



## National Horsemen's Benevolent & Protective Association, Inc.

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### News Release

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Lexington, Kentucky, Thursday, March 10, 2006** – With such national issues as signal piracy, rebating and medication reform taking center stage these days, the critical role played by the National HBPA Foundation often goes unseen.

The National HBPA Foundation (NHBPAF), a tax-exempt Sec. 501 (c)(3) fund, was developed as a safety net for horsemen when other forms of assistance are unavailable or have been exhausted after disaster strikes. Never has the NHBPAF's role been more crucial than during the past eight months.

The day after Hurricane Katrina devastated much of the Louisiana racing and breeding industries, both existing and donated funds were channeled through the NHBPAF directly to Louisiana horsemen through the Louisiana HBPA. To date, over \$400,000 in cash donations and 160,000 tons of equine and human supplies have been raised with the aid of the NHBPAF.

Yet beyond such high profile efforts, the NHBPAF and the National HBPA Assistance Committee – which manages the NHBPA Foundation and reviews assistance requests – continues its work.

When several horsemen stabled at Turfway Park in Kentucky recently endured a month-long quarantine due to equine herpesvirus (EHV-1), they faced the same daily costs of running a racing stable without the possibility of earning back revenue through purses. As in similar quarantine cases, the NHBPAF stepped in to help by subsidizing daily feed costs, in this case covering 91 horses over 30 days.

"When things happen to us that are beyond our control, it's a relief to know that the NHBPA Foundation is there to help, especially with financial assistance, what we tend to need most," said trainer Chuck Simon.

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National HBPA President and Chairman John Roark commented, "We're awfully proud of the work done by Tom Metzen, Sr. and the Assistance Committee. Thanks to them and the National HBPA Foundation, we've been able to work closely with other non-profit racing charities in organizing, collecting and distributing 100% of those funds to horsemen who find themselves down on their luck."

While the National HBPA Fire & Disaster Insurance Program often provides much needed initial coverage for lost horses and equipment (the F&D program is supported by 51 racetracks and horsemen's groups across the U.S.), in situations like the November 7, 2005 tornado strike at Ellis Park in Kentucky, the NHBPA Foundation was called upon to provide additional assistance.

In the case of a February 5, 2006 barn fire at Eureka Downs in Kansas - a track not covered under the Fire & Disaster Program - the NHBPAF will stretch its dollars further by working directly with Big Dee's Tack & Vet Supplies, a National HBPA Sponsor, in setting up and providing initial funding for tack and equipment accounts for several of the horsemen hardest hit by the fire.

The wife of trainer John Layton responded, "We really appreciate everything the National HBPA has been doing and has done in the past."

Additional information on the National HBPA Foundation is available at [www.nationalhbpa.com](http://www.nationalhbpa.com) or by calling (859) 259-0451.

The National HBPA is the largest racing horsemen's representative association in North America, with 31 affiliate member organizations representing over 35,000 owners and trainers of racehorses. The National HBPA is proud partners with its corporate sponsors, EquineLine.com and Big Dee's Tack & Vet Supplies.

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