DAKOTA, FROM RAGS TO RICHES PAGE 8 WRITE YOUR
WILL FOR FREE
PAGE 15

SPONSORSHIP UPDATES PAGE 20



HorseWorld

Spring / Summer News 2025





Help change the luck of rescued animals and you could WIN up to £25,000!

Each chance to win costs just £1 a week, with at least 50p going directly to HorseWorld and if you win the jackpot of £25,000 HorseWorld will receive £2.500!

For more information, go to horseworld.org.uk/play





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Newsletter printed locally by Taylor Brothers Bristol Ltd

Welcome to the latest edition of the HorseWorld newsletter!

As I reflect on my first six months as CEO, I couldn't be more proud to be part of such an incredible charity. It's been a year full of challenges, progress, and heartwarming moments – all made possible thanks to your continued support.

We're so grateful to everyone who took part in Soul's Stable of Stars (pg 3). Your generous donations and heartfelt messages meant the world to us, and they've helped horses like Soul not just survive, but thrive. He's growing stronger every day!

Sadly, we've seen a significant rise in the number of horses needing our help. The cost of living crisis continues to take its toll, and many owners are having to make heartbreaking decisions. We're doing everything we can to support both horses and humans through this difficult time.

There's also plenty of exciting progress to share. We've contributed to a peer-reviewed study on the benefits of

track systems (pg 10), which could help horse owners everywhere. Our Discovery Courses continue to grow, and soon we'll be making our OCN Level 3 Diploma in Equine Assisted Services available externally (pg 13), opening up even more opportunities for young people to learn and grow.

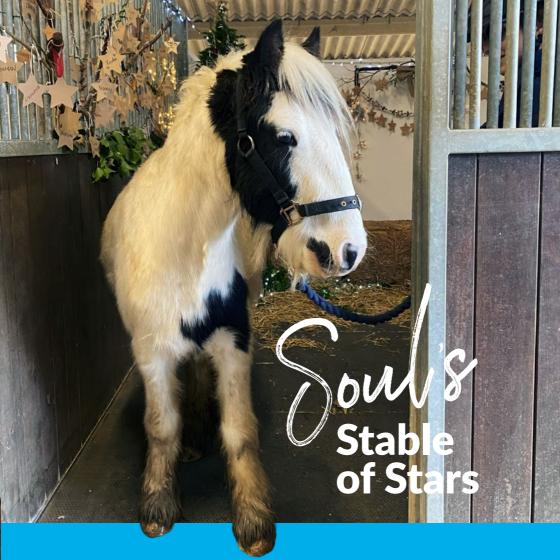
And don't miss Dakota's story on page 8. It's a powerful reminder of why we do what we do. Watching her transformation from a scared, unhandled young mare into a happy, confident horse in her new home has been an absolute joy for our whole team.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue and thank you, as always, for being part of the HorseWorld family.



Jo Coombs HorseWorld CEO



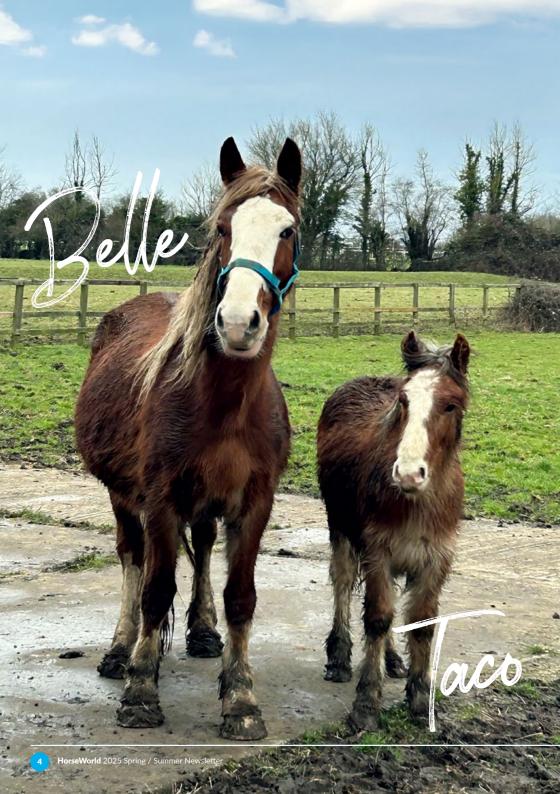


A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas appeal, Soul's Stable of Stars. We raised over £3,000 and celebrated over 300 special lives!

