



GLENEYRE
EQUESTRIAN
PROGRAM®

Gleneayre Equestrian Program 2024 Annual Report

*Bringing people and horses together for the
betterment of each other's lives.*



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Message From Our Founder

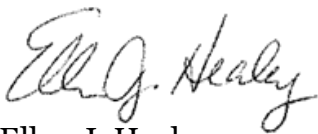
Dear Friends and Supporters,

We navigated 2024 with our hopes high and our breath baited for some newly implemented changes. While Gleneayre Equestrian Program, like many organizations, was still recovering from the aftermath of the Covid years, we paid special attention to utilizing our facilities, individual programs and resources to achieve maximum output. From redefining our working student and equine facilitated programs to include military personnel and a broader range of youth at risk, to introducing a new format for the Gleneayre Horse Show and Hunter Derby, our major fundraiser held each fall, the staff has diligently worked to utilize all donated funds and existing assets for greater outcomes.

Our equine partners did not slack in their roles, as our beloved Ramblin' Rose was indoctrinated into the Equus Foundation Hall of Fame and Eres and Al Pacino won the perpetual trophies in their divisions in the Courses by Design show series, with Ice Man being named Best Horse at the Star Hollow IEA Horse Show. Ridden by Working Student Program members, many ribbons were won, even first place in the 2024 Gleneayre Hunter Derby!

Our students continued to amaze and challenge us and this year was no different. We have seen a beautiful blending of personalities in the barn and friendships between both participants and their equine partners that will last a lifetime. I am continually humbled by our amazing and dedicated staff, hard working students and competent and understanding horses, but most of all, by the generous support of our donors, without whom we could not continue our service to both the human and equine communities.

Sincerely,



Ellen J. Healey

Founder

Gleneayre Equestrian Program





About Us

The Gleneayre Equestrian Program was established in 1998 by Bob and Ellen Healey. The GEP mission is to provide a hands-on, experience-based learning environment for people in difficult situations, including children, families, and military personnel.

We focus on a population that is poorly served by more mainstream resources and programs and believe that the powerful connection between people and horses can be transformational. Through horsemanship, we develop character, teach ethics, and encourage physical and emotional growth. The GEP provides Equine Facilitated Learning and a unique Working Student Program which bring children and horses together for the betterment of each other's lives.

The GEP also provides a safe haven for the donated program horses to live with dignity, peace, and veterinary care to achieve the best quality of life. Donated horses are accepted into the Working Student Program, and when they can no longer be ridden, they become equine facilitators in our non-riding activities.

We use the powerful connection between horses and people to teach, learn, grow, and heal. We provide a safe haven for our program horses to live with dignity, peace, and veterinary care to achieve the best quality of life.



**GLENEAYRE
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2024 At A Glance



14 Working Students served in 2024 with 2 students successfully graduating the program and moving on to higher education.

02 Working Student Alumni received a **\$2,500 Scholarship** from the Hamel Family Foundation for higher education.

50 Lessons in Equine Science held for the Working Students in our **brand new classroom space**.

340 Hours of **curriculum-based equine-facilitated services** provided to children in alternative schools.

20 **Core character-skills** taught with hands-on learning in our updated Equine Facilitated Learning Program Curriculum.

40 Veterans, active military members, and families served in 2024 with **two new equine-facilitated initiatives**.

45+ Community sponsors and partners whose ongoing support helps us continue to fulfill our mission and grow our program.

Gleneayre IEA Team Goes to Nationals



The **Gleneayre IEA Team** had an amazing year and were Zone 11 Champions. Our middle school team, which consists of Kennedy, Julianna, and Mikiah, continued on to compete at Nationals in Tryon! The team all performed wonderfully with members being in the ribbons. We also congratulate our high school team who qualified for and placed at zone finals.



Investing in the Future of our Students

In 2024 the Gleneayre Equestrian Program committed to supporting all Working Students participating in IEA. The Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) is a national 501(c)3 dedicated to introducing and promoting lifelong involvement in equestrian athletics. It affords all participants access to clinics, college recruitment events, mentorships, volunteer opportunities, contests, and more. Students can also list their involvement in IEA on their college applications and resumes while building leadership skills that will benefit them in future pursuits.

GEP Promotes Environmental Sustainability



The GEP working students won the **Green is the New Blue's Summer Jump Contest** which encouraged riders to use natural resources local to their farm to create a living jump. Working together, the students foraged for grasses, flowers, stray logs and branches from the recent summer storm, and fresh pine needles. Viewers voted for the best submission and our students were selected as winners, receiving Green is the New Blue ribbons and making memories in the process.



