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MOLLY MALONE'S HELPS RAISE \$15,000 FOR SECOND STRIDE

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A fundraiser for Second Stride hosted by Molly Malone's Irish Pub & Restaurant brought in \$15,000 to help retired racehorses. The Kentucky Derby Week event at the pub's Highlands location drew a crowd that packed the building, and included Derby trainers, owners, and jockeys. It was the largest single fundraiser to date for Second Stride, which was formed in 2005.

Among the attendees was the trainer of Kentucky Derby winner I'll Have Another, Doug O'Neill, and the horse's jockey, Mario Gutierrez, and owner, J. Paul Reddam. O'Neill brought halters from I'll Have Another and champion Lava Man to auction off at the event, which included a live and silent auction. A friend of O'Neill's, Steve Rothman, graciously served as auctioneer.

Also in attendance was Kentucky Derby trainer Patrick Byrne, who had pledged 10 percent of his runner Take Charge Indy's winnings to Second Stride, and the horse's owners, Chuck and Maribeth Sandford.

Churchill Downs racing analyst Jill Byrne helped get the word out about the event, including producing a promotional video, gathered items for donation and assisted in the live auction.

Molly Malone's, which often raises money to help local nonprofit organizations, wanted to do something to help retired racehorses, and offered to host a fundraiser during Derby Week for Second Stride. Tomas O'Riordan, manager of the pub's Highlands location, said the pub was a natural fit, as many trainers and owners have celebrated their big wins there, and others in the industry often stop by. He helped gather auction items and organize the event.

"We are so thankful to Tomas and the Molly Malone's staff for hosting this fundraiser and making it so special," said Second Stride President Kim Smith. "Tomas worked tirelessly to make this a successful, fun event, and helped us get the word out about the needs and potential of retired thoroughbred racehorses. All the money that was raised will directly benefit those horses, and ensure they have a future after their days on the track are over. It was very moving to see so many people in the racing community, and the public at large, come out to help."

The list of items donated was "amazing," Smith said. In addition to I'll Have Another and Lava Man's halters, auctioned off were halters and shoes from other famous racehorses

such as Kentucky Derby winners Real Quiet and Fusaichi Pegasus, Belmont winners Drosselmeyer and Summer Bird, Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner Uncle Mo and Breeders' Cup Classic winner Cat Thief.

The lucky bidders for the halters of Lava Man and I'll Have Another, who won the Derby four days after the event, also were treated to tours of O'Neill's barn, and the winner of Lava Man's halter even got to ride the champion horse. Lava Man was a star on the California racing circuit and fan favorite who won seven Grade 1 races and earned more than \$5 million on the track. He now has a second career as I'll Have Another's race day pony.

Among the other items donated and auctioned off were horse racing artwork and signed photography, sports tickets, boxes for race days at Churchill Downs and Keeneland, luxury suites at sporting events, VIP tours of prestigious Kentucky horse farms and trainers' stables, items from local distilleries and vouchers for local restaurants.

Churchill Downs made a generous donation of \$1,000 for the fundraiser.

About Molly Malone's

Molly Malone's, at 933 Baxter Ave. in Louisville, was built from the stones of a pub based in Ireland. It is open seven days a week for lunch and dinner, serving traditional Irish pub fare and libations in indoor and outdoor areas. A second Louisville location is open at 3900 Shelbyville Road in St. Matthews.

On Friday and Saturday nights, the Highlands location hosts live music from the region's favorite bands, and the St. Matthews location features dance music from the area's best DJs.

Molly Malone's always has international football (soccer), rugby and hurling on its wide-screen HD TVs, as well as University of Louisville and University of Kentucky games.

For more information about Molly Malone's, go www.mollymalonesirishpub.com.

About Second Stride

Based in Crestwood, Ky., Second Stride is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit providing professional rehabilitation, retraining and placement of retired thoroughbred racehorses with a goal of ensuring healthy and productive lives after the track. It relies solely on donations such as those raised at Molly Malone's to continue its work, and is the only nonprofit for retired thoroughbreds operating in the Louisville area.

With thousands of racehorses born in the United States each year, it is important for them to have a place to go after they leave the track. The way former racehorses are handled

and trained their first few months away from the track can influence the opportunities they have for the rest of their lives. Second Stride specializes in giving ex-racehorses the proper care and quality training they need to succeed in something new.

Former Second Stride horses are now competing in dressage, eventing and polo, and are working as search and rescue horses, ranch cutting horses, lesson horses and trail and pleasure horses. Not only have those horses have been helped, many people have benefited by having a great new companion.

Efforts are made to ensure each Second Stride horse and its new owner are a good match, and the owner's intended use for the horse suits its health and capabilities. Adopters are thoroughly screened, and Second Stride follows up to ensure horses are continuing to receive quality care.

Second Stride also works with racehorse owners and trainers and other groups to educate people about the needs of retired racehorses. Program horses have competed in shows while in retraining and appeared at other events to showcase the potential of retired racehorses.

Second Stride has a training facility in Prospect, Ky., and a 103-acre farm in Henry County, Ky., where horses have a relaxing, comfortable environment for their transition from the track to a new career.

For more information on Second Stride, and to see horses currently up for adoption, go to www.secondstride.org.

Second Stride follows the American Association of Equine Practitioners' guidelines on ethical care for horses.

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Second Stride Board of Directors: Kim Smith, founder & executive director; Kathy Stim, vice president; Laura Forbes CPA, ESQ, treasurer; Jean Amick, secretary; Tiffany Meredith; Joan Thompson; and Jim Asseff.