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Beloved Partner's Legacy Lives On to Help Other Equines

Contributed By Linda Pavey

Once in a while, someone special comes along and changes your life. He or she brings a new level of understanding to what you know, teaches you about life with a whole new perspective, and helps you through the most difficult of times. That friendship and partnership becomes a bonding experience. For one local woman, one special being was a horse.

Brennan, (registered name, "J.B.'s Hero"), a Thoroughbred gelding, came into the life of Linda Pavey in 1990. While taking riding lessons at Camargo Stables, Brennan, already a resident, came up for sale. Linda had already been looking for her own horse to buy, concentrating on gray horses. Brennan did not fit that bill, being dark bay color; nearly black with no white or gray at all! However, after riding Brennan and "testing" him out, the purchase was made. He had won her over! Over the years, the two went on long trail rides together, jumping fences and creeks, galloping through fields, and enjoying the nature of Indian Hill. Rarely riding with other horses, Brennan and Linda came to trust and protect one another in every kind of situation; during sudden thunderstorms, rough terrain, riding in traffic, and through Cincinnati Country Day School's softball area, with kids in full practice or games, shouting and cracking the ball. Through all, the bond deepened and the trust of coming through all types of situations unscathed became element. As with any relationship, trials and tribulations help form a bond that is everlasting, and one that only those in that relationship can truly understand. This knows not only one specific species, but crosses over to include our special animal friends as well.

The rides together and caring for Brennan helped Linda understand not only life's difficult moments, but also joyous ones, all with a new perspective. This was brought about by escaping the ordinary day-to-day routine of life and taking in the nature of the area. Time and life just seemed to disappear during time spent at the barn and during long rides. Arriving back to the barn feeling rebalanced and refreshed after these long rides, perceptions were changed through new eyes. Patience was taught to Linda by this most masterful teacher and partner, and a new level of understanding was brought to many situations, both around the barn and in life.

In April 2000, Linda established The Brennan Equine Welfare Fund at The Greater Cincinnati Foundation to honor Brennan. Then in 2003, at age 23 and after 12 years of loyal partnership, Brennan tragically passed away. His legacy lives on, however, in this fund to help other equines. Donor advised grants from The Brennan Equine Welfare Fund are used to serve equine rescue shelters across the country which provide dignity to final years of aged, injured, abused, starved and slaughter-bound horses, as well as those used in medical experimentation. This fund supports registered, 501(c)(3) organizations that specialize in retirement and rehabilitation services and offer a peaceful and permanent sanctuary for these beautiful animals. Shelters which offer carefully scrutinized adoption or re-placement services are also supported. Organizations that have been supported by The Brennan Equine Welfare Fund include Ryerss' Farm for Aged Equines, Old Friends, and the newly formed Kentucky Equine Humane Center.

If you would like to honor a special person or equine that has touched your life, or are interested in year-end giving ideas, a charitable donation to The Brennan Equine Welfare Fund would be honored. You can be assured that any gift you make will help provide services for special equines in need for years to come. Because The Greater Cincinnati Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization, any contribution to The Brennan Equine Welfare Fund is tax deductible and will be acknowledged by the Foundation as such. Checks may be made out to The Greater Cincinnati Foundation (make sure to write The Brennan Equine Welfare Fund on the "memo" line) and mailed to The Greater Cincinnati Foundation, P.O. Box 5200, Cincinnati, Ohio 45201-5200. More information may be obtained by calling the Foundation directly at (513) 241-2880.

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