



A large majority of our horses here at the Southlands Foundation have been donated or loaned to us for use in our many programs. Many of these tried and true citizens have retired from successful show careers while others have been rescued from less fortunate backgrounds and simply need a good home where they can find a rewarding job. While each of our horses come from very different backgrounds, each has a unique and individual story. The following success stories represent just a few of our valued family members that make up our beloved foundation.



Forever Blue- fondly known to us as Rosita, this pony is a true barn favorite! Rosita competed for many years on the “A” circuit in the medium pony hunters, taking home tricolors from some of the top shows in the country including but not limited to the Winter Equestrian Festival, the Devon Horse Show, Pony Finals, and the Hampton Classic. In 2003, Rosita was donated to us and began her new career as an invaluable teacher in our lesson program. While she still attends quite a few shows, she is now seen in the walk-trot and short stirrup rings where she teaches young students the ropes to the world of horse showing...as she is a true pro!! However, now that Rosita’s show schedule is much lighter, she can be seen taking part in our therapeutic riding program, pony camp and enjoying the pleasures of teaching our tiny ones in their very first riding lessons.



Casmaran Magic Spell- This gorgeous medium pony, known to her adorers as Maggie, was a recent addition to our program in the summer of '08 but has quickly formed her very own fan club! Maggie comes to us from another lesson program where she dabbled in dressage and beginner lessons and where she proved to be a bit of a handful! After a few short weeks in our summer camp however, she soon found her niche! With one of the biggest pony strides in the barn, she is proving to be one of the best jumping ponies we have and has recently begun her successful career in the pony hunter and short stirrup divisions. So far in her short career at Southlands, she has been leased by two little girls who love her endlessly while also participating smoothly in our lesson program as one of the first real challenges in the pony realm!



Trademark- Our beloved Trademark is one of our most treasured and famous residents and a true mascot of the foundation. Coming to us in the 80's from a successful career in the children's pony hunter ring at the ripe age of 5, Trademark found the new job of lesson pony extraordinaire to be just grand! While often flighty and a bit tricky, he was none-the-less a favorite to almost all. From short stirrup king to pony ride prince to pony camp expert, Trademark has lived a glorious 20 years at the foundation. While he now enjoys the simple life with his fellow aged friends, he still teaches our smallest and youngest their first lessons and enjoys being doted on and pampered before his occasional lead-line class at local shows. This pony has taught so many in our community the ropes of riding and we are forever grateful to his countless years of willing service to us. He will live out his days as ruler of the pony field and will receive visits from his many fans on a daily basis.



Breakfast at Tiffany's- This textbook perfect Welsh pony came to us in 1997 and little did we know that she would one day become one of our most cherished ponies! Tiffany is by the famous pony stallion, Cymraeg Rainbeau, and has the looks to win any model class. Tiffany came from a short but successful career in the green and medium pony hunters where she qualified for the National Pony Finals. She was described to us as “exceptionally talented but temperamental” and this absolutely proved to be true. In Tiffany’s first few years with us, her incredibly athletic spook made her a very entertaining pony to watch and a definite challenge for the young riders who fit on her best. However, as Tiffany began to age just a few years older, her antics slowly subsided and she began her transformation into the pony she is today. The frisky pony she was years ago is unrecognizable in her now quiet disposition. Tiffany has taught countless children to trot and canter and has won too many local and recognized championships to count. Her beautiful dished face and breathtaking eyes win every little girl over and she spends a large portion of the summer with flowers in her bridle and apples in her small rider’s pockets. She really is every little girl’s dream white pony!!



Custom Made- Lovingly known to us Taylor, this gorgeous large pony has won the hearts of children and adult riders alike. Donated to us in 2002, Taylor comes from a rewarding and successful career in the children's pony hunter and equitation rings all over Connecticut and on the East Coast rated circuit. Because of Taylor's honest and forgiving attitude, she quickly became the ultimate move-up pony, allowing young riders and small adults to experience the thrills of jumping their first two-foot courses. Now at the sound age of 18, Taylor can be seen carting around even our tiniest and enjoys winning kids their first blue ribbons in the short stirrup division. However, it has also been debated that Taylor might just give up her show career to follow her true passion of bareback pony games...where she can be seen winning all summer long at Pony Camp. Taylor's countless admirers speak to her generous disposition that will continue to win all of her riders over.



Spencer Tracey- Spencer came to us in the spring of '08 on free lease...and boy are we grateful! This little thoroughbred has quickly become a favorite for our more advanced crowd and has introduced the thrills of jumping to many. Since Spencer arrived to us, he has already partaken in several clinics as well as a handful of schooling shows. He takes everything in stride and shows a willingness that is truly appreciated in a lesson program such as ours. He even experienced some cross country over the summer in our beautiful fields and seemed to find it very exciting...although he is the first to admit just how scary that water jump really is! We hope to have this wonderful little guy for years to come and his many riders certainly agree!



Russell Stover – This 16.3 hand Paint gelding came to us as a donation in 2005 and was an instant favorite! Russell has extensive experience as an eventer and hunter pacer and loves bringing students out onto the trails and through our cross country fields. He will truly jump anything in front of him! As he gracefully ages, he can be seen being ridden by more and more children...as he is a true gentle giant! From lunge lessons to showing in the short stirrup to hunter pacing, this guy proves to be made up of everything we look for in a lesson horse. He will happily stand as being dressed up as a box of chocolates on Halloween and then jump a cross country course the next day. If only we had ten more of him!!



Firehouse Charlie- This gentle man quickly became Chuck to us after his adoption in the spring of '08. Although he had been in loving hands for a few short months, Chuck still showed the mistreatment and neglect that he had previously endured. While well on his way to rehabilitation, we adopted him as a skinny and shy ex race horse. However, this did not last long. His rescuers had saved him from a kill auction where they quickly noted his overly willing and kind-hearted disposition that made him a great candidate for our farm...and right they were. After gaining weight and receiving daily grooming by our devoted staff, his coat began to shine again and we slowly introduced him to our lesson program through professional training and the occasional lesson with a more advanced rider. A true diamond in the rough, the horse he once was is now completely unrecognizable. Chuck is a fantastic addition to our lesson program and has already participated in several clinics and his first at-home schooling show. He shows tremendous jumping ability and we hope he will one day march our students around the 3 foot equitation and hunter rings. We gave Chuck a chance and it is evident every day that he is forever grateful.



Raisin- This gorgeous chestnut came to us as a donation more than ten years ago after a short career in racing. He was suddenly one of the most beautiful horses in the barn and one of our most talented jumpers. Raisin has shown successfully with our students in many different divisions...winning equitation medals, hunter classes, and also his fair share of jumper classes at local shows and rated shows alike. Raisin has also hunter paced, gone out cross country and shown in dressage competitions. He is truly a jack of all trades! Raisin is often a student's first introduction to the world of jumping and competitive riding and his role as teacher is invaluable to us. Just ask one of the many students that have just jumped their first course on him and you will soon realize how special he really is.

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