



# Blue Grass Farms Charities REPORT | WINTER 2017-18

*Happy Workforce, Happy Race Horse*

## CHRISTMAS CAME EARLY FOR TB WORKER FAMILIES

Blue Grass Farms Charities (BGFC) hosted its most successful Christmas Celebration on Dec. 11 and 12 at The Thoroughbred Center in Lexington for Central KY Thoroughbred worker families. More than 1,000 workers signed up for the event, which featured a seated holiday dinner, lively entertainment, Santa visits and age-appropriate gifts, hats and gloves for the children. 12 lucky children wheeled away brand new bicycles thanks to Race for Education (also a dinner sponsor), the Kentucky Racing Commission and BGFC Board members Gibson Wilhite and Samantha Will-Baccari. Executive Director Sally Walker told stories of how the charity has provided a helping hand to Thoroughbred workers with housing, utilities, health, food, bereavement and other emergency needs. "We have stories like this all the time illustrating how we have helped our racing industry workers," said Walker. "That's what we are here for."



## TASTINGS & TRIVIA - A Good Time in Good Taste!

With emphasis on the "fun" in fundraiser, BGFC hosted "Tastings & Trivia" for supporters on October 14 at Foxbrook Farm in Georgetown, Ky. The former stallion barn/breeding shed-turned-event-venue was exquisitely transformed into a wonderland by Ron Sanford Productions, Nashville, TN, and Da Rae & Friends served delectable culinary small plate "tastings" to guests throughout the evening. Thanks to Stonestreet Farm, the wine bar offered a selection of Jackson Family Wines; and the open bar featured Tito's Vodka.

Generous donations populated the Silent Auction with everything from a Wembly soccer ball to a Lexington Tennis Club membership to a 6-day Montana vacation. Lee Hall's energetic auctioneering secured Live Auction bids on thirteen items, including a guitar signed by Bruce Springsteen and halters worn by American Pharoah, Medaglia d'Oro, and Tapit, as well as a rare Galileo halter shipped in from Ireland for the event.

The evening's activities jump started with a lively Trivia Team Contest tapping the wit and wisdom of those in attendance. The victorious team, made up of Erin Crady, Ray and Carol Paulick, and Kristin Werner, walked away with a basket of bourbon and Lexington goodies. Next, President Dennis Brawner introduced a short video featuring testimonials about specific positive impacts BGFC has had on Thoroughbred worker lives (*To view the video go to [www.bgfcky.org](http://www.bgfcky.org) and click on the link*).

### Thanks to our Sponsors!

*Presenting Sponsor:* Keeneland

*Silver Sponsors:* Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital, Foxbrook Farm, Green Lantern Farm

*Bronze Sponsors:* Baccari Bloodstock, Stonestreet Farm, Dixiana, Juddmonte Farms, Godolphin, Airdrie Stud, Brook Ledge, Inc.

*Supporting Sponsors:* Wilhite Ltd., Hallway Feeds

*Friends of BGFC:* WinStar, Horse Racing Radio Network



Photos: Ron Morrow

# MAKING AN IMPACT IN EDUCATION



## BGFC PROVIDES BACKPACKS FOR SCHOOL

Thanks to BGFC's backpack program funded by a generous grant from the Jelm Foundation, 635 children from Central Kentucky racing industry families went to school this year with well-made backpacks filled with school supplies. The number of backpacks given and distributed by BGFC to our workforce school children was dramatically up from 350 last year, demonstrating the increased need for BGFC programs and services.

## CAMP INSPIRES CURIOSITY FOR TB INDUSTRY WORKER CHILDREN

Camp Curiosity at The Lexington School is a place where children play and explore new and engaging camp activities during the summer. Twenty-two children of Thoroughbred industry worker families attended Camp Curiosity this past summer on full Blue Grass Farms Charities

scholarships made possible by a grant from the Jelm Foundation as well as a generous discount from the Lexington School.

With special camp programs for preschoolers, the children participated in everything from creative art to fossils to playground and Olympic games.

Many parents from our Thoroughbred workforce made a point to tell BGFC how much their children enjoyed and benefited from this wonderful camp experience. Moving forward with such positive feedback, BGFC hopes to increase the number of campers in 2018.



## ESL CLASSES TO BENEFIT FAMILIES

The Blue Grass Community Foundation has awarded a grant to BGFC to conduct classes in English as a Second Language for those working on Thoroughbred farms. In addition to equipping the workforce with language skills to succeed in their racing industry careers, the ESL course is designed to create English language pathways to be practiced at home with the workers' children who are attending school.

## WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE IMPORTANT SUPPORT FROM THE FOLLOWING:

- ♥ National Christian Foundation Kentucky
- ♥ Charles R. Jelm Foundation
- ♥ Thoroughbred Charities of America
- ♥ Edward H. Lane Foundation
- ♥ Mary K. Oxley Foundation
- ♥ Blue Grass Community Foundation
- ♥ Mark and Julia Taylor Charitable Fund

## SOCGER INSPIRES HEALTHY COMPETITION AMONG THOROUGHbred WORKERS

*Tournament Winners >* **LANE'S END**

Sixteen teams competed in Blue Grass Farms Charities' annual week-long single elimination soccer tournament; and in the end, Lane's End took home the Jack Kain Ford-sponsored championship trophy, with Ramsey Farm's earning the runner-up title.

Held at historic Dixiana Farm in Lexington on a field specially maintained for the event, the tournament fostered friendships and competition among Thoroughbred workers, while spectators watched and cheered their favorite teams.



Photo: Jeff Ramsey



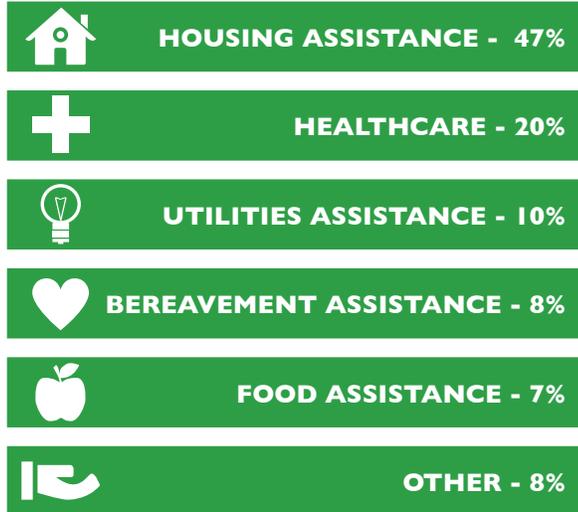
Bob Baney presented BGFC President Dennis Brawner a \$1500 check from the Horse Capital Marathon & Half Marathon

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## 2017 Benevolence Breakdown

Blue Grass Farms Charities found the greatest need this year to be housing assistance, followed by healthcare and then utilities assistance. BGFC was able to help relocate workers to better, more affordable housing; prevent eviction and power cut-offs. The workers reflected in these numbers just needed a helping hand from BGFC to get them past a rough spot.



## FOOD

### NEVER-ENDING FOOD PANTRY

Blue Grass Farms Charities maintains a Pantry of non-perishable items available to Thoroughbred worker families who may need to supplement their groceries. During the last half of 2017, 40 grocery bags and boxes filled with canned goods and paper products went home with worker families in need. Thanks to KBC Horse Supplies, which conducted a November food drive, BGFC was able to re-stock the Pantry before the end of the year.



### 5,000 POUNDS OF PRODUCE DELIVERED TO WORKERS IN JUST 6 MONTHS!

In partnership with GLEAN KY, whose mission is to gather and redistribute excess fresh fruits and vegetables, BGFC picks up the excess produce at Costco each Wednesday to deliver to workers at different farms around Central Kentucky. Jack Kain Ford in Versailles generously provides a vehicle for this weekly delivery.

## Executive Director's Message

Dear Friends,

2017 was an exciting year at Blue Grass Farms Charities!

I am so thankful to be a part of such a meaningful organization. When I came aboard in May, we were able to begin expanding our services and programs for racing industry workers and their families. We provided nearly double the number of backpacks for school children (635), 5,000 pounds of free produce to worker families, Thanksgiving dinner at Sal's Restaurant for 504 people; and 1,150 workers signed up for their family members to attend our Christmas Dinner and Toy Gifting Celebration. And of course, we continue to address and resolve situations on a daily/weekly basis stemming from crisis and need throughout the workforce.

As you read more about the success of these programs in this report, please know how heartwarming it is for all of us involved in Blue Grass Farms Charities to be able to provide a helping hand to our fellow people working so hard in the thoroughbred industry to care for the horses that give us so much.

We are extremely grateful to those of you who have supported us financially, with partnerships, and through volunteering. The need never stops, and we couldn't do it without you.

Sincerely,

SALLY WALKER  
*Executive Director*



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Happy Workforce,  
Happy Race Horse

340 Legion Dr, Ste 20  
Lexington, Kentucky 40504



Photo: Cody Wire

When you make a charitable contribution to Blue Grass Farms Charities, you help the Thoroughbred racing industry maintain a "Happy Workforce, Happy Race Horse."

You can donate to BGFC one of three ways:

- 1 Go to [www.bgfcky.org](http://www.bgfcky.org) and click the green "DONATE" button
- 2 Send a check made out to "Blue Grass Farms Charities" to the mailing address:  
340 Legion Drive, Ste. 20, Lexington, KY 40504
- 3 Call the BGFC Office at (859) 219-0910 and have your credit card information handy

### Help Us Update Your Email Address



(We are losing emails in cyberspace due to outdated email addresses).

Please send your most current email address to [info@bgfcky.org](mailto:info@bgfcky.org).

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