

# **Position Description and Ideal Candidate Profile**

## **Member, Board of Directors (a volunteer position)**

### **Home Farm at Undermountain, Inc. Lenox, Ma.**

Home Farm at Undermountain, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is expanding its Board from six to nine persons. We are seeking to recruit individuals who will add expertise in several functional and equine-related areas.

## **Opportunity and Challenge**

Home Farm at Undermountain, Inc. (“HFU”), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, commands a 10-acre property at 400 Under Mountain Road, Lenox. Overlooking Parsons Marsh, it is comprised of historic farming structures and equestrian facilities including stables, a large covered indoor arena and grazing pastures and riding trails.

A generous gift of the Sprague family of the 10-acre property in April 2023 exponentially improves HFU’s ability to serve a plurality of communities through an equestrian mission that contributes to:

- Mental, emotional and physical health
- Environmental conservation
- Support for the Berkshire County arts community

### Health

- Support physical and mental health services in Berkshire communities with the proven benefits of horses in healing, wellness, and personal development—in partnership with local human services, wellness, and mental health services organizations;
- Rescue, foster, and provide sanctuary for farm animals—for the sake of the animals themselves, and for therapeutic bonds that foster healing in humans as well;
- Provide youth an opportunity to work with horses and other farm animals; and,
- Create programs that reduce the overall costs of treatment for PTSD, drug abuse, autism, and general mental health.

### Conservation

- Teach the value of nature and an appreciation of the history of the land—using Home Farm’s traditional New England facilities—lessons that students can apply to life beyond the farm;
- Upgrade and maintain the stables, indoor arena, paddocks, and fields of the farm—which are surrounded by land protected by the BNRC;
- Engender an understanding of the environmental importance of the hundreds of acres that are protected around Home Farm—from Parsons Mash to Olivia’s Overlook and beyond; and,
- Form a community farm and garden to teach children about farming, and to provide vegetables and eggs to aid to local food-insecure families.

### The Arts

- Provide studio space for artists at affordable prices;
- Provide performance and rehearsal space for actors, dancers and musicians; and,
- Provide programs to teach the art of landscape painting.

## **Position Description**

In expanding its Board, Home Farm at Undermountain wishes to add expertise in the areas of Equine Therapy, Equine Recreation and Care, Legal, Conservation, Community Relations, Finance, Marketing, Fundraising, and Veteran Affairs.

As a board member of Home Farm at Undermountain your concern and attention would focus on the following:

**Governance:** Ensuring that the organization is operating legally, ethically, and in accordance with its mission;

**Financial Oversight:** Approving budgets, fundraising plans, and financial statements;

**Advocacy:** Helping to promote the organization's mission, goals, and services;

**Strategic Planning:** Participating in the development and implementation of the organization's strategic plan; and,

**Hiring and Evaluation:** Participating in the hiring and evaluation of the Executive Director or CEO of the organization.

## **Qualifications**

- A passion and commitment to Home Farm at Undermountain's mission;
- Willingness and ability to attend meetings and events, and actively participate in the organization's activities;
- Skills and experience in one or more relevant areas (e.g., finance, law, fundraising, marketing, website design and utility); and,
- A high standard of ethical conduct, honesty, and integrity.

Other attributes of an ideal candidate might include:

- A desire to support veterans and first responders who utilize equine therapy to cope with PTSD;
- An understanding of the importance of the historical significance of the farm structures;
- Deep respect for the outdoors, the pasture, and animals at Home Farm; and,
- Desire to give mission-driven guidance and direction to create programs and use the historic structures and lands to serve Home Farm's target communities.

**To Apply** email a letter of interest and resume or CV to Gary Knisely at [gkhomefarm@gmail.com](mailto:gkhomefarm@gmail.com)