Peaceful Acres Essay Responses

1. Why are you are nominating this individual or organization?

I'm nominating Peaceful Acres Horses for the Renaissance Award because I feel that this organization contributes so much to Schenectady County. It is a treasure. It supports many businesses in the area through products and services it purchases, and it offers immeasurable support and gifts to the people of the county through it's programs and volunteer opportunities. If you go to PAH you will understand at once how their mission of helping horses and people is being fulfilled in so many ways on this gorgeous mountaintop retreat. Peaceful Acres Horses is a donor supported 501c(3) charitable organization that serves Schenectady County and the surrounding region. Nanci Beyerl, the founder, has been instrumental in the mission and success of PAH. It is her vision that is being realized every day of helping horses and people together that offers such rich benefits to the community. See the evidence of good work: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iaDyDm7X3c9w88kYsOce0YwHculshtAS/view

2. Describe how this person or organization meets each of the criteria for the respective award category.

Peaceful Acres Horses has been an integral part of Schenectady County since 2007. The mission of PAH is to provide a healing sanctuary for formerly at-risk equines, but it is also a sanctuary for people. The great impact of this organization is seen in many ways:

- PAH supports the surrounding community through the purchasing from local vendors - hay, grain, grooming and other supplies, farrier and veterinary services, training, fencing, infrastructure, farm vehicles, and more

- PAH gives back to the community that supports it by offering HorseShops, Retreats, Donkey Hugs, and Home visits that bring people closer to the centered peacefulness that the farm offers. When people get to interact with the horses in this way, it opens doors and often is a life-changing experience for them. There are programs for women surpassing cancer, veterans, and at-risk youth.

- PAH is a volunteer run organization. The volunteer caregivers get back as much as they give in caring for these beautiful horses, donkeys, and minis. The horses teach the people how to be calm, centered leaders and in turn they offer their trust and love. It is very much a two-way street with each receiving so much from the other.

- Rehoming to Forever Guardians. PAH helps rescued equines regain strength, hope and trust through compassion, encouragement, and care. If possible, the Horses, donkeys and minis are

adopted to people who are offering solid, forever homes. This benefits the animal and their new family in so many ways. It strengthens family and community. Making dreams come true for people and horses.

- Because of its location, Peaceful Acres Horses is a respite from the city that is only a short drive away. A place to get back to nature, take time out of the hustle and bustle and ground yourself in the peace found on that beautiful mountaintop. As soon as you step onto the property you want to take a deep breath, your heart opens up and you feel more relaxed. It is a great gift to the community.