

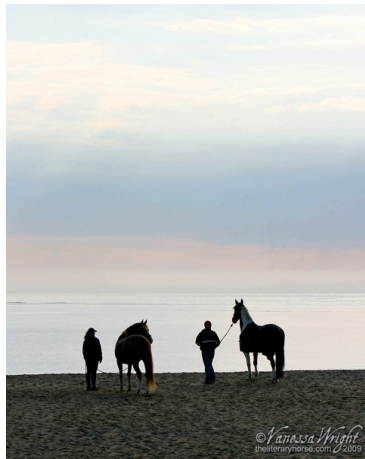
# Horses Helping Horses at the MSPCA Nevins Farm

by [Vanessa Wright](#)

With the same pioneer spirit that made the MSPCA one of the first humane societies in America almost 200 years ago, today the [MSPCA Nevins Farm Equine Center](#) is making bold new strides in community awareness, education, and inspiration with its Horses Helping Horses program.

Horses Helping Horses (HHH) is an annual series of beach rides, trail rides, horse shows, and other equestrian events that Nevins Farm adopters and other regional horse owners participate in with their equine companions.

Riders collect pledges, families and friends trot on out to show their support, and horse-loving members of the public - along with delighted and astonished beachgoers, hikers, and assorted passers-by - are invited to watch, to learn more, and, if they wish, to get involved.



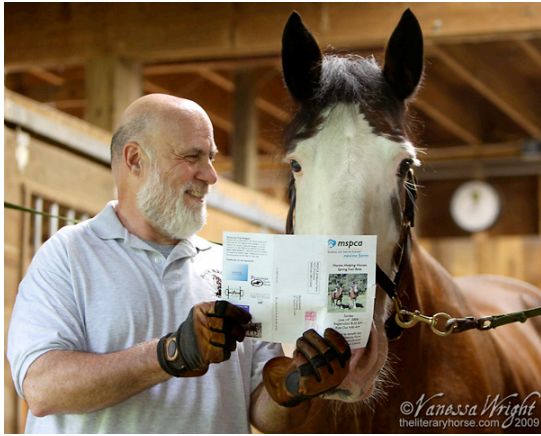
“I think these events help to create a positive attitude in the horse community towards the MSPCA and the animals that we work with here,” said Nevins Farm manager, Melissa Ghareeb. “I think it really helps to bring members of the equine community together in a fun way to help the animals that we are so passionate about.”

One of these animals is Bernadette and Bill Hamilton’s horse, Dan, a 17 hand Clydesdale gelding the Hamiltons adopted from Nevins Farm. When they met Dan, said Mrs. Hamilton, despite his poor condition and the discomfort of having medication packed into his hind hooves, “[he] was always very gentle and tolerant... We knew very quickly that we wanted to

give him a home, no matter what. The MSPCA was so supportive when we thought that we were ready to adopt. They reviewed all the pros and cons that go with taking home a new animal, especially one with medical issues. ...They really wanted us to be successful with Dan, [and] the door was always open if we had any questions or felt that we needed more help.”

After adopting Dan and bringing him back to good health, the Hamiltons began participating with him in Horses Helping Horses events. “My

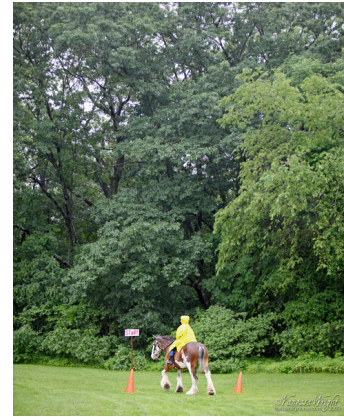




hope is that other horses and prospective adopters can have a similar experience, and I think that HHH is one method of getting more exposure for Nevins Farm and the wonderful work that they do,” said Mrs. Hamilton. “Animals in need of rescue ...need a place to board while being evaluated, and HHH helps to fund this necessary part of treating neglected and abused horses. People are more apt to remember if they can see the results... HHH plans its events at locations that are open to the public, thus presenting ...opportunities to inform and educate

without necessarily judging. It’s the perfect setting for parents to bring children, and it’s such an awesome sight, watching all the trailers arrive, unloading horse after horse and watching them all ride off down the beach or through the woods!”

Standing well over six feet tall, Dan himself often draws a particularly “large” amount of attention at HHH events. “I am always willing to tell Dan’s story and people often ask me,” said Mrs. Hamilton. “I’ve been blessed with good friends, some who have met Dan and believe like me that these horses do deserve, like all creatures great and small, a life that’s free of suffering.”



Thanks to the participation of adopters like the Hamiltons, horses like Dan, and dedicated, fun-loving equestrians and horses across New England, more of the region’s horses in need have cantered into new homes and bright futures. In 2008 alone, Horses Helping Horses raised more than \$10,000, helping the MSPCA reach more than 8,000 animals. HHH has also raised awareness of needy horses and demonstrated that needy horses can not only thrive when they’re extended a helping hand, they can also turn to the horses following in their tracks and extend to them a helping hoof.



“I love [Horses Helping Horses] and hope to keep it going for years to come because I think it is a great way for horses and their owners to do something fun to support animals that are less fortunate,” concluded Ghareeb. “Each year I enjoy meeting all of the new riders and greeting old friends and alumni again. With HHH, I hope that we are able to let more people know that the MSPCA has a wonderful facility with lots of great horses looking for new homes. I also want to make sure that people know that we are here as a resource to help horses in need no matter what. ... [You] don’t

have to be wealthy to help [horses in need]. We all give what we can to help these animals, and it really adds up in the end.”