

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**SECOND STRIDE RECEIVES \$2,500 IN GRANTS**  
**FROM TONY STEWART FOUNDATION**  
**TO HELP RETIRED RACEHORSES**

CRESTWOOD, Ky. — Second Stride has received a total of \$2,500 in grants from the Tony Stewart Foundation. The money will be used to buy stall fans to keep retired racehorses in the Second Stride program comfortable in the summer, and help with the cost of caring for them during the winter.

Part of the mission of the Tony Stewart Foundation, headed by race car driver Tony Stewart, is to support charitable organizations that help animals. It also helps drivers injured in motorsports and with the care of critically ill children.

The foundation's Board of Directors awarded the money to Second Stride in late 2010. Second Stride had made an initial request for \$1,439 for the fans, and was granted that amount. But the Tony Stewart board later went above and beyond that request and awarded an additional \$1,100 to help with the cost of caring for Second Stride horses during the winter, when they require more feed and hay.

The fans will go in stalls at Second Stride's Henry County location, where most of the program's horses reside as they make the transition into a new home and career.

"We are truly honored to be awarded this grant from the Tony Stewart foundation," said Kim Smith, founder and executive director of Second Stride. "Many of our horses require some rehabilitation time confined to a stall and the fans will help cool and improve air quality of the stable environment. The extra unsolicited amount Mr. Stewart's foundation sent was indicative of the type of character he is. Pure class."

The Tony Stewart board awards grants on the merit of the program and project applying, how much of the funds will go directly to the project, and the proportion of paid staff to volunteers, among other criteria. One hundred percent of every dollar donated to Second Stride goes directly to the care of the horses, and it has an all-volunteer staff.

Second Stride has adopted out nearly 300 horses since its inception in 2005, and had a record year in 2010, adopting out 65 horses — more than doubling its previous record. Yet it still is operating on a wait list of horses to come in, showing the need for programs like Second Stride to help retired thoroughbred racehorses. Grants such as this from the Tony Stewart Foundation are necessary to meet that need.

## **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 the grant from the Tony Steward Foundation 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. Just as 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's training facility is in Prospect, and it currently is in the process of completing infrastructure on a 103-acre location in Henry County, Ky., to help house more horses at one time in a 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, visit [www.secondstride.org](http://www.secondstride.org).

*Second Stride follows 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.