

UPHA Jesus Gonzales Gomez Caretaker Hall of Fame
Gladys Diaz

Tonight, we have the privilege of honoring a woman whose quiet strength, tireless dedication, and heartfelt care embody the very spirit of the UPHA Jesus Gonzales Gomez Caretaker Hall of Fame. This award recognizes individuals who devote their lives to the well-being of horses—those who stand as the backbone of our industry, often unseen, but always essential. It is my privilege to present this award to Gladys Diaz of Indian Creek Morgan Farm.

Gladys joined Indian Creek in 2005, and for the past 25 years, she has been an integral part of the farm family. While many see the glory of the show ring, the true foundation of our industry is built at home, and that is where Gladys shines. She keeps Indian Creek running with precision, commitment, and love that is truly extraordinary.

Her work is not limited to feeding, cleaning, and daily care, though she does all of that with excellence. Gladys is the sharp observer who notices when something is “off,” the careful hand who tacks up horses for training, the steady presence who ensures clients are safe in the saddle or in the cart.

At Indian Creek, Gladys has cared for so many horses with devotion—Trebles Unchained Melody, Cache, Indian Creek Icebreaker, Stoney Point Cimarron, Tomeri The Regalest, Hollywood Cary Grant, Unzipped, CRMS Moonlighting, SpringMill Monogram—the list goes on. Every horse in her charge has benefited from her watchful eye and tender hand. Client Taylor Parrish shared, “I love that Gladys takes care of Regalest! Her horses are always looking their best, and she spoils them with treats and special scratches. Gladys always helps me out when I am at the barn to learn, and I know that we are all better because of Gladys.”

And if you ask the people who know her best, they’ll tell you the same thing. Indian Creek trainer, Shanna Gish, explained, “Gladys gives her best daily to her family, to us at Indian Creek, and to her horses. She makes all of our travel to shows possible because she keeps everything at home in wonderful order. I trust her opinion and her care beyond measure. But more than all of that, she is a wonderful friend who brings out the best in us and her horses.”

Her coworkers echoed these thoughts. Emma Fedorcak said “Gladys is the kindest soul and is the type of person who just takes care of it. Her dedication and love for the horses are evident in their attitudes when they come out to work. She does the thankless jobs that go unrecognized and is the backbone of our team. While we are away at horse shows, we always have peace of mind knowing that the horses and barn will be in the best care when we return. She truly helps everyone shine inside and out of the show ring, and I am so fortunate to have her as a role model and friend. There is no one more deserving of this achievement.”

Coworker Chelsea Parsons added “We would be lost without Miss Gladys, she does so many things to keep us going every day, handling details that afford us the time and focus to be our best! Her attention to detail, patience, and positive attitude, inspire me to do my best every day. Thank you for everything you do Miss Gladys!”

Even her husband Maynor, who himself received this same honor in 2020, said, “Having Gladys by my side is amazing. She quietly takes care of what needs to be done, and her horses love her. I am so happy to see her recognized for her devotion.”

Gladys is not only a devoted caretaker but also a wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. She has raised four wonderful children, and a year and a half ago, she and Maynor welcomed their first grandchild, Soleil, into the family. Beyond the barn, Gladys is an avid runner, often competing in races with her family.

As John Huse, who nominated her, said so perfectly, **“While most trainers are off to shows, Gladys does incredible work caring for the stock and farm. That is the backbone of the equine industry. Without these unsung heroes, there would be no shows. It is time they are recognized in public. And it is time the women who do this vital job are recognized.”*

And tonight, we make history as we do just that—because Gladys is the first woman in our industry ever to receive this honor.

Gladys, on behalf of the UPHA, it is my profound privilege to welcome you into the Jesus Gonzales Gomez Caretaker Hall of Fame. You have given so much of yourself—your time, your heart, and your unwavering care. Tonight, the spotlight belongs to you.