



FREE REIN

HORSES HELPING HUMANS

Providing a loving sanctuary for abused and unwanted horses and harnessing their unique intuitive abilities to help youth overcome mental health challenges.

Free Rein's Unbridled Hope: Appreciating Every Bit of Support



"We are so grateful for the 250 guests who brought warmth and generosity to this gorgeous summer evening at The Red Horse Barn," says Pam Riggs, Chair of Free Rein Foundation's 2026 "Unbridled Hope" Gala on Aug. 8. "The nearly \$200,000 raised supports the work we do throughout the coming year. Rescuing, rehabilitating and nurturing horses that were abandoned, unwanted and abused is costly but so worthwhile. The lessons and love they provide in Free Rein's Growth and Learning sessions for at-risk youth are incalculable for our community's well-being."



Free Rein Foundation would not exist without the kind support of Mary Behrens, Huntington Central Park Equestrian Center owner and CEO.

MUCH OBLIGED, GALA SPONSORS!

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Veterinarian Dr. Stephanie Schmidt, with daughter Elizabeth and Kaya, was honored by FRF for her compassionate animal care.



For more highlights from this sensational evening of unbridled fun, see the reverse side.



"Everybody wants to have a better future. How do we do that? We build the foundation of our youth. That is what Free Rein does. Because horses are unique in this way - they really don't care what you did in the past, whether you're a great person or bad person, if you've had some issues. When you go and watch the therapy that occurs here, they bond with these kids. Sometimes these kids have had significant trauma and co-occurring disorders. They move on to be better people and ultimately, better people make better societies. I am a huge supporter and I'm grateful for all of you who are supporters."

—Chief Eric Parra, Huntington Beach Police Department, speaking at the Gala



Back by popular demand, the James Kelly Band played classic country western hits all evening for guests to kick up their heels at Free Rein's 12th annual gala. The band also graciously donated a tempting live auction item – a private concert – in conjunction with dinner under the stars courtesy of Wing Lam, owner of Wahoo's Fish Tacos.



At left, Auctioneer Zack Krone entertained and inspired guests, making for another sensational live auction again this year. Special thanks to Free Rein Volunteer and Personal Travel Advisor at LUXE Travel Management Sharel Felger for acquiring several extraordinary vacation packages; and to all the volunteers soliciting, and the community-minded organizations donating, live and online auction items.

At right are beloved volunteers Jay & Kim Dablow. Kim was honored for her excellent dedication as Free Rein's Volunteer Coordinator of 100+ volunteers.



A big Thank You to local leaders standing with us – the honorable HB Councilman Don Kennedy, CA State Senator Tony Strickland, and HB Councilman Pat Burns join Free Rein Foundation Founder and President Justine Makoff at this year's Unbridled Hope Gala.

We can't wait to share details with you on next summer's gala at The Red Horse Barn. New sponsors are also welcome!

Catch the Free Rein Spirit at More "Mane" Events in the Huntington Central Park Equestrian Center

Visit freereinfoundation.org to find tickets and information on these events that support the Free Rein herd:

Hug & Grooms – Enjoy the Free Rein sanctuary the first Sunday of each month, 11 am - 1 pm. It's fun and educational for the whole family!

Corporate Hug & Grooms – Plan your organization's next outing in nature. We customize these popular events for your group of up to 50 people, from horse encounters to catered picnics.

Free Rein Ecotours – Discover Free Rein's ranch, along with the 400-horse HB Equestrian Center and lush surrounding Urban Forest, on this 2-3 hour tour.

It's Easy to Support Free Rein Foundation

Please don't stall – visit freereinfoundation.org/give today, or just click on this QR code to support Free Rein rescues.



Thank you for helping us tend to horses & humans in HB's pasture with a purpose.