Your donations help us to continue to rescue and rehabilitate horses like Soul and your stars turned Soul's stable into a magical space of remembrance. We were moved by writing each name and hanging each star. Thank you for honouring loved ones and helping horses in need.

Soul's story touched many, and thanks to you, he is now thriving. Your stars will be in a special Memory Book available to view at our Open Day. Thank you for your kindness.





Help us be there for horses in need

Right now, over 6,000 horses across the UK are at risk of being neglected, and facing an uncertain future. The ongoing economic crisis has left many owners struggling, some desperately seeking help, while others have simply abandoned their animals.

Throughout almost all of 2024, we were over capacity. But when an emergency call comes in, when a horse is in urgent, desperate need, how can we possibly say no? The reality is heartbreaking: so many need us, but we simply don't have the funds or resources to help

them all

One of the many cases we've taken in this year is young foal Taco and his mother. Belle. They were found abandoned on land in Kent, with no one to care for them. Many rescue centres across the country are already stretched to their limits. but we were able to step in and give them a safe place to recover. Belle arrived malnourished, and little Taco had already had a rough start in life. With your support, they're now receiving specialist food, round-the-clock care, and vital veterinary treatment. And with Belle pregnant, ongoing care will be essential to ensure a brighter future for them all.

But it's not just abandoned horses who need us. More and more owners have been reaching out in crisis, struggling to keep up with the rising cost of living. For many, it's not just one thing that tips the balance, it's the accumulation of financial pressures, an unexpected illness, or a sudden change in circumstances that leaves them with no other option but to ask for help.

We want to be there for as many as possible, but we can't do it without you. A small, regular gift can make a huge difference, helping to cover the cost of food, shelter and essential veterinary care. Please consider setting up a monthly donation today.

Together, we can give horses like Belle and Taco the second chance they deserve.

Turn to page 6 to find out how you can help

For each one of these horses, you changed their world forever!



Regular donations help us to meet the ongoing costs such as feed, hay, veterinary bills, dentistry, farriery and many more costs associated with rehabilitating and caring for around 100 horses at any one time.

To help, please visit horseworld.org.uk/help or call 01275 893020. Alternatively, you can use the form on the back of this newsletter.

Together we can make a difference!



Goodbye Maggie-May

With heavy hearts, we said goodbye to our beloved Maggie May, a gentle soul whose impact on HorseWorld will never be forgotten.

Maggie May came to us in 2004 as a frightened, emaciated filly after being found wandering in the road. To our surprise, she was pregnant and gave birth to a foal, Rooney, despite her skeletal condition.

Thanks to your support, the love of our team, and Maggie May's remarkable resilience, she made a full recovery. Over time, she blossomed into a sweet, affectionate horse who loved the company of people.

Maggie May spent many happy years in loan homes, enjoying a rewarding riding career, before returning to HorseWorld in 2018 for a peaceful retirement among her herd.

Her loving nature and the deep connections she formed with both people and horses will remain in our hearts forever. Rest peacefully, Maggie May. You will always be remembered.

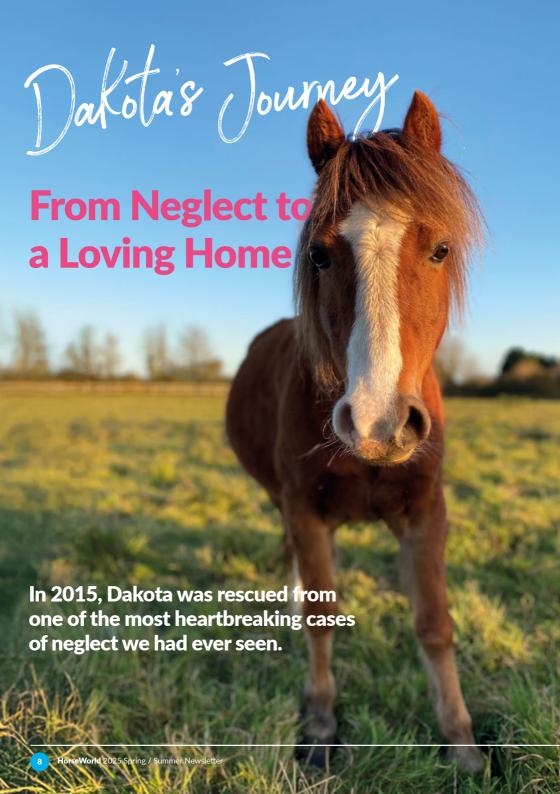


Farewell Flicka

We also had to say a sad goodbye to our beloved Flicka who came to HorseWorld in 2007 when her owners were no longer able to care for her.