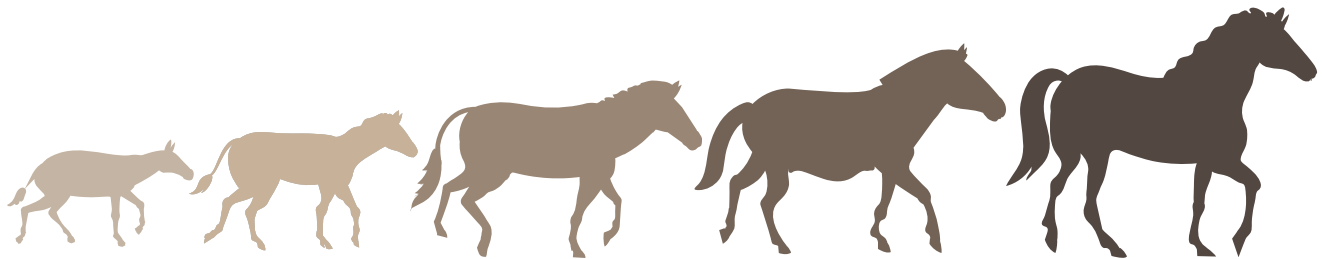
Making Strides for a More Sustainable Sport

GEP is committed to sustainability efforts and being environmentally friendly. We are proud to partner with Green is the New Blue, an environmental non-profit that strives to reduce the environmental impacts of equine-related events and activities. Since our partnership, we have incorporated better recycling practices, participated in the #BringYourOwn movement with reusable water bottles/water coolers to reduce single-use plastics, and provided environmental education to our students so that they can set an example both within the barn and beyond.

New Equine Science Saturday Program



We are excited to have begun offering classes in our brand-new classroom! Our team converted a storage area into a beautiful learning space with tables and chairs where students can gather, have lunch together, and participate in various learning opportunities including our new Equine Science Program. In this program, students meet once a month to receive guided, hands-on lessons in Equine Science.



Equine Science Curriculum and Benefits

The equine science curriculum combines equine care and equine science with topics that range from proper grooming techniques and equine nutrition to exploring the biology and physiology of horses. By engaging children in hands-on activities and educational experiences centered around horses, we are able to promote character development, responsibility, and a passion for animals. This program also provides practical life skills related to animal care and teamwork and encourages a potential career interest in animal-related fields, including veterinary science and equine management.

Hamel Family Foundation Donates Scholarship Fund for GEP Alumni



The Hamel Family Foundation, an organization dedicated to “supporting the education and well-being of disadvantaged children and their families through scholarship opportunities and extracurricular programs”, provided a **scholarship fund** to be awarded to **Working Student alumni seeking further education**. This year the scholarship was awarded to two alumni who are currently attending college, one of which is pursuing a degree in Animal and Veterinary Science from Tuskegee University!

“My Second Home” - Working Student Alumni Testimonial

“I have learned so much from Gleneayre and it has greatly influenced who I am now. I was able to acquire fundamental skills like time management, accountability, and how to be dependable through the working student program. I was also able to develop my communication and interpersonal abilities. These skills have come in handy while I've been in college, and I plan to keep using them. I am incredibly grateful that the program taught me what I know now. **Gleneayre will always be my second home.**”

- Merica Samuels



Welcoming Kelley Spiegel to the Gleneayre Team



We are excited to welcome Kelley Spiegel to the Gleneayre Team. Kelley comes with over 12 years of experience working as a School Psychologist as well as serving as a chairperson for her fellow Child Study Team for over 5 years. She holds her Masters and Educational Specialist Degree in School Psychology, as well as her Supervisor's Certification and Principal Certification eligibility in School Administration. With Kelley's expertise, we were able to **update our Equine Facilitated Learning Program curriculum to be compliant with New Jersey's Learning Standards** and connect with more schools and after-school programs that could benefit from our services.

Making an Impact with Brookfield Students



In 2024 we joined Jessica Ramsden, Brookfield's lead therapist, in two semesters of Equine Facilitated Learning, one in the spring and one in the fall. **Each Brookfield student received 20 hours of guided equine-assisted sessions over 10 classes** and together **we were able to help 17 students** across Brookfield Schools and Brookfield Academy. Students who struggle in classroom settings were able to reinforce skills learned in school with our hands-on equine-assisted program.



Equine Facilitated Learning Horse Ramblin' Rose Wins EQUUS Horse of the Year Award



Ramblin' Rose, one of our many incredible program horses, was selected as this year's **2024 Horse Star Hall of Fame Inductee by EQUUS Foundation** which honors "horses who have had an inspirational impact on the public as companions, teachers, and healers". Rosie was rescued from the streets of Philadelphia before being picked up by Last Chance Ranch then brought home to Gleneayre. With time and a lot of love, Rosie became more confident and went on to excel at shows, even winning the 2015 Courses by Design Horse Show series Grand Championship in English Pleasure! Then, in 2021, she had an accident in the pasture which led her to finding her next calling.

