

Paso Fino Horse Foundation, Inc.

The Paso Fino Horse Foundation, Inc. was formed in Florida in 1998 as a Florida Not for Profit corporation (a 501(3)(c) corp) by John Levert, Art Glatfelter, and Fran Azur. The corporation was organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The articles of incorporation list three primary purposes: to provide educational opportunities for youth through grants and scholarships, to disburse gifts for the benefit of the breed, and to establish programs to improve the breed.

In July 2008, Marcia Davis was named the chair and executive director of the foundation. Sheila Spence was appointed as the secretary-treasurer and Dick Miller and Gary Goscha were named to the board. In 2010, former PFHA president Rick Meyer joined the board. Sheila Spence has taken emeritus status and has been replaced by Katreena Haley.

The Scholarship Program. In 2004, Dwight and Marla Graber approached Marcia Davis, then the PFHA youth chair, about helping deserving paso youth go to college or vocational school. Scholarship criteria was established to evaluate every applicant equally on academic achievement, association activities, community service, and financial need. In addition, each applicant was required to write an essay and submit letters of recommendation from teachers or community leaders. After discussing the idea among several members (including Allen Freedman, Dr. Jose Davila, Gary Goscha, and Sheila Spence), the foundation launched its first successful fund raiser at the Grand National Show. The Legendary Mares Belly Auction raised more than \$65,000 in scholarship money. The following year, in conjunction with the professional trainers association, the foundation raised an additional \$20,000 to use for scholarships.

In its inaugural year, the foundation awarded \$15,000 in scholarships at the Asheville Alive show. Since that time, the foundation has continued to recognize and reward deserving recipients and has awarded scholarships to these members:

2005	Emily Deaton, Lorena Figueroa, Shelley DeLong, Jennifer Corey, Katy Miklic
2006	Amanda Kiziah, Alicia Novoa, Emily Miller, Sara Damiani, Julie Beaudet, Bridgette Berisford
2007	Cindy Pelaez, Luisa Betancur, Lisa Corey
2008	Chris Furr, Hannah Reid, Christina Nicole Minter, Kaitlin Naumow, Michael Gascon
2009	Wesley Anderson, Ceely Barfield, Brooklin Besse, Amanda Corey, Cassie Oakes, Madelyn Cooper, Kellie Rucker
2010	Brooke Gascon, Katie Martin, Angelica Ortiz, Cynthia Sabin, Monica Figueroa, Hannah Randall
2011	Jena Shaffer, Janine Suarez, Laura Orr, Brett Aldridge, Maria Fernanda Pigna, Jessica Brosko
2014	Isabel Reid, Annette Londono, Garrin Shipman, Maria Weber, Matthew Pound

2015	Victoria Burch, Julieta Suarez, Grant Griffeth
2016	Parker Tilley
2017	Jorgianna Suarez, Julia Suarez, Meredith Cole, Ani Shaffer, Micah Ann Furr
2018	Diego Carlos Figueroa, Coral Rodriguez
2019	Catherine Faulkner, Alondra Figueroa, Ana Elizabeth Iriarte, Emilio Reid, Savannah "Mei Li" Straka, Yean Torres

To date, the Foundation has awarded almost \$180,000 in scholarships to deserving youth members and is looking forward to awards in 2020.

"This has truly been a labor of love," said Marcia Davis, foundation chair. "it is a privilege to work for a foundation that seeks to help our children attain their educational goals. It is a joy to hear from our recipients through the years – many who have become doctors, lawyers, nurses, therapists, businessmen and women, teachers – who come back and thank us for our help and encouragement. I tell them all that the gift is ours – they are truly our future and the future is in good hands."

Youth Mundial. In addition to its scholarship mission, the Foundation has also donated funds to Team USA to insure its participation in youth mundial competitions in Puerto Rico, Colombia, and the United States. These donations have funded travel, transportation, and lodging for the team and coaches. The Foundation serves as a clearinghouse for donors wishing to make contributions to the team.

Hands of Hope. In 2017, the Foundation helped organize and donated funds to the the "Escuela Puertorriqueña del Arte Ecuestre" and Jose Rodriguez's Manos de Esperanza (Hands of Hope) program to ship feed and supplies from Miami to the Paso Fino community in Puerto Rico hit hard by Hurricane Maria.