

## **Leg Up Farm Receives Grant Award from Disabled Veterans National Foundation**

York, PA – October 10, 2023 – Leg Up Farm is honored to announce it has received a grant from the Disabled Veterans National Foundation (DVNF) for \$22,000. These funds will expand Leg Up Farm’s Horses for Heroes program. Specifically, it will allow Leg Up Farm to provide financial assistance for nearly 200 Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy (EAP) sessions for active or retired military veterans.

Jennifer Hitz, Chief Development Officer of Leg Up Farm said, “The funding provided by the DVNF is making a real difference in the lives of US military veterans as they return to civilian and family life. Specifically, the funds provided to Leg Up Farm’s Horses for Heroes program allow veterans to receive free equine-assisted psychotherapy sessions. In these sessions, through the involvement of Leg Up Farm’s horses, veterans are drawing natural connections between what the horses may be doing, thinking, or feeling, and their own reactions and symptoms. Through this process, veterans increase emotional awareness and the ability to regulate their emotions. They learn to interact with horses more effectively and, by extension, with people in their lives. It’s often the game-changer our local heroes need to transition from war zone mentality to life back in the US. We cannot express the level of gratitude we have for the DVNF for providing this opportunity!”

Joseph VanFonda (USMC Sgt.Maj. Ret.), CEO of the Disabled Veterans National Foundation said, “Connecting with animals, horses especially, has proved to be a hugely successful method in assisting veterans when transitioning home. By partnering with Leg Up Farm, DVNF is proud to participate in helping to provide opportunities for military veterans to find a safe space to readjust to civilian life.”

About the Disabled Veterans National Foundation:

Disabled Veterans National Foundation exists to provide critically needed support to disabled and at-risk veterans who leave the military wounded—physically or psychologically—after defending our safety and our freedom.

DVNF achieves this mission by:

- Offering direct financial support to veteran organizations that address the unique needs of veterans, and whose missions align with that of DVNF.
- Providing supplemental assistance to homeless and low-income veterans through the Health & Comfort program and various empowerment resources.
- Providing an online resource database that allows veterans to navigate the complex process of seeking benefits that they are entitled to as a result of their military service, as well as additional resources they need.
- Serving as a thought leader on critical policy issues within the veteran community and educating the public accordingly.

About Leg Up Farm:

Leg Up Farm’s mission is to enrich the lives of individuals and families with special needs and unique challenges, through support and customized programs.

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