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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**MAUREEN MACNAMARA JOINS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION BOARD  
HORSES AND HUMANS RESEARCH FOUNDATION**

Chagrin Falls, OH, September 6, 2016– Horses and Humans Research Foundation (HHRF) welcomes Maureen MacNamara, MSW, PhD to the Board of Directors. Maureen comes to the Board with a strong background in both animal science and social work. Maureen was one of the first women licensed as a trainer for the United States Trotting Association and has trained and competed in harness racing, hunter/jumper, and pleasure driving events. She has guided the development of national programs in animal-assisted therapy, support for people with disabilities and service animals and the importance of pets to positive human development, wellness and health. Currently, Maureen is an assistant professor of community and human service management social work practice, a consultant in human-animal relationships and animal-assisted interventions (AAI). Her work focuses on inter-professional relationships in organizational learning and change strategies, non-profit service development and evaluation, and factors influencing development and implementation of AAIs.

Dr. MacNamara states “Horses have been human’s historical partners, taking us places beyond our sole capacity. Through the work of the HHRF we can discover the ways that the horse – human partnership can continue to aid us in surmounting life challenges and burdens.”

Through investment in rigorous research, Horses and Humans Research Foundation will serve as a catalyst to advance knowledge of horses and their potential to impact on the health and wellness of people. The foundation’s goal is to promote research that will 1) Benefit special program participants by improving equine assisted activity best practices; 2) Educate the public, including professional affiliates, regarding the value and benefits of horses and equine assisted activities.

HHRF research grant awards are made possible by generous contributions of foundations, individuals and businesses. To view research findings, awarded projects and learn more about this 501(c)3 organization, including how to contribute, visit [www.horsesandhumans.org](http://www.horsesandhumans.org).

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