



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**For More Information and Photos**

**Contact: 720-857-9550 or [office@CHA-ahse.org](mailto:office@CHA-ahse.org)**

## **Certified Horsemanship Association Honors Blue Star Camps as Partner in Safety Award Winner at the 2015 CHA International Conference**

*(November 2015)* – The Certified Horsemanship Association values safety in horsemanship, and it is a key concept in everything that CHA does. Part of CHA’s mission is to promote excellence in safety and to help “change lives through safe experiences with horses.” Every year since 1996, CHA has given the Partner in Safety Award to recognize an outstanding individual or organization that has helped not only the equine industry and CHA, but the equine community at large to promote safety in awareness. **This year’s CHA Partner in Safety Award goes to Blue Star Camps in Hendersonville, NC.** The award was presented during the awards banquet at the 2015 CHA International Conference in Amarillo, TX, on October 24, 2015, and CHA President Peggy Adams accepted for Blue Star Camps.

Blue Star Camps is a private Jewish camp for children ages six to 16. It is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of western North Carolina. Its equestrian program provides high-quality English riding instruction, horse care knowledge, and an in-camp horse show at its modern barn, five riding arenas, acres of trails, and at off-camp trail ride sites. It has been a CHA Accredited Program Member site since 2002 and a CHA Program Member since 1993. Blue Star Camps has served as a clinic host site since 1996 and has hosted 25 CHA Certification Clinics to date. During that time, over 175 CHA certified instructors have received their certification at Blue Star Camps. Each year they host a double clinic in both Standard (English/Western) and English only.

Blue Star Camps’ owner and director Lauren Popkin Herschthal was honored to receive the award. “The safety of the equestrian program at Blue Star is of the utmost importance to us, so receiving the CHA Partnership in Safety Award is a true honor and one that we value deeply. Our long-standing partnership with CHA has allowed us to offer the highest level of safety and instruction for our campers and staff. Our program has benefited immensely from our long-term relationship and the strength of the education and training we receive through running CHA courses on-site at camp. We are honored to receive this award and committed to providing ongoing learning and training for our camp instructors and riders.”

The camp was founded in 1948 by the Popkin family who wanted to create a vibrant, inclusive Jewish camp community where children could learn about their shared history and

culture. And for the past 68 years, the camp has done so as campers experienced the best of childhood with lots of summertime fun in a traditional Jewish camp setting. Horseback riding has been an important aspect of Blue Star Camps throughout its history, as well as a range of interests and activities, such as creative arts, land sports, outdoor adventure and nature, water sports, tennis, and a Living Judaism program. Blue Star's mission is to "develop independence, self-esteem, and lifelong friendships."

Past recipients of the CHA Partners in Safety Award include the North American Trail Ride Conference; Julie Goodnight; Riders4Helmets; SaddleUp Safely – University of Kentucky HealthCare; Troxel; Equisure, Inc.; the Kentucky Horse Park; the American Quarter Horse Association; NARHA (now PATH International); North American Horsemen's Association; American Camping Association; Markel Insurance Company; American Youth Horse Council; Washington State 4-H Foundation; Horse Council of British Columbia; Hadley Stacey; Julie Fershtman; and Lexington Helmets.

For more information about the 2015 CHA International Conference, please visit [Facebook.com/CHAIstructors](https://www.facebook.com/CHAIstructors) and search hashtag #CHAICON on Facebook. For more information on the 2016 CHA International Conference to be held at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, just outside of Nashville, visit [http://cha-ahse.org/store/pages/47/International\\_Conference.html](http://cha-ahse.org/store/pages/47/International_Conference.html).

*CHA Instructors Change Lives Through Safe Experiences with Horses. The purpose of CHA is to promote excellence in safety and education for the benefit of the horse industry. CHA certifies instructors and trail guides, accredits equestrian facilities, publishes educational manuals, produces educational horsemanship DVDs and YouTube Safety shorts, and hosts regional and international conferences. For more information on the largest certifying body of riding instructors and barn managers in North America, Certified Horsemanship Association, please visit [www.CHA-ahse.org](http://www.CHA-ahse.org) or call 859-259-3399. To find a certified horseback riding instructor or accredited equine facility near you, visit [www.CHAInstructors.com](http://www.CHAInstructors.com).*

###