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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**AHPF RECEIVES SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR**

**AIKEN, SOUTH CAROLINA**, March 25, 2022 -- The Aiken Horse Park Foundation was honored last evening during the Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce's annual awards gala by being recognized as the Small Business of the Year. In front of a full audience, Jack Wetzel,

president of the Foundation, received the award on behalf of his fellow directors and staff.

Upon accepting the award, Jack Wetzel recognized the significance of such a distinction by saying:

*Thank you very much to the Chamber of Commerce for recognizing the Aiken Horse Park Foundation by awarding us with this year's Small Business Award. On behalf of the board of directors, and our team at Bruce's Field, thank you.*

*For a not-for-profit entity to win a small business award is something special. Reflecting to when Bruce created the Foundation in 2013 and to experience the success that we now share with all of you today, makes this award a proud accomplishment.*

The popularity of Bruce's Field delivers an economic benefit of more than \$20 million annually which is felt by the hospitality industry in rising occupancy and restaurant usage. Retailers benefit from the influx of visitors and activities. And Aiken's historic connection with equestrian competition is fortified and enhanced which impacts real estate activities and property values.

Thanks to the successful running of events, The Aiken Horse Park Foundation, has been able to contribute more than \$250,000 directly to charities. The board is committed to increasing this direct impact to the community as operations reach sustainability.

We thank our community sponsors and friends who have helped us grow over the years as we have become recognized as one of the nation's preeminent competitive equestrian venues. We are particularly thankful to Security Federal for its support which has helped us to jumpstart construction on additional barns and new competition rings while we simultaneously embark on our Next Chapter Capital Campaign.

We hope the community will join us in our growth and help us to write our next Chapter.



Pictured Above: (left to right) Members of the AHF Staff and Board of Directors Dustin Bowles Director of Technology and Programs, Kate Boggan Director of Marketing and Communications, Tara Bostwick Vice-President, Jack Wetzel President, John Maldonado Director of Operations, and Bob Hottensen Treasurer. Photo credit Tony Gouge

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT  
THE NEXT CHAPTER CAMPAIGN**

**THE NEXT CHAPTER**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT  
THE FOUNDATION**

The MISSION of Aiken Horse Park Foundation is to promote Aiken's equestrian way of life and to encourage the community's civic, educational, and charitable endeavors. Aiken Horse Park Foundation is recognized as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization by the IRS.

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**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR GENEROUS PARK SPONSORS**





**OFFICIAL PARTNERS OF BRUCE'S FIELD**



Promoting Aiken's equestrian way of life and encouraging the community's civic, educational, and charitable endeavors.