

FROM: Berkshire HorseWorks Inc. a 501(C)3, EAGALA Certified Program

CONTACTS:

Hayley Sumner, Executive Director hayley@berkshirehorseworks.com 310-488-9777

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BERKSHIRE HORSEWORKS TO HOST “THE DERBY” AN EXPERIENTIAL GALA TO BENEFIT AT RISK CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND VETERANS SATURDAY, JULY 15TH, 5:30PM

Sip mint juleps and bourbon in the tack room as you meet some of the brave individuals whose lives have been transformed through EAGALA Model Equine Assisted Therapies

95.9’s Mike Heck to MC Service Auction/Sit Down Dinner Catered by SOMA

Richmond, June 26th, 2017 -- Channel your inner Southern Kentucky belle... Wear fabulous Derby hats or make one with us as the gentlemen don their best suspenders... all in support of equine assisted psychotherapy and life skill development programs for those in the Berkshires facing mental health and behavioral challenges. Berkshire HorseWorks, a 501(c)3 based in Richmond has served over 400 neighbors in need since opening its doors over three years ago. Cocktails will be served Kentucky style in the historic tack room of the **Berkshire Equestrian Center, 40 Perry’s Peak Road, Richmond beginning at 5:30PM. A catered dinner will follow at 7:30 PM** in conjunction with a **Service Auction where one can “place bets” on one’s favorite horse/program to advance to the finish line.**

All programs in need of support will be highlighted/ previewed in the paddock area during cocktails as the Hotshot Hillbillies ready us for the races with their bluegrass sound. Post Positions are as follows: 1) “Special Needs for Special People for those on the autism spectrum or with varying diagnoses 2) “Family Integration” for multigenerational communication and support; 3) “Own it and Up” for inmates ready to be emancipated; 4) Girls Rule! an empowerment program for young women; 5) “Horse Powered Veterans” to aid those who served regain their resiliency as they tackle effects of combat trauma and PTSD; 6) “Support a Rescue” to help with vet bills and care for our therapy equines

Additional live auction items to include: An in-home cooking class for eight with Quint Smith an award winning chef from NYC; A week’s stay in Arizona in a three bedroom/three bath estate; A home wellness package for six by world renowned practitioners of massage, reiki, and tarot.

Kentucky inspired hors d’oeuvres to include cucumber dill tea sandwiches, mini hot browns, buttermilk fried chicken bites with Jalapeno Aioli, and bacon deviled eggs. Entrees of bourbon glazed Statler chicken breast, Mac n cheese with carrots and sugar snap peas, or zucchini fritters all to be followed by chocolate Pecan Pie with sea salt caramel drizzle.

Individual tickets are available for \$175 and can be purchased by visiting www.berkshirehorseworks.org or by mailing a check payable to Berkshire HorseWorks Inc, 101 Patton Road, Richmond, MA 01254. \$100 of the ticket price is tax deductible. Please call 310 488 9777 for more information or to place an absentee bid.

The event is sponsored by Black Rock Foundation and Domaney's Liquors and Fine Wines in Great Barrington

Why horses?

During Berkshire HorseWorks' EAGALA Model sessions, unlike therapeutic riding, clients are encouraged to work with the horse rather than the horse working for them. Because of this, the client is forced to reach into their personal toolbox and use their own skills. Meeting on the same playing field allows the horse to provide a safe environment where the client can feel free from judgement and develop an organic connection with the horse in which there is no right or wrong.

Why EAGALA?

Founded in 1999, the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association (EAGALA) is the leading international nonprofit association for professionals incorporating horses to address mental health and personal development needs. Strength based, solution-oriented and rooted in evidence-based practices, Berkshire HorseWorks, which brought this modality to the region in 2014, is able to draw upon the research, curriculum and best practices of EAGALA's network of 4500 practitioners in 50 countries worldwide.

Berkshire HorseWorks™ (BHW), a 501(C)3 recently purchased a seven acre ranch in Richmond, MA where it now conducts its practice. With EAGALA Model Equine Assisted Psychotherapy(EAP) and Equine Assisted Learning (EAL) at its core, BHW will expand its programming into related healing practices including meditative hikes, yoga with horses, Horse Powered Reading programs and art classes.

EAL incorporates Equine Assisted Team building by partnering with school districts, local businesses, and international corporations to enhance personal development and reinforce group dynamics in the workplace. Services are offered by appointment seven days a week during individual sessions, workshops and wellness retreats. Through the power of horses, Berkshire HorseWorks™ provides the tools to cope, challenge, communicate, heal, lead, empathize and thrive in today's world.



X x x x