



### ***Brooke becomes official charity of FEI World Equestrian Games™ Tryon 2018***

The Organizing Committee of the FEI World Equestrian Games™ Tryon and Brooke USA are proud to announce that Brooke (sister charity of Brooke USA), the world's largest international equine welfare charity, has been chosen as the "Official Charity for the FEI World Equestrian Games™ Tryon 2018 (WEG)." The games will take place at Tryon International Equestrian Center in North Carolina, this September 11 through 23.

WEG, which takes place every four years, is the major international championship event for the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI)-regulated disciplines of Jumping, Dressage and Para-Equestrian Dressage, Eventing, Driving, Endurance, Vaulting and Reining.

Headquartered in the UK, Brooke is an international charity that protects and improves the lives of working horses, donkeys and mules, whose labor keeps millions of poor families in developing countries around the world out of poverty.

The charity designation is courtesy of Katherine Bellissimo, who serves on the board of Brooke USA, which is headquartered at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington and dedicated to significantly improving the welfare of working horses, donkeys and mules and the people they serve throughout Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America by raising funds and responsibly directing them to the areas of greatest need. West Coasters are familiar with Brooke USA because it was the also the designated charity for the Adequan West Coast Dressage Festival earlier this year, and heavily featured in Scott Hayes Productions' West Coast Dressage Conventions in California.

Katherine has championed Brooke's work for a number of years before becoming part of

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Brooke USA in April 2016. She said, “I am pleased to have Brooke named as the official charity of the FEI World Equestrian Games Tryon 2018. The work that Brooke and Brooke USA do for both horses and humans around the world is incredibly admirable and embodies our organization’s goal of celebrating the ways we depend on this beautiful creature through this event. It is only natural that the world’s largest working equine welfare charity be chosen as a beneficiary of the world’s largest equestrian competition.

“Brooke USA is one of only two boards I choose to serve on and it’s because I believe our work has a great and lasting impact on Brooke’s global efforts, not only for the equines but also the humans who rely on them.”

Emily Dulin, Executive Director of Brooke USA, said, “100 million horses, donkeys and mules around the world are doing the hardest jobs in extreme environments, from the brick kilns of Nepal to the coal mines of Pakistan and the small farms of Ethiopia and Nicaragua, they are paying the price for their labor with injuries, exhaustion, dehydration and malnutrition. Brooke works to make long lasting improvements to their lives.”

Petra Ingram, Chief Executive of Brooke stated, “We are so proud to be a part of WEG this year. The theme of humans and equines through time also ties in with our Every Horse Remembered campaign, which honors the horses who worked side-by-side with soldiers in World War One. We’re looking forward to working together with Tryon International Equestrian Center to organize Brooke-themed activities and raise funds for working horses, donkeys and mules around the world.”

As the “Official Charity of the FEI World Equestrian Games™ Tryon 2018,” Brooke is planning to build a commemorative walkway called Brooke Breezeway at Tryon International Equestrian Center that will feature dedicated “Brooke Bricks” in honor of both this iconic event and the important service provided by working equines around the world. “Brooke Bricks” will be made of bricks manufactured humanely in the United States and can be purchased online at [www.BrookeBricks.org](http://www.BrookeBricks.org)

, a custom Brooke USA microsite, and be installed in dedication of a person, horse or organization. The website will launch later this spring.

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*Edited from press release provided by Brooke USA. Find out more about the charities at [www.BrookeUSA.org](http://www.BrookeUSA.org)*

or

[www.TheBrooke.org](http://www.TheBrooke.org)

*. To learn more about the FEI World Equestrian Games™ Tryon 2018 and to book tickets, visit [www.Tryon2018.com](http://www.Tryon2018.com)*