

ABOUT PATRICIA KELLY

Award-winning Community Leader, Trailblazing Cowgirl, Youth Mentor



A former U.S. marine, award-winning community leader and equestrian trailblazer with a storied history as a Black cowgirl, Patricia E. Kelly has been at the helm of the Hartford, CT-based non-profit youth organization Ebony Horsewomen, Inc. Equestrian & Agricultural Center for the past 30+ years.

Initially started in 1984 as a cultural and social enrichment organization for Black female equestrians, Patricia Kelly took note of the grip drugs and violence had on her community and that local youth were in high-risk situations and falling through the cracks. So, in 1987, she reinvented Ebony Horsewomen Inc. into an equestrian and agricultural center with a fully functioning farm that houses horses and other animals; and sought to create a safe space for local youth to receive education, mentor-ship, and personal development through the use of equine programs, animal assisted therapy, and S.T.E.M. classes.

Patricia Kelly purchased four horses and began teaching adults and youth how to ride. Over the years, many of the youth who have participated in Ebony Horsewomen, Inc.'s programs have been featured in parades, horse shows, and other events, and have gone on to earn degrees and certifications at noted colleges and universities. Her equine programs— (such as the Ladies Dressage Team, Junior Mounted Patrol program, and the Saturday Saddle & 4-H Club)—has helped cultivate self-esteem, civic-mindedness, leadership, academic achievement, S.T.E.M., and anti-drug and alcohol education.

Patricia Kelly is a recent inductee of the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame & Museum, a 2014 CNN Top 10 Hero award recipient, has made appearances on *The Queen Latifah Show* and *The Dr. Oz Show*, was recognized as one of Aetna's 2015 **Champions for Change**, and is a 2006 inductee in the National Multicultural Western Heritage Museum and Hall of Fame.

Patricia Kelly has been a trained equestrian instructor and certified Urban Riding instructor, Master Urban Riding instructor and certified Equine Husbandry instructor for over 37 years, and also holds a certification in Equine Assisted Growth, Learning, and Therapy as a Horse specialist via EAGALA-(Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association) and has given motivational keynote speeches on a myriad of topics, including, the importance of youth mentor-ship and effective leadership, and about equine therapy, youth development, and education in inner-city neighborhoods.

“When young people are trapped in a negative environment, they quickly experience that negativity and it can kill their souls. We are about healing them and making them whole again.”

– Patricia Kelly



Contact Us

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