While she was recovering from her injury, Rosie was utilized in our **Equine Facilitated Learning** classes and it was here that she found her true calling. She was able to make profound connections with participants who were more reserved or shut down, bringing them out of their shell with her comforting presence and kind eyes and helping them on their path to wellness. She truly is a GEP superstar and living proof that love, and kindness can heal all.



Annual 2024 EQUUS Guardian Award

The Gleneayre Equestrian Program is proud to announce that we have once again been awarded the status of **EQUUS Foundation Guardian** for 2024. Guardianship is awarded to equine charities on the Equine Welfare Network that demonstrate a commitment to public transparency about their programs, horse care practices, and governance available for public scrutiny. Through this program we were also awarded \$2,500 toward our programs and equine care.

Gleneayre Partners with Project Refit and NJ Soldier and Family Readiness Group for Farm Retreat



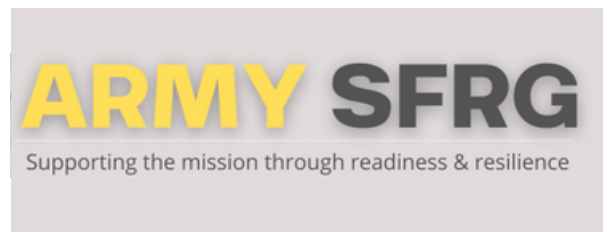
This year, Gleneayre partnered with **Project Refit** to provide a safe and private location to host a “Summer Retreat on the Farm” which **serviced 27 members of the NJ Soldier and Family Readiness Group (SFRG)**. This retreat provided the opportunity for members to meet and receive valuable support in person, as their meetings are often limited to virtual meetings or phone calls.



During the retreat, the Project Refit team facilitated support groups that offered guidance to **spouses and family members of active-duty military members on their first deployment**.

During that time experienced GEP staff, with the help of 10 volunteers from the local community, provided an educational, non-riding, hands-on activity for the children of the SFRG members while the parents/family members attended the support groups.

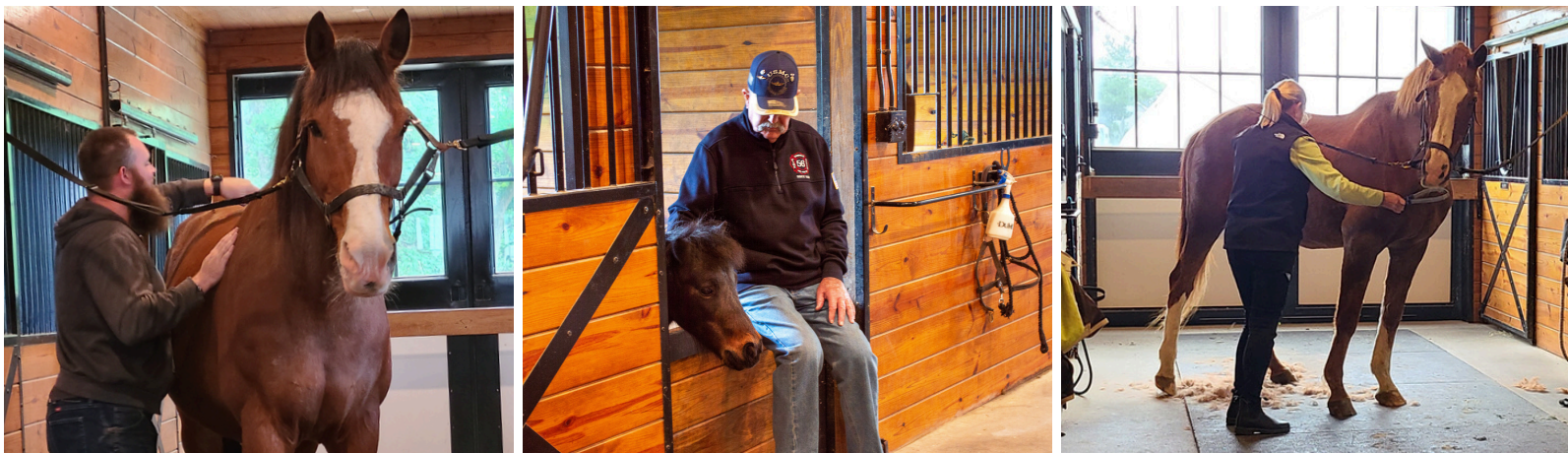
The event was a great success, and we are excited to be able to provide the healing power of horses to support active-duty military members and their families as they proudly serve our country.



New Veteran Equine Program Provides Local Veterans with Weekly Equine Gatherings



In 2024, the GEP engaged local military and veterans' groups to develop the Veterans Equine Program. Our successful pilot welcomed local veterans for a 6-week interactive horse experience. Veterans met every Friday morning for coffee, donuts, socializing, peer support, and guided, hands-on interaction with horses, led by GEP's experienced staff. **This program was provided at no cost to service members and served 10 veterans this year.** Through the partnership and support of local veteran programs, we plan to continue to develop our existing program curriculum to effectively bring the benefits of the human-horse connection to more populations within the military community.



The Healing Impact of the Horse Human Connection

Horses provide immediate nonverbal feedback, detecting and reflecting the emotions of those around them. Equine activities offer ways to understand one's own emotions and behaviors. The horse-human connection developed in our programs has proven to help participants reconnect **emotionally**, **socially**, and **physically** with themselves and others. It also provides various positive therapeutic effects, including enhanced well-being, stress reduction, relaxation, and relationship building.

Fundraising Summary



50% Increase in horse sponsorships from 2023 to 2024.

27% Increase in derby sponsorships from 2023 to 2024.

12.1K Users reached on Facebook in 2024.

17.6K Users reached on Instagram in 2024.

\$5,000 In scholarships awarded to GEP alumni in 2024.

“This year, the GEP team achieved great success in fundraising, thanks to the support of our donors, partners, sponsors. Through innovative campaigns, community engagement, and a shared commitment to our mission, we surpassed our goals, raising vital funds to expand our programs and make a meaningful impact.”

Bill Rube
Executive Director

2024 Horse Show and Hunter Derby New and Improved Format



The Gleneayre Horse Show & Hunter Derby took place on November 2-3, 2024. This year, we implemented a new format in order to streamline the schedule. This format allowed us to focus on providing an equestrian event that was well-organized and efficiently run for those competing while also providing spectators with a fun and interactive experience. In addition, it reduced show expenses in order to maximize our profits. This is our largest fundraiser of the year, generating revenue through sponsorships, entry fees, a silent auction, and in-kind donations. **All proceeds go towards funding our nonprofit programs.**



Putting the “Fun” in Fundraising

Featuring four divisions and five derbies, as well as a basket auction, food trucks, local vendors, and a children's area with games and activities, **this event was fun for the whole family and brought members of the community out to learn more about our programs.** The weekend is not only a major fundraiser, but it also serves as a showcase for our students and it is always rewarding to see them take pride in their individual progress.

Theraplate Donates Medical Device with Healing Benefits for Horses at GEP



This year the GEP staff (and horses) were grateful to receive a **donation of our very own TheraPlate!** This clinically proven device uses advanced Vortex Wave Circulation technology to stimulate muscle contractions and enhance blood flow which leads to accelerated healing, reduced pain, and improved overall wellness for horses. From muscle soreness and joint pain to post-injury recovery, TheraPlate provides much needed rejuvenation and rehabilitation for horses of all ages and sizes.



Caring for our Equine Partners

Many horses in the GEP are show-jumping retirees. While they can no longer compete at a high level, they still have a lot left to give. In the **Working Student Program**, they teach and guide our students through beginner and intermediate levels of show jumping. When they can no longer be ridden, they transition to our non-riding **Equine Facilitated Learning Programs** and aid in educating youth in the community. Our team is dedicated to providing the best possible care and quality of life to our horses. Thanks to community partners like Theraplate and Shapley's™ Grooming Products, **we are able to keep our horses happy and healthy.**

TheraPlate
www.TheraPlate.com

 **Shapley's**
Superior Equine Grooming Products
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Acknowledgements

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| Vincentown Diner | Wells Fargo | West Technologies | White Horse Blankets |
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| WSJ Foundation | | | |

Looking Ahead

As we reflect on our goals of increasing program accessibility and expanding our reach to serve more of the local community, we are proud to say that we have made strides toward making these goals a reality. Through the partnership and support of local veteran programs, we are beginning to offer the benefits of equine-assisted services (EAS) to veteran and active-duty military members. With Kelley's guidance we will continue to strengthen the skills of GEP staff in working with youth with challenges in the Working Student Program and Equine Facilitated Learning Program and further refine and update our curriculum to meet state standards. Looking ahead, we aim to connect with more schools and after-school programs that could benefit from our services. Lastly, we plan to gather updated participant and educator feedback forms to ensure that we are always adapting and growing to meet our participants' needs to continue serving our mission and improving the lives of people and horses alike.

Thank you 2024, we can't wait to see what 2025 has in store.



Contact Us



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Get Involved



Monetary Donation



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