the nitty-gritty tasks of running our organization;
- assist key players with phone calls, follow up, research and other tasks;
- help maintain and/or improve our facility;
- raise community awareness of our organization through marketing and public relations;
- bring in new volunteers to help us reach our goal of serving 200 youth per year;
- hand out flyers wherever they go;
- offer insight, expertise and services to continually improve our ability to serve the community.

Social Structure of HFTS

- The people at HTS are dedicated, knowledgeable, hard-working, community-oriented, and most of all, friendly and caring!
- The atmosphere is casual yet professional.
- We are here to answer your questions.
- We welcome your opinions, suggestions, and ideas about anything that we do here.

Fun activities:

- We have periodic Volunteer Play Days where we gather to play with the horses and get to know each other better. (Horses are often available for those who do not own their own or cannot transport one.)
- Volunteer BBQs are a great way to get to know each other and spend some time "hanging out" instead of working... or maybe work and then hang out!

Benefits of Volunteering:

- Work with and get to know like-minded people with interesting lives and endeavors.
- Learn more about horses and natural horsemanship and find camaraderie in your personal life with horses.
- Challenge yourself to learn about working with teens in a positive and constructive manner.
- Become more informed about issues facing teens in our community.
- Make a difference on behalf of youth in northern Nevada.
- Bring power through diversity and numbers to increase our effectiveness.
- Ability to build a resume, gain valuable experience and letters of reference.
- If retired, gain an appreciative venue that utilizes many years of experience.
- Have fun and feel a sense of satisfaction in doing something that helps the community we live in!

As a HFTS volunteer, you are very much an ambassador for us. Please identify yourself as a HFTS volunteer. We ask that you familiarize yourself with the above "talking points" and that you mention them in your conversations about us, whether while volunteering for us or wherever life takes you. We hope you can bring friends and supporters to our organization. Thanks so much for volunteering at Horses for the Spirit!