touched our hearts. Flicka became an invaluable part of our Discovery programme, helping countless students grow in confidence and compassion. Her gentle spirit and patience made her a favourite among all who knew her. When one of the students fell in love with her, Flicka spent some time out on a loan home with her. She returned to HorseWorld in 2018 and slipped right back into her role in Discovery, bringing joy and wisdom to everyone around her.

Flicka was a friend and a teacher. Her memory will live on in the hearts of the students she inspired and all of us who were lucky enough to know her. Goodbye, sweet Flicka. You will be deeply missed.



Dakota was part of a group of feral horses struggling to survive, living in fields alongside dead animals, having never known the kindness of human touch. When she arrived, she was pregnant and caring for a foal at her side. While her first foal was successfully weaned, heartbreakingly, the one she later gave birth to did not survive.

At first, we thought Dakota was an elderly mare. Her frail body and defeated spirit made her look far older than her years. But once our dentist was finally able to assess her, we were stunned to learn she was just 2–3 years old. This revelation made her transformation even more remarkable.

Dakota's rehabilitation was a slow and patient iourney. She had to learn to trust, to feel safe, and to accept the gentle presence of people in her life. It wasn't always easy, but with time, care, and unwavering dedication. Dakota blossomed into a confident and curious pony. She formed an incredible bond with her groom, who taught her tricks and agility skills, turning them into a wonderful duo that delighted visitors with their performances at our Open Days!

And then, the day we had all dreamed of finally arrived. Dakota was ready to take the next step, to find a forever home with a loving family to call her own. She was spotted on our website by Lauren Lounton and her partner, Kayleigh.

Lauren explains: "After the loss of our beloved pony, Lizzie, we felt a significant void in our lives. Both Kayleigh and I were naturally inclined to rehome a rescue animal, as we have ample time and love to offer to an animal in need. We independently discovered Dakota on HorseWorld's rehoming page and felt an immediate connection. The team at HorseWorld were incredibly kind and welcoming, making the entire process seamless.

"When Dakota arrived home, she was initially shy and reserved. It took over a week to get close to her, with snacks helping to ease the process. She has seamlessly integrated into our

lives, as if she was meant to be with us. In a short period, she has taught us the value of patience, rewarding us with boundless love.

Dakota now enjoys her days alongside her friend, Hope, and loves going on long walks. We have no expectations from this special girl; she simply gets to be a horse.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to HorseWorld for entrusting us with Dakota. We love her unconditionally and cannot imagine our lives without her."

Thinking back to the wild and frightened youngster she once was, it's hard to believe just how far she has come. Dakota's story is a true testament to the power of patience, kindness, and second chances.

Thank you to everyone who supports our rescue efforts. Because of you, beautiful souls like Dakota get the happy endings they deserve.



- Rehomer, Lauren

Keeping track

At HorseWorld, we currently have three different track systems; a hilly track for weight loss and muscle building, a flat track for laminitic and senior equines, and a Shetland track for our smaller residents

At HorseWorld, we've embraced track systems to keep our equines moving, healthy, and happy! We have three:

- Hilly Track For weight loss & muscle-building.
- Flat Track Ideal for senior & laminitic horses.
- Shetland Track Perfect for our smallest residents.

Why use a track system?

A track follows a field's perimeter, encouraging movement and natural foraging. This helps manage weight and reduces the risk of laminitis.

Setting up your own track

- Invest in sturdy fencing & place water troughs far apart to encourage movement.
- Add variety, hills, logs, scratching posts & rolling areas.
- Consider herd dynamics, wider tracks help prevent dominance issues.
- Manage grazing, use hay or controlled access to grass.

Rehoming inspiration

One of the best parts? Potential rehomers visiting HorseWorld get to see these tracks in action. Watching horses thrive in their natural herd environment often inspires adopters to create similar setups at home, helping more horses live healthier and happier lives









HorseWorld recently took part in a scientific study into the benefits of track systems. Many thanks to Pets Foundation who made this possible. To find out more about this and advice on how to set up your own track system, visit horseworld.org.uk/track

With support from

Rehoming



Rehomer, Adrienne Mitchell has created her own track system for rehomed ponies Dodger and Doris; she tells us about the experience.

It's been a wonderful journey to adopting our beloved Doris and Dodger! It all began when my husband and I moved to the countryside and settled in a small village near Monmouth. It had always been our dream to retire to the countryside once our four children had all grown up and we soon settled into our new rural lifestyle.

We had purchased a property with an adjacent field with nearly 2 acres of land and we immediately wanted to adopt some Shetland ponies as my husband had owned Shetlands in the past and I had loved horse riding as a young girl. We contacted HorseWorld and Rehoming Coordinator, Georgia sent us photographs of Doris and Dodger. Shortly after, we went to visit them and fell in love at first sight!

Both ponies had such wonderful temperaments and we could clearly see what a fabulous job all the staff had done at HorseWorld to socialise them.

Georgia went through all the necessary steps which enabled us to set up a track system in our field and ensure we were thoroughly prepared for their arrival. Then, at the beginning of July, with the help of our neighbour and her horsebox, we picked up the ponies and Doris and Dodger moved into their new home. They have now been living with us for just over nine months and they are truly part of our animal family! We look forward to many more years of fun with Doris and Dodger – thank you HorseWorld once again for helping them become such well balanced animals!

Discovery

Over halfway through the school year – and growing strong!

We're already more than halfway through the academic year – well done to all students, staff, and equines for powering through the cold winter months!

Our Facilitator team is growing! Sarah joined in February, Kara after Easter, and Tess has just completed her first term. This means we can support even more young people.

We're also welcoming four Discovery Student Ambassadors. These former students will help deliver projects, events, and activities while serving as role models for others. This is an exciting opportunity for them to stay involved and inspire others.



Head of Discovery

A perfect role at HorseWorld

A term into my role as a Discovery Facilitator, I couldn't ask for a better job – combining my love of horses with 25 years of teaching experience. Getting to know each pony's unique story and helping students build connections has been humbling. It's been incredible to see their confidence, resilience, and skills grow through the six-week Discovery programme.



Facilitator

A simulating experience

Before Christmas, the HorseWorld Discovery team visited The Equine Therapy Centre at Hartpury College, where advanced simulators are transforming rider training.



They met Hercules, a basic yet responsive simulator, before testing the high-tech Mark 10 Racing Simulator, which provided a thrilling experience – especially for facilitator Kayleigh, who might be Grand National-ready!

The highlight was Margaret, the UK's first Racewood Eventing Simulator, offering Grand Prix dressage, show jumping, and crosscountry experiences.

Now inspired, the Discovery team hopes to introduce a simulator into their programme – stay tuned!



King's Trust

We've been able to offer The King's Trust qualifications, and we've just celebrated a major milestone: our first Discovery student has completed the Developing Resilience Qualification! This is an incredible achievement, and we couldn't be more proud of her. We are grateful to Deborah Sampson, our Senior Facilitator, whose guidance and support made this journey possible. We're so proud to have our first Kings Trust Award recipient at Discovery.

The OCN* Level 3 Diploma in Equine-Assisted Services

* OCN – Open College Network

We currently have three staff members enrolled in the Diploma and it is going well. There are five different units to work through and each unit develops a different skill set from equine skills, business planning to equine-facilitated delivery.

From September, the Diploma will be available externally which will be a huge asset for equine assisted services, not just at HorseWorld but across the South West. You can register your interest by emailing discoveryops@horseworld.org.uk

Both horses and humans enjoy the benefits of Discovery

At HorseWorld Discovery, we have been working with at-risk children and young people since 2007. By pairing them with gentle rescued horses, we've seen incredible results when nothing else worked. We're thankful for the mutual benefit to both the children and the horses.

To find out more visit horseworld.org.uk/discovery

Our rescued horses form deep connections with young people, understanding their emotions through body odours, posture, and expressions. These bonds create a peaceful space where both horses and children can heal from trauma, learn, and grow together in a loving environment.



Make your kindness last a lifetime

You've already shown how much you care by supporting HorseWorld - thank you. Have you thought about how your impact could continue for years to come? A will gives peace of mind, knowing your loved ones and the causes close to your heart are provided for. Yet many of us delay writing one. To make it easier, HorseWorld offers two free ways to write your will, with no obligation to include us, though we'd be so grateful if you did.



Face-to-face with a solicitor

Through the National Free Wills Network, you can meet a local solicitor to make or update your will at no cost.



Write your will online

Prefer to do it from home? We also offer an option to create a simple will online, fully checked by a qualified solicitor.

Find out more about both of these options at horseworld.org.uk/legacy

Two-thirds of the horses we rescue owe their second chance to gifts in wills.

No matter the size, your gift could change the lives of horses, ponies, and donkeys. If you have any questions, Jenny would love to help. Call **01275 893 026** or email **legacy@horseworld.org.uk** Brighter days (and views!) for our horses and ponies

Stable Doors Appeal

Thanks to the kindness of a wonderful supporter, we've been able to install several brand-new stable doors that can be adjusted to suit the height of each horse or pony. These clever doors have already made a big difference!

Our stables are used when horses need a visit from the vet, farrier, or dentist, or when they're feeling under the weather. But we noticed that many of our smaller residents were struggling to see over the old doors, leaving them feeling isolated.

With these new doors that open at two levels, every horse and pony can comfortably see out and feel more connected to their surroundings.

We'd love to fit even more of these special doors, so we are trying to raise £5,000 to cover the cost.

If you'd like to help, please consider donating at **horseworld.org.uk/doors** * Every door opens up a happier world for them. Thank you!

*Any funds raised above the amount needed for the doors will be treated as a general donation and help us care for the rescued horses here at HorseWorld.



Are you handy with a pair of knitting needles or a crochet hook? We're looking for volunteers who would like to make handmade items for us to sell in aid of the charity. These items are always really popular at our events and are a great way to get involved.

We're also looking for donations of wool and knitting needles. If you have your own patterns for knitted horses or donkeys you'd be willing to share, that would be extremely

have a couple of patterns we can share but are open to your creations.

helpful. We currently

Please contact Leah for more information if you're interested in getting involved.

Email: leah.dunnadams@horseworld.org.uk
Tel: 01275 893 020

Scan to help



Our Fantastic Fundraisers

1st Keynsham Rainbows & 4th Keynsham Brownies

The Rainbows raised £66.87and the Brownies raised £158.70 for HorseWorld. Special thanks to one of the Brownies, Primrose who climbed a mountain!



Lucy Trotter

She has raised £487 by asking friends and family to donate to HorseWorld instead of giving her birthday presents. What an incredibly selfless act of kindness, thank you Lucy!



Lainie-Ray Tayler-Watt

Lainie-Ray raised £60 by making a brilliant PowerPoint presentation to present to her friends and family on why they should donate to HorseWorld. She even made her own handmade certificates to hand out to the very kind people that donated. Lainie also sponsors little Charlie through our Sponsorship scheme.

Could you be a top fundraiser? horseworld.org.uk/fundraise





Thank you to Nunney International Horse Trials for making us their chosen charity for their 2025 event on 13th-15th June.

nunneyhorsetrials.co.uk



We would like to thank Hearst for their incredible support HorseWorld and raising awareness of the need for our services.

hearst.co.uk



We are so grateful to announce our partnership with the Jelka Group, who generously donated

mud mats and an innovative water trough for our rescue herd. These items will keep our horses, ponies, and donkeys comfortable and safe, especially during the muddier months.

A heartfelt thank you to the Jelka Group staff for their kindness and support. We are excited to see the positive impact this partnership will have on our rescue animals. Together, we're truly making a difference for horses in need!

jelka.co.uk

Huge tha



We are absolutely honoured and excited to announce that HorseWorld has been named as Red Horse Products Charity of the Year for 2025!

This means that 20p from EVERY purchase made through their website in 2025 will be donated to us to help our mission in rescuing, rehabilitating and rehoming horses that need our help.

A heartfelt thank you to the entire Red Horse Products team for your generosity

and for believing in the work we do at HorseWorld and a special thanks to everyone who kindly nominated us.



redhorseproducts.com







A big thank you to the students from the University

of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus, Canada, for visiting us for the second year in a row! It was a pleasure to give you a tour of the farm, share some donkey cuddles, and enjoy scones with jam and clotted cream together. Smiles all around! We look forward to welcoming you again next vear!

lop donors

We're incredibly grateful to the following Trusts who have made donations to make our work possible:

- The Worshipful Company of Saddlers
- Pets Foundation
- The Anne Duchess of Westminster's Fund
- Beaverbrook Foundation
- Mrs S H Adlam Will Trust
- The Elizabeth Violet Annie Rouse Settlement
- The Lennox Hannay Charitable Trust

NNE DUCHESS



SADDLERS



To find out more about corporate challenge days, contact leah.dunnadams@horseworld.org.uk

cjhole.co.uk youtu.be/xx9rLv-wlyE

Cj HOLE



Natch the video



We're so thankful for

the CJ Hole, Bristol

team who took part in a challenge day to paint our stables and tidy the farm. Their hard work and smiles were heartwarming. They also made an

amazing video showcasing our work!



Sponsorship updates

Become a sponsor

The team have done a fantastic job of looking after the animals over the winter, facing all kinds of adverse weather.

You'll be pleased to hear that our sponsorship animals have all been keeping busy. After thorough veterinary investigations, Lolly has been given the go-ahead to start training and she is enjoying learning the ropes. Our super donkevs Barnaby and Cowslip and Tilly the mule have been helping young people on our Discovery courses, they've had plenty to keep their hooves moving. Preparations are also underway for this vear's events: our sponsorship event dates are - Saturday 31st May and Saturday 18th October, we look forward to seeing you on site. Tickets will be available shortly. If you haven't already sponsored one of our rescued animals, go to horseworld.org.uk/sponsor to find out more.



Apollo

After completing my assessments, the team are preparing me to look for a new home. I love having a lazy day, however it doesn't stop me playing in the fields with my friends, burning off some steam which helps me with my weight loss journey before the lush summer grass comes through.



Tilly

The team have been helping me with my separation anxiety. I will now happily walk around the farm and take part in Discovery courses with groups and individuals, I am particularly drawn to the sensitive and nervous students; I can see my old self in them.



Barnaby and Cowslip

During the winter, we moved into a big barn, with a nice deep straw bed and access to the field if we fancied it. We've also given a helping hoof to the Discovery team, supporting young people on their journey.

Jay the Yard Cat

Can you spot me? I've found the purrfect spot to keep warm over the winter. I get extra petting when the grooms come to collect and return their hats. During the day when it's warmer, you will find me inspecting the yard and offices, ensuring everything is in tip-top condition.





SPONSORSHIP STAR - Lolly

Under the watchful eye of the vet, I have started a training plan to strengthen my muscles. I'm also seeing the Chiropractor regularly to ensure I'm coping, it's a great pamper session and I'm loving all the extra attention.



Soul

I've had a busy winter, with the Stable of Stars campaign. Thank you all for remembering your loved ones with me, it was really special visiting the stable of stars. I really miss my friend Denz, but I have an amazing family at HorseWorld.



Sox

I've had a break from Discovery following an injury. The team have spoilt me with plenty of things to do, company and hay to keep my belly full. I'm hoping I will be well enough to see you at the first sponsorship event.



Charlie

I've had a great winter living with my best friend Little Red. We look rather alike; can you tell who is who? Some of my lovely sponsors have sent me fan mail. The humans kindly read them to me, thank you so much, it really cheers me up to hear from you.

Kira

I've had another busy winter helping the Discovery team. I'm the longest serving equine team member. No two days are the same, and the young people teach me something new every day. Due to my lovely nature, I also help horses in training to gain confidence and explore the farm.



Salisbury

I have been promoted to an escort horse, to offer a helping hoof to newly trained equines. The team think I am compassionate, confidence boosting and reassuring to the equines in training. It's never a dull day! Here I am with my best friend Archie, enjoying a hack around the farm.



Every little bit allows us to do more

Our shop helps us to raise funds for horses, ponies and donkeys in need!











Scan me

To see the full range: shop.horseworld.org.uk or call 01275 893020.

Please fill out and return this page with your kind donation. Thank